



John W. Kozak

March 23, 1955 - November 19, 2018

John W. Kozak, 63 of Heath, formerly of Zanesville, died 8:18 AM, Monday, November 19, 2018, at his home following a lengthy illness. He was born Wednesday, March 23, 1955, in Zanesville, the son of Herbert Kozak and Margaret (Tanoury) Kozak. He married Susan (Eppley) Kozak on Saturday, September 11, 1976, and was a former member of St. Nicholas Catholic Church and a member of St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church.

John was a graduate of Rosecrans High School, where he excelled both in academics and sports. He was a varsity letterman for basketball and baseball. Upon graduation in 1973, John was the school's All Time Leading Scorer in basketball, and was later elected to the first Hall of Fame Class at Rosecrans in 2008.

After being awarded an academic scholarship, John continued his education at The Ohio State University. As a freshman, John "walked on" to the 1973, basketball team of Ohio State. He was offered a basketball scholarship in 1974, but turned it down to concentrate on his education. John graduated Summa Cum Laude from The Ohio State University in 1977, with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting; here he also received the Pacesetter Award from the College of Business.

John started his career in 1977 as a Certified Public Accountant with Deloitte,

Haskens & Sells in Columbus. In 1980 he joined Mutual Federal Savings & Loan in Zanesville, now known at Century National Bank, as Chief Financial Officer and later elected as a Board Member in 1988. John began with Park National Bank in Newark, in 1991, after their merger with Mutual Federal, and served as Chief Financial Officer until 2012. He was promoted to Senior Vice President in 1999 and elected to the Board of Directors in 2006. John retired in 2012, following 32 years of service from the Park National Bank Companies.

John has left a legacy of volunteerism and commitment to his community. He has touched many lives in Muskingum and Licking Counties through his years of community service. In various leadership roles he has served as a Board Member, Past President and Treasurer for Camp O'Bannon, as well as a member and Past President of the Newark Kiwanis Club. John was a Board Member of Moundbuilders Guidance Center and was instrumental in the 2010, merger of Moundbuilders Guidance Center and Kraner Behavioral Health into a single nonprofit organization, Behavioral Healthcare Partners of Central Ohio. BHP named their annual service award, The John W. Kozak Distinguished Service Award, for him, and honored him as the first recipient in 2015. John has also served as Board Member and Chairman of the Licking County Chamber of Commerce, as well as a Board Member of the Zanesville/Muskingum County Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, John has served in leadership roles for many banking organizations, including Board Member of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, member of the Taxation Committee of the American Bankers Association, and taught investments and interest rate risk management for the Ohio Bankers League. In 2009, John represented the American Bankers Association in Washington D.C., with the Securities Exchange Commission.

On a personal level, John was an avid sports fan. He enjoyed all sports and could tell you the stats of every team he followed. John loved golf and had

season tickets to enjoy his Ohio State Buckeyes. He had a passion for sports and with that passion coached 8th grade boys' basketball at St. Nicholas Elementary, and was the assistant coach for Newark Catholic girls' basketball. Most of all John was a family man. He was a loving, caring husband and dotting father to his children and was very involved in all the activities of his grandchildren. Family meant everything to John.

John is survived by his wife: Susan of the home; four children: Dr. Jennifer (Dr. Peter Liu) Liu, Christina Kozak, Lindsay (Will) Englefield and Michael (Jessie) Kozak; five grandchildren: Andrew & Jonathan Liu, Brody Burns, William & Emma Englefield and a grandson: John W. Kozak, arriving soon; six siblings: Herb (Susan) Kozak, Margo (Bill) Moyer, Steve Kozak, Chris (Carol) Kozak, Lisa (Dave) Kohn and Tricia Kozak; his mother-in-law: Rita Eppley; two brothers-in-law: Dave (Renee') Eppley and Dan (Anne) Eppley, and several nieces and nephews

John was preceded in death by his parents and his father-in-law: Roger Eppley.

Friends may call Tuesday, November 27, 2018, from 2:00 to 4:00 & 6:00 to 8:00 PM, at the Hillis, Combs & Nestor Funeral Home, 935 Forest Avenue, Zanesville, where a Christian Vigil will be held at 7:45 PM. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated 10:30 AM, Wednesday, November 28, 2018, at St. Nicholas Catholic Church, 935 East Main Street, Zanesville, with Fr. Martin J. Ralko as celebrant. John will be laid to rest in Mt. Olive Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Camp O'Bannon, 9688 Butler Road, Newark, Ohio 43055, or the American Cancer Society, Joseph S. & Jeanette M. Sibling Hope Lodge, 11432 Mayfield Road, Cleveland, Ohio, 44106-2364 in John's memory. To sign the online guestbook or leave a personal note of condolence please visit www.hilliscombsnestor.com.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Olive Cemetery

2057 East Pike
ZANESVILLE, OH 43701

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 27. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Hillis Combs Funeral Home
935 Forest Avenue
Zanesville, OH 43701
(740) 452-5494
directors@hilliscombsnestor.com
<https://www.hilliscombsnestor.com>

Visitation

NOV 27. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Hillis Combs Funeral Home
935 Forest Avenue
Zanesville, OH 43701
(740) 452-5494
directors@hilliscombsnestor.com
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Prayer Vigil

NOV **27**. 7:45 PM (ET)

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Zanesville, OH 43701
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Mass of Christian Burial

NOV **28**. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Nicholas Catholic Church
925 Main St.
Zanesville, OH

Tribute Wall



“ *Hillis Combs Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John W. Kozak*



Hillis Combs Funeral Home - November 26, 2018 at 09:00 PM



“ *John W. Kozak*

October 06, 2023 at 04:22 AM



“ *I am very sorry to hear of John's passing. It seems like I knew John my entire life. He, his brothers and sisters were, to me, just a part of our extended Southard Avenue family. His family and his many accomplishments speak to just what a good man John was and we all suffer at his loss.*

Our deepest sympathies go out to your family and the extended Kozak and Eppley families.

Bob Moorehead - December 04, 2018 at 12:03 PM

RL

I was just surfing google here at work when I decided to look up my old college roommate. I can't believe that he has passed. I can't think of anyone I respected more. Totally committed to Sue when they were dating and even more when they got married. I sincerely wish I had more of those qualities when I was a young adult. If possible, please send my name (Rick Lindgren) and number (330-604-0528) or email (rp.lindgren@sbcglobal.net) to Sue, Herb or Margo if you get a chance. God Bless.

Rick Lindgren - December 24, 2021 at 01:36 PM

AS

“ *I haven't seen the Kodak family in many many years. But I can remember going over to visit my friend Jennifer, and having a blast. I am so sorry for your loss, he was a great person. May all of you find peace and strength through this hard time. Sending many prayers and love! Audrey (Hildebrand) Spencer*



Audrey Spencer - November 28, 2018 at 09:48 PM

LB

“ *Our sincere sympathy goes out to the entire Kozak Family. John extended many kindnesses to our family. He will be remembered.*

The Burns Family.

Louise Burns - November 28, 2018 at 09:10 PM

SB

“ I remember many times John walking within the Park National Bank, Alford Building speaking to everyone he passed, even if he did not know the person. John would take the time to ask "how are you today" and truly cared when he asked the question. John was a kind, sweet, gentle "one of a kind" person and will truly be missed by all.

Sharon Bolen - November 28, 2018 at 03:45 PM

GE

“ John was a gentleman and great boss, but most of all he was a very kind and caring person. He spoke of Sue a lot with such love and affection it was so amazing to be loved like that. I'm so sadden by his passing and was so fortunate to have worked for him on and off for thirty years. He will be missed,

Gloria Edgell

gloria edgell - November 27, 2018 at 07:44 PM

KF

“ Sue and family, Keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers. So sorry for your loss.
Kathy Bradford Fahey

Kathy M Fahey - November 27, 2018 at 04:19 PM

KF

“ Kathy M Fahey lit a candle in memory of John W. Kozak



Kathy M Fahey - November 27, 2018 at 04:16 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of John W. Kozak.*



November 27, 2018 at 02:30 PM



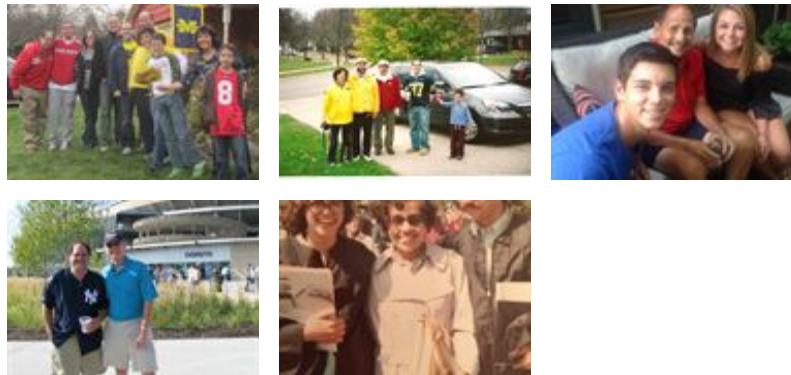
“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John W. Kozak.*



November 27, 2018 at 08:38 AM



“ *90 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Hillis Combs Funeral Home - November 26, 2018 at 06:37 PM



“ *One of best shooters to come off the hill. the Hill lost one of its finest*

Mark Wiles - November 26, 2018 at 05:55 PM

TF

“ Met John in 1973 as we were both starting at Ohio State and living in Unit J in the Stadium Scholarship Dormitory. John was a good friend and I was fortunate to have met him. Smart, handsome, intelligent and humble. You do not see that combination often in life but that was John. A great man and dear friend who will be dearly missed. Our condolences to Susan and all the Kozak Family. Tom and Susan Fogarty

Tom and Susan Fogarty - November 26, 2018 at 04:01 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of John W. Kozak.



November 26, 2018 at 02:35 PM

MM

“ Worked at Park National Bank with John and he was the nicest boss I ever had, always kind, helpful and very understanding. Margaret Morgan

Margaret Morgan - November 26, 2018 at 12:07 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of John W. Kozak.



November 26, 2018 at 10:27 AM

PF

“ *Rest in Peace John. Condolences to the Kozak Family from the Frye Family in Newark. John was a friend through work and Newark Kiwanis Club. I'm a better person for knowing John. I'll always remember him as a great leader who was very kind, generous, and friendly to everyone.*

Phil Frye - November 26, 2018 at 09:33 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John W. Kozak.*



November 25, 2018 at 08:25 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of John W. Kozak.*



November 25, 2018 at 03:39 PM



“ Remembering John and Sue. I know this is for John, but it is difficult to separate them in my mind. When I was diagnosed with prostate cancer John was the first person I reached out to. He was informative and encouraging. He then kept checking back with me as time went on. I observed John undergoing treatments, and sharing his burden with others on Facebook over the years, allowing all of us to pray for and support him, helping to lighten his load, and at the same time he was inspiring each of us to rise above our own challenges by following his example. And if you want to know what being a supportive spouse looks like look to Sue's example of selfless service to guide you. My family's prayers will be a constant support in the days to come. Kevin & Maureen Pugh

Kevin Pugh - November 25, 2018 at 02:43 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of John W. Kozak.



November 25, 2018 at 01:27 PM



“ Brenda Bohnsack and Blair Shaman purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John W. Kozak.



Brenda Bohnsack and Blair Shaman - November 25, 2018 at 08:08 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of John W. Kozak.



November 24, 2018 at 03:14 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of John W. Kozak.



November 23, 2018 at 06:34 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet* was purchased for the family of John W. Kozak.



November 23, 2018 at 10:51 AM

SS

“ I will always remember John speaking at a Groundhog Day breakfast in Newark, where he was the keynote speaker -- discussing the local and national economy and other subjects of business interest. From an Accounting standpoint it could have been dull, but it was anything but dull! He made it not only interesting but fun! For a group of more than 1000 attendees at the early breakfast hour, this was some accomplishment. I will also always remember his kindness as a Newark Kiwanis member, always looking to help and encourage others. Thank you, John. - Sherry Steinman

Sherry Steinman - November 23, 2018 at 08:32 AM

MM

“ Thank You, John, for bringing me back into your family. You will never know how much you meant to me. I found a kind and loving cousin and so sorry it took us so long to reconnect. All my love to Sue, your children and brothers and sisters. Maria.

Maria Malone - November 22, 2018 at 10:16 AM

JB

“ God has gained another soldier in JK. No one could treat all people as equal as he did and make them feel appreciated regardless of their situation! He fought like no other but also loved unequaled! Praying that his beautiful family lives in the strength he taught and left them along with the memories of his unending love!!

Jack Brady - November 21, 2018 at 08:20 PM

TO

“ Sorry for your loss. Russ and Tonnya Lloyd

tonnya - November 21, 2018 at 07:54 PM

PM

Susan and the Kozak and Eppley families~ We were very saddened to hear of John's passing. Please accept our sincerest condolences in your time of sorrow. I know he will be greatly missed, he was truly loved and appreciated by many, many people. One can see and feel his kindness coming through just watching the pictures in his tribute of life. He was quite an upstanding man... Sending love & prayers that you will be able to find some comfort in knowing that.
Mark and Patty Miller

Patricia Miller - December 04, 2018 at 03:37 AM