



John Kudwa

May 5, 1932 - May 21, 2011

John Kudwa, born May 5, 1932, was called home to be with the Lord on May 21, 2011 at Unity Hospice Center in De Pere, WI.

He was devoted to his family and his farm. John was passionate about the outdoors and spent every moment he could farming, hunting, or working outside. He was a hardworking man. He was a member of the Guardian Angel's Church and faithfully attended weekly mass, was a member of the Emmanuel Prayer Group, and performed custodial duties for the church for ten years. His devotion was reflected in his selflessness, in his generosity and kindness. John and his wife, Louise, served the community through their compassion by opening their home to many foster children over ten years. A dedicated husband for 37 years, he maintained his marital commitment to Louise even after her passing. A simple farmer his whole life, John never shied away from the seven-days-a-week work schedule farmers keep, but was always able to make time for his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. "Grandpa" John was ready to take any grandchild for a tractor ride at a moment's notice and reveled in experience that brought joy to both grandparent and grandchild. He is beloved by his family and will be deeply missed by all.

He is preceded in death by his wife Louise Kudwa and is survived by his daughter Debra (Frank) Nowak, son Anthony (Penny) Kudwa, daughter

Christine (Patrick) Sommers, daughter Dawn (Jamie) Martin, and daughter Amy Kudwa-Gray (Marcus). His memory lives on in his seventeen grandchildren: Nicole (Brad) Fuerst, Victoria Webb, Carrie Nowak, Nathaniel (Teresa) Kudwa, Elijah (Krystal) Kudwa, Amanda Kudwa, Rachel Kudwa, Alexandra Sommers, Abby Sommers, Avery Sommers, Ivy Martin, Violet Martin, Lilly Martin, Brock Martin, Marcus Gray, Makayla Gray, and Malachi Gray. Five great-grandchildren also survive John Kudwa: Richard John Fuerst, Leah Webb, Karley Webb, Lauren Kudwa, and Talon John Kudwa.

Visitation will be at the Nash Funeral Home on Wednesday, May 25th from 4:00 p.m.-8:00p.m. Funeral services will be on Thursday, May 26th at 11:00 a.m. at Guardian Angel's Church. Fr. Jeffery Kurtz will offer the Mass of Christian Burial. John Kudwa will be laid to rest in Evergreen Memorial Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established in his memory.

Condolences may be expressed online to the family of John Kudwa at nashfuneralhome.net

The family has entrusted the Nash Funeral Home of Crystal Falls with the arrangements.

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

MAY **25**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Guardian Angels Catholic Church
412 Crystal Ave.
Crystal Falls, MI 49920

Visitation

MAY **25**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Nash Funeral Home
104 North Third St.
Crystal Falls, MI 49920

Tribute Wall

LF

“ John and I go back to the early 50's and we hung out together in that time frame. We had some great times together, and now I am so sorry to find out he is gone. I left Crystal Falls in 1954, but get back quite often.

His family has my sympathy, and I am sorry for their loss.

Sincerely,

Larry Morton

Larry Morton - Cuyahoga Falls, OH - Old friend - May 27, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ To the family of John Kudwa: Our thoughts and prayers, along with many others, are with you during this difficult time. John was a remarkable man and touched the hearts of those who had the privilege of knowing him. He was an accomplished farmer and man for all seasons. He will be sorely missed.

John and Lorna Anderson and Ruth "Bootsie" Makuck - Friends - May 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Dear Chris and Family,
My deepest sympathies and prayers to you and your family in this sad time.

Mark Bender - Marquette, MI - May 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Kudwa family - I was so sorry to read about the passing of your father. Your parents were wonderful foster parents who I could always count on. They opened their home to many Iron County foster children during the time they were licensed foster parents. I could call them anytime, day or night, and know they'd find a place for another child. Please know my thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Sandy Nadeau

Sandy Nadeau - Marquette, MI - friend - May 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TN

“ First off, let me say how sorry I am I could not be there for the funeral.

There are so many wonderful memories of being at the farm. Chris, being the same age as I, would spend time together and no matter how much trouble we got in to, Uncle Johnny never seemed to be too angry. I remember he was always smiling. He is probably the most warm-hearted man I have ever had the honor of knowing. He always made time for anyone who wanted to learn or had questions about life.

I haven't been around in many years, but it doesn't mean I love him any less.

Dear Lord, You have called my Uncle Johnny home to You. I am grateful that his suffering didn't last long. I pray now that You watch over his brother and sisters and all his family during their time of mourning. You brought home one of Your most precious people on earth. He will be missed by all who knew him. Therefore, please help give them strength and knowledge that Uncle Johnny is watching over them with You. Amen.

Tracey (Harju) Kohler - Gladstone, MI - Neice - May 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Tony and family; Having worked on the farm from my teens till my early twenties I have MANY fond memories of working side by side with John bucking hay, operating equipment, harvesting spuds and all that great stuff. it was an honor to have know John most of my adult life. He contributed greatly to my work ethic and I am sure to many others as well. God needed the barns filled. He now has one of the best.

Mike Barnett - Puyallup, Wa., WA - Friend of family - May 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ We are keeping all of you in our prayers.
I will miss your dad/Grandpa's big smile and his "O" Timmy, my welder buddy comments! He will be welding all of God's projects in heaven.
We love you! Tim, Joan, Grant and Lauren

Tim Sommers - Pat's brother - May 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ The passing of your dad/grandpa brought back many great memories of "growing up" on the farm with Chris. I loved to go there and John and Louise would often invite me with the idea that Chris would get some work done if I was there to do it with her. We gladly tackled any job that John gave us knowing that we would have time after to explore and play on the farm. I fondly remember the times spent playing in the hay barn, sleeping in the playhouse and getting scolded by John for chasing cows with the mini-bikes. He was a strict man when it came to how chores were done but always had praise and smiles and fun things to do when we did things well. Many life time lessons were learned from your dad/grandpa. His memory will always bring a smile to my face.

Tina (Shoup) Martinson - Family Friend - May 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. I have many fond memories of your dad/grandpa from the many hours I spent at your home. He was a wonderful man and generous man. He will truly be missed.

Joe Smokevitch - Johannesburg, MI - May 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ *Kudwa Family-*
John was such a great man and will be greatly missed by everyone who he touched. I remember working on the farm with my brother Josh when we were younger and we had such a great time. John taught us so many valuable lessons and taught us a great work ethic and what it is like to be a hard worker. John is in a much better place now where he is at peace.

Kelle Clements(Anderson) - Gaastra, MI - friend - May 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ We wanted to express our sincere sympathy to all of you over the loss of such a great man. Charlie has such fond memories of all the summers he spent living and working at Oliver and Joann's and spending a lot of time with John also. He gave of his time so generously and loved his family with such a passion. May all your wonderful memories help you get through the difficult days and weeks ahead. We are here in Grand Rapids for our granddaughter's graduation and are sorry we can't be there to express our sympathy in person.

Charlie and Janie Bandaccari - Grand Rapids, MI - Friend - May 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KR

“ Thinking of you and praying for you at this very difficult time. It's hard to lose someone you love. May the many happy memories you have of your dad and grandpa help you through the hard times. The picture you chose captures his spirit. The Renner Family

Karen and Ken Renner - Green bay, WI - relative - May 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ spending so many of my summers on the farm as a kid growing up will be memories i will never forget, and would like to share some of them with my kids when when i go back. i will never forget rides on the tractor, going to get the cows, making the machines for milking and doing hay will be some of the things i will never forget. as quick as he would yel at me and mark for doing something stupid is as quick as he would tell us thanks for helping out. being around uncle john you always wanted to just help him out, just to be with him. he taught a city boy how to be some what of a country boy. as a child i remember him as a BIG MAN. as i got older he didnt seam so big any more in size but one thing stayed big, his heart. at the drop of a dime he would drop his work to help you with anything, and than work by moon lite to finish his work, just to start over the next day. through his life i think he left a small pice of his heart with all of us he touched to make us all a little bit BIGGER of a person in life. Uncle John you WILL be missed, Love Kevin

kevin lizik - great nephew - May 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Dear Family: Our sincere sympathy in the loss of your Dad/Grandpa. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Memories are precious and will keep him close. In friendship and caring, Dan and Sue

Dan and Sue Passamani - Iron River, MI - Friend - May 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TR

“ Once in a lifetime you meet a man like John Kudwa and you know he has entered this world to made it better and has touched all of us in a certain way.
He will live on in you his children - grandchildren and great grandchildren - just smile and he is there.
We send you our love and prayers - " a great tree has fallen but will never perish".
Love Tom and Therese

Tom and Therese Lizik - Orland Park, IL - Relative - May 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Tony and family, Sorry to hear about the loss of your dad. Just know that my familys thoughts and prayers are with all of you in your time of loss.

brad martin - Kaukauna, WI - friend of family - May 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Dear John Kudwa Family:

I will miss your father. Everytime I had the pleasure of seeing your dad he always had a smile on his face. Always kept me informed of the farm, et., with such a pleasure and a proud sense of pride. I will truly miss your father. I always enjoyed seeing him. He was truly a great man, a man of much accomplishment yet very humble. Truly a role model.

Time will heal your pain, your father loved you all so very much.

Steve Gagne.

Steve Gagne - Crystal Falls, MI - Friend - May 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM