



## Roger Joseph Russ

March 26, 1954 - December 29, 2022

Roger Joseph Russ, Age 68, of Pembine Wisconsin, passed away on December 29, 2022, due to health complications related to cancer.

Roger was born on March 26, 1954, to Joseph and Helen (Bizjak) Russ in Iron Mountain, MI. After graduating from Pembine High School, he briefly worked at the Goodman sawmill, before returning to the family business: running the service station Russ Garage with his parents.

On June 6, 1981, he married Peggy Hawley in Goodman, WI. Those who were there remember that a real “ball and chain” was tied to his ankle and the key broke off inside the lock. A hacksaw was found, and the festivities continued. Roger and Peggy later had one daughter, Jessica.

Though he would never admit it, Roger loved conversing with people. He loved taking drives around Marinette County and stopping in to see friends at gas stations, grocery stores, and diners. He served time as President of the Wild River Lions Club and loved cooking bratwurst at the Lions Club stand at the Pembine Fireman’s Picnic. His main hobby was golf, and he gave back to his community by being the Varsity Golf Coach at Pembine High School for many years. When he wasn’t golfing, he was likely just walking golf courses collecting golf balls: amassing a number that would make the PGA Tour blush. He was a lefty, and naturally supported Phil Mickelson and others who “golfed

backwards". Roger also bowled competitively –even throwing a perfect 300 game at Rocque's 8-HI. His large frame, size 14 feet, and 18lb ball probably helped.

Roger later sold the gas station to become a fulltime caretaker for his mother Helen, when she became sick and homebound. He also operated a wrecker service for over 30 years. His entire being, his whole existence, was taking care of others – whether helping you out of a ditch, clearing your snow, or taking care of the many horses and dogs on their property with Peggy and Jessica. Roger liked giving people a hard time with a smile, and he had a big heart.

Roger enjoyed being around young people – whether it be chatting up the kids that would stop into his gas station at the corner of Hwy 8 and 141, or his golf team, or most recently, helping out the athletes who needed transportation from Pembine to Goodman for sports practice. It kept him feeling young. Roger also especially enjoyed getting a rise out of them by growing a thick white beard and a long white pony tail during the season. It was debatable whether they (or he) were more amused.

Roger was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Helen. He is survived by his wife Peggy, daughter Jessica (Ryan) Kuehn, sister Deborah (Joseph) Kitching and their children Joey, Michael, and Katie. He will be missed by the Don and Vonna Hawley Family of Goodman, his many nieces and nephews (several of them he graciously towed out of the snow). In addition, his memory lives on with the many members of his extended family including the Russ, Bizjak, and Orlando families, and of course, his many friends.

Visitation will be at St. Margaret Catholic Church, N18844 Hwy 141 & 8, Pembine, WI, from 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 6, 2023, with Rev.

Quinn Mann officiating the Funeral Mass at 11:00 a.m. The burial will be in Pembine Cemetery in the spring.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to be made in his name to the Pembine-Dunbar-Beecher Rescue Squad, an organization important to the Russ Family.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Roger J. Russ online at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com).

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Pembine Cemetery

Highway 141/8  
Pembine, WI 54156

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 6. 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM (CT)

St Margaret Catholic Church  
N18844 US Highway 8 and 141  
Niagara, WI 54156  
(715) 324-5849

## Funeral Mass

JAN 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Margaret Catholic Church  
Pembine, WI

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Roger Joseph Russ.*



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January 05, 2023 at 01:37 PM



“ *Roger came out in an ice storm and towed us all home, only charging \$50 many years ago, then I started working at the Pit Stop gas station and I frequently chatted with him when he came in to buy is diet dew and candy bar. We will all miss his big smile and positive attitude. RIP*

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**Ebony Becker** - January 04, 2023 at 11:48 PM



“ *RIP Roger, We will carry the chains from here. Hogans Towing, Wausaukee, WI.*

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**Frank Drumheller** - January 04, 2023 at 07:15 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Roger Joseph Russ.*



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January 04, 2023 at 02:09 PM

MM

“ 2 files added to the album Tribute Wall



Mark McCorkle - January 04, 2023 at 01:37 PM



“ My husband bowled with Roger at the 8 high club and went on many tournaments with him. . He loved to make everyone laugh and and was so kind and generous and loved to talk to everyone. You knew that when you got to know him you had a friend for life. We lost touch with him over the years but did think of him often, my husband telling me stored of the good times he had with him when bowling. He will be missed by everyone but is now in a better place. We offer our condolences and prayers. RIP Roger (Curly) We are thinking of his family and pray you find peace and comfort at this difficult time.

Sharon Weber - January 04, 2023 at 09:53 AM

BN

“ Roger was my golf coach at Pembine for my high school career. He was also my go to man when I needed a tow. My freshman year at regionals I accidentally got him in the head with a driver at the range and man did he keep that accident a rolling joke till I graduated last year. He had the biggest heart and loved everyone. Will miss joking with him whenever I saw him.

Bella Newlin - January 03, 2023 at 06:28 PM

JF

“ We earnestly give our condolences to Roger’s wife, daughter, family members and his many friends and community members, who have been helped by him over many years. We remember moving here over 31 years ago and we still talk about the window washings we would get from Roger’s mom and the friendliness we always received at the gas station...and the help (at any time, I might add,) when we had any trouble over the years. We could always count on him! We considered him a good and kind person...  
Again, our condolences and God’s blessings,  
Emerson and Jennie Fleury

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**Jennie Fleury** - January 03, 2023 at 01:50 PM

AW

“ Austin Glanzer and Alex Whitt purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Roger Joseph Russ.



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**Austin Glanzer and Alex Whitt** - January 03, 2023 at 12:29 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Roger Joseph Russ.



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January 03, 2023 at 10:37 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Roger Joseph Russ.



January 03, 2023 at 04:37 AM



“ Love, Pastor Dan & Brenda purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Roger Joseph Russ.



Love, Pastor Dan & Brenda - January 03, 2023 at 01:22 AM



“ So many good memories of Roger. He was such a pleasant man to talk with. Hugs to all

Dianne Plemel Thull - January 02, 2023 at 10:50 PM



What a wonderful person and friend. Family was important to him and the love of his family from early on was known. I was lucky enough to be a classmate of his and part of his extended family for a while. Love you and may you rest in peace my friend.

Catherine Marie christensen - January 03, 2023 at 12:04 PM