



Donald "Kosh" Havrilka

July 25, 1931 - April 26, 2024

Donald "Kosh" Eugene Havrilka, 92, of Pana, Illinois passed away Friday, April 26, 2024 at 5:45 PM at St. John's Hospital, Springfield, Illinois. A Funeral Mass will be offered Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 10:00 AM in St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Pana, Illinois with Father Joseph Havrilka officiating. Visitation will also be Saturday, May 4, 2024 at Kennedy & Sons Funeral Home, Pana from 9:00 AM until time of Mass. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, Pana Township, Illinois. Memorials in honor of Don are asked to be made to St. Patrick's Catholic Church or Pana Community Hospital in lieu of flowers.

Donald was born July 25, 1931 in Christian, County, Illinois the son of Stephen Joseph and Emma G. (maiden name Verhagen) Havrilka. Don attended Pana Schools, including the North School, for his early education. He graduated Pana Township High School with the Class of 1947 at the age of 16. He served in the U.S. Navy for 2 years during the Korean War. Don qualified for engineering school and was able to accomplish this while in the Navy. After the service, "Kosh" worked at Mallory Timers Company for years in a management position where he met his bride-to-be, Joyce. Don married Joyce L. Vits on May 13, 1961 in St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Pana, Illinois. For the last 17 years of his work life, "Kosh" commuted to and from Auburn, Illinois for a lead engineering position at Dickey-John Corporation. Don was a devout Catholic belonging to both St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Pana and

Pana Knights of Columbus, Council #896.

“Kosh” played softball for years beginning at middle school age and continuing through his mid-forties. He played baseball in high school for the Pana Panthers and later for the Pana Blues. He even played ball on his huge transport ship in the Navy, USS Talladega (APA/LPA-208). “Kosh” was a “top bowler” in Pana for many years.

Don loved traveling with his wife, Joyce. Auctions were a highlight. In winter, they worked 500-piece puzzles together. In spring and summer “Kosh” gardened, growing vegetables and tending flowers. This smart man loved reading newspapers from Pana, Taylorville, and Decatur. He worked the crosswords and Sudoku, and more recently wordsearches. One of his very favorite things was watching the St. Louis Cardinals games. He also enjoyed going to Pana High School football games. “Kosh” was well-known for the huge Christmas tree that is decorated in front of his home on West Seventh Street.

Don is preceded in death by his Parents; Wife: Joyce, who died May 14, 2019; and Brother: Paul, who died January 3, 2015.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery, Pana

2207 W Rt 16
Pana, IL 62557

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 4. 9:00 AM (CT)

Kennedy & Sons, Funeral Directors
401 S. Locust Street
Pana, IL 62557
(217) 562-3959
info@kennedypana.net
<https://www.kennedypana.net>

Funeral Mass

MAY 4. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Patrick's Catholic Church
301 S Locust Street
Pana, IL

Tribute Wall

CC

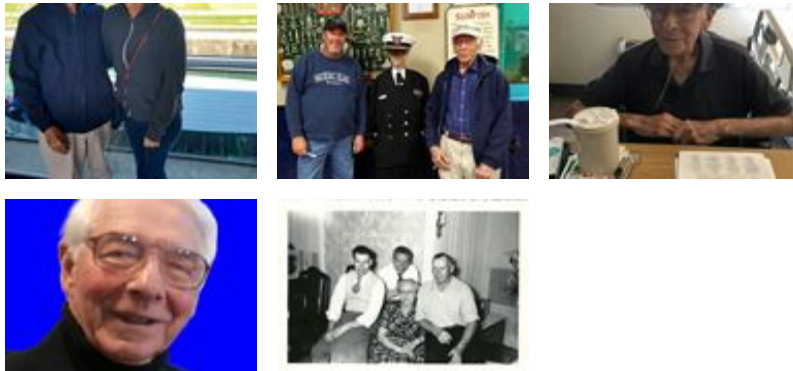
“ We were so sad to learn of Don’s passing. He was such a nice person. I will always remember him putting lights on the big evergreen in front of his house for Christmas. He had a small ruler and the lights were spaced the same distance apart. It was always beautiful!! He will be missed!



Chris & Jerry Cothorn - May 05, 2024 at 02:25 AM



“ 16 files added to the album Life Tributes



Kennedy & Sons Funeral Directors, P.C. - May 03, 2024 at 01:20 PM

DC

“ Don and Joyce were the best neighbors when i was a kid.

Debbie (Lebon) Choate - May 02, 2024 at 07:26 PM

RD

“ Kosh He was a very good friend of my husband Zip ...from growing up in hunk end to playing soft ball behind Field School and then for years on Pana hard ball leagues and softball ! God has chosen well with this great friend to many especially Zip!

Rhoda Dudra - May 02, 2024 at 07:22 PM

SC

“ My family lived next door to Don and Joyce. I can remember as a kid thinking that the garden was so beautiful in the back yard. I would walk around the path ways while they were out pulling the weeds. They both had a green thumb . The purple flowers that grew along the curb out front or the perfectly trimmed bushes out front. Yard always cut just right. And yes that beautiful tree decorated every year. I will miss Don as he was a big part of our lives.

Shawn Sims Collins - May 02, 2024 at 11:25 AM

CS

“ I have known Don for many years and have found him to be one of the kindest and gentle human beings. May God bless his family with comfort and strength during this sad time.

Carol Schramm - May 02, 2024 at 10:53 AM

EH

“ So sorry for your loss! Prayers for the family!



Evelyn Hildebrand and Bill Holthaus - May 01, 2024 at 01:45 PM

KE

“ *Kay Estes lit a candle in memory of Donald "Kosh" Havrilka*



Kay Estes - May 01, 2024 at 10:43 AM

VE

“ *Vickie Ellenberg lit a candle in memory of Donald "Kosh" Havrilka*



Vickie Ellenberg - May 01, 2024 at 09:35 AM

MH

“ *Marsha Hrabak lit a candle in memory of Donald "Kosh" Havrilka*



Marsha Hrabak - May 01, 2024 at 12:43 AM

PH

“ *Pat Holthaus lit a candle in memory of Donald "Kosh" Havrilka*



Pat Holthaus - May 01, 2024 at 12:05 AM

CF

“ *Connie & Scott Fribley lit a candle in memory of Donald "Kosh" Havrilka*



Connie & Scott Fribley - April 30, 2024 at 07:03 PM

KB

Connie and Scott, thank you for your kindness in lighting a candle. It was good to see you at the reception hall.

Karen Beckner - May 06, 2024 at 08:15 AM

KV

“ *Kathy & Ricky Vits lit a candle in memory of Donald "Kosh" Havrilka*



Kathy & Ricky Vits - April 30, 2024 at 06:30 PM

KB

Kathy and Ricky, the lit candle is a nice way to show your kindness at this time. Thank you.

Karen Beckner - May 06, 2024 at 08:16 AM