



Dean Kevin Lockas

February 20, 1965 - January 29, 2021

The family of Dean Kevin Lockas wants to announce a Celebration of Life honoring his fun-loving spirit with not 1, but 2 celebrations.

The 1st event will be on Saturday, June 26th at the Moose Lodge, 3068-3098 E 18th Rd, Ottawa, IL 61350. We will gather in the outdoor pavilion to enjoy family, friends and laughs from 4:00–8:00 pm. Please stop by any time to share stories and visit with the family.

The 2nd open house event will be on Saturday July 31, 2021 at the Sandlots of Salem, 9251 Antioch Rd, Salem, WI 53168. Dean played fastpitch softball on these fields and umpired youth baseball games at the Sandlot. Please join us anytime between 4:00-8:00 to celebrate Dean's love of baseball, beer and friendship.

Dean Kevin Lockas, 55, of Lindenhurst, IL, passed away peacefully at Evanston Northshore Hospital with his loving wife by his side, on Friday January 29th, 2021.

Dean was born February 20, 1965, in Ottawa, Illinois to Donald and Virgene (Outman) Lockas. He graduated from Marseilles High School in 1983 and subsequently from Illinois State University with a degree in Business Administration in 1987. His successful Sales career spanned 30+ years at Northwestern Mutual, Scot Forge, American Hotel Register, HD Supply & Ferguson Enterprises.

He was introduced to Shannon Hanley by her cousin, Denise Griffin (Hanley) at Russell's tavern in November 1992. Shannon and Dean were married in Terre Haute, IN on May 13, 1995. They were blessed to celebrate their 25th anniversary last year.

Baseball was Dean's passion. As a toddler, he attended his brother's and sister's games and learned that nothing felt better than being at the ballpark. Dean started his own baseball odyssey when he was 8 years old and never looked back. He played through

high school and thrived in competitive Men's Fastpitch softball leagues for over 25 years. Dean never thought anything would feel as good as earning an RBI while hitting a double in the gap, but he hadn't started coaching yet. Dean felt no greater joy than coaching his own sons, as well as hundreds of other boys and girls. Passing along his love for the game was his life's work. He started coaching his eldest son Drew in 2005 and concluded with his youngest son Payton, and the Lake Villa Thunder, in 2015. Dean was a member of the Lake Villa Township Baseball Board for 9 years and was an IHSA baseball umpire for the last two years.

He is survived by his wife, Shannon Lockas; his two sons: Drew (Kaitlyn) Lockas of USMC stationed in Hawaii, and Payton Lockas at the University of Iowa; his parents, Donald & Virgene (Outman) Lockas; and his siblings: Duane (Cindy) Lockas and Dorene (Jeff) Gilbert; in-laws Frank & Sue (Vignali) Hanley; brother-in-law Shawn (Alais) Hanley and beloved nieces and nephews: Brett (Amanda) Lockas, Kassie (Drew) McConville, Elizabeth (Lucas) Gilbert, Rebecca (Joe) Themig, Fielding (Bree) Lockas, and Maeve, Declan, Ayla & Fia Hanley. He is also survived by several cousins and 4 great-nieces and nephews as well as his cherished Corvette Grand Sport, 'Joy'.

Dean was preceded in death by his grandparents, uncles, an aunt and his godparents.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the American Red Cross as they support military members during times of crisis or the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) in honor of Dean's son, Payton.

Due to Covid regulations, a family-only Memorial service will be held Saturday, February 6th at 10:00 am at Crossbridge Community Church, 4161 Columbus St., Ottawa, IL , with Pastor Kevin Donoho officiating. A Celebration of Life will be organized this summer so that friends and family can gather to share stories, smiles and laughter – lots of laughter.

Tribute Wall



“ *Dean Kevin Lockas*

October 04, 2023 at 02:13 PM



“ *Dean Kevin Lockas*

December 31, 2022 at 11:36 AM

DA

“ *Dear Lockas Family,
My sincere condolences to you. I knew Dean through baseball at LV Ballpark. We both served on the board at the same time, managed against each other and he was always a good friend. My son William was on one of his pinto teams many years ago, and Dean's father actually helped coach that year. I know Dean loved baseball and coaching his boys. Please take care.
--Dave Aschermann*

David Aschermann - March 30, 2021 at 11:05 AM

DM

“ *WHY DIDN'T ANYONE TELL ME THIS!!!????? I know I'm not on here much. HE WAS/IS my BEST BUDDY, FRIEND! OMG. We were allowed to drive to chicago to see Queen! Midnight Mass at Christmas....if some one can fill me in PLEASE! I KNEW about Scott. Netty, Lib, Sheri????? How.*



David W Martin - February 19, 2021 at 06:30 PM

TA

“ *Shannon, Drew and Payton.
My heartfelt condolences on your loss. So many fond memories of our families together while kids were in school. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Todd Atkinson - February 06, 2021 at 09:30 AM

SL

Thanks For your kind words Todd. We appreciate it ❤️

shannon lockas - February 08, 2021 at 09:20 PM

JN

“ Coach Dean was always someone who was there for me. I always knew that no matter what I needed Coach was willing to go the extra mile for anyone he cared about. Whether it was in baseball, or in life, I know that Coach Dean was always willing to lend a helping hand. He was always there at every baseball game, and high school football game cheering me on at every move. Coach Dean was a selfless individual who put the needs of those he cared about most above his own. I will miss the baseball talks about the good old thunder days and the life lessons that accompanied them. I am a better person because of Coach Dean and the Lockas family. I’m gonna miss you coach. I am thankful to know that you will still always be looking out for me, but instead of encouraging me to get running to second base harder; it will be watching out for all those you cared about so dearly. I miss you already Coach Dean.

- Jeffrey Nielsen “Eightball”

Jeffrey Nielsen - February 05, 2021 at 11:45 PM

SL

Oh Jeffrey. He loved you so. So happy that you and your family will be a part of ours forever.

shannon lockas - February 14, 2021 at 09:49 AM

JS

“ 49 files added to the album Memories Album



JSJG - February 04, 2021 at 08:33 PM

JS

“ Where do we begin.... our families met during youth Iceless Hockey.... which led to baseball and coaching together.... a great family friendship between our families. Wonderful times, great memories, lots of wins, a few losses on the field and endless appreciation and love for Dean and his entire family.

Dean's smile, spirit, big heart, laugh, kindness, dedication to the kids, and his love for life, his family, and everything baseball will ALWAYS be remembered and cherished.

We cannot even begin to put into words how deeply saddened we are for your loss. We only hope that you know we will be with you in the journey finding peace and embracing the memories.

We will NEVER forget Dean and are grateful that our paths crossed and we had the opportunity to call him friend and coach. We look forward to a time when we can all get together again and the pain will be a little bit easier and we can celebrate Dean. He was simply an amazing man - an amazing human being. He will be missed dearly.

Sending you our love, sympathy, and prayers - Over the years your family has become so much a part of our family - please know we are here for you for whatever it is you may need.

Jeff, Susan, Jeffrey, and Grace

JSJG - February 04, 2021 at 08:27 PM

SL

Beautiful. From the bottom of my heart - thank you. ❤️❤️

shannon lockas - February 14, 2021 at 09:57 AM



“ Shannon, Drew and Payton - we are so sorry for your loss. Although we weren't close to your dad, we crossed paths with your family many times at the ball field and at Lakes. If there is anything that we can do for you, please let us know. Praying that you find comfort in all of your memories of Dean.

Cathy, Steve, Nick & Abby Austill

Catherine Austill - February 04, 2021 at 11:18 AM

SL

Thanks Cathy. I appreciate your kind words 🙏

shannon lockas - February 05, 2021 at 08:58 AM

BL

I never got to meet any of our family there , but I'm so sorry for your loss 💔 😞

Bobbie lockas-Eldredge - February 05, 2021 at 05:27 PM

BH

“ *When I met Dean on the phone, during my first days at American Hotel, he sounded like a guy who I could get along with. We laughed at the same stuff, found odd joy in stupidity and generally got along like old buddies on the first day. I warned him that I tend to rub people the wrong way after a while, so to not get too comfortable with having me around.*

Little did I expect that for the next 20 years, we would call each other friend. I did not expect our families to get along too, but they did. You and Heidi explained complicated movie plots to us after the movie were over, and we were ok with that, finally understanding who the bad guys were. Through too many nights out to name, birthday gatherings, important life milestones, and lots of weekends on the lake, we forged a wonderful friendship. Perhaps best of all, we got to call him Donkey for the last decade, for no particular reason, except for the odd ramblings of my father's memory.

Heidi and I have been blessed by the loyalty of his, and your friendship. We are deeply saddened at his loss and will miss all the conversations we will never have the opportunity to continue.

Shannon, know that we are here for you, Drew and Payton, and will do anything we can to help support you through this. We join with others, who will keep the happier times, and our memories of Dean close to our hearts.

Sending our family's love and prayers to you and yours during this terrible time.

The Burtons



Brian & Heidi - February 04, 2021 at 09:44 AM

SL

Sweet words Brian. We love the Burtons - a lot ❤️❤️

shannon lockas - February 05, 2021 at 09:01 AM

EM

“ Dear Lockas Family, We send our love and prayers for comfort and peace as you mourn the loss of your husband, dad, brother and son. We wish we had met Dean and gotten to know him, but have a good idea of what an amazing man he was from our friendship with Dorene and her family. Special prayers for his parents, we have lost a son as well and there are no words. Blessings, John and Edie Machonis



Edith Machonis - February 03, 2021 at 06:43 PM

SL

Thank you so much. Dorene and Jeff are amazing people and our family is blessed to have them. ❤️

shannon lockas - February 05, 2021 at 09:03 AM

LC

“ Dear Shannon and family,
My sincere condolences to you.... I was so very sorry to hear what happened to Dean. I've known him for 50 years. (Wow, 50 years?!?)
I met him in Kindergarten and continued on to graduate High School with him.
He was the fastest runner in our class and I will always remember when we were in grade school, he had the freaky ability to bend his fingers backwards and touch his hand, which I always tried, but couldn't get even get close. LOL.
I will always remember Dean to be a fun guy with a sweet smile and a sparkle in his eye.
I'm so sorry for your loss. He will be missed by many. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.



Libby (Nicholson) Clements - February 03, 2021 at 11:29 AM

SL

Thanks Libby. You were always one of his favorites from school. I appreciate the kind words ❤️❤️

shannon lockas - February 05, 2021 at 09:05 AM

CE

“ One of a kind personality, smiling, upbeat, funny, caring, great guy from great family. Fond high school memories watching him play baseball, quarterback football, proudly driving the green sports car he got from big brother, listening to Billy Joel Only the Good Die Young, so true. First love never forgotten. Prayers for his family.

Catherine Einhaus - February 02, 2021 at 05:56 PM

SL

Thanks Cathy. He was one of a kind and he had very fond memories of you as well❤️

shannon lockas - February 05, 2021 at 09:07 AM

MW

“ Mike Witty lit a candle in memory of Dean Kevin Lockas



Mike Witty - February 02, 2021 at 11:16 AM

EN

“ He was one of my "favorites"-living just a block from him as he and my children grew up together, we shared many times. How about popcorn and "tube steaks" on Sunday night?
His mother and I were pregnant at the same time, and he filled in as a big brother to Wayne, as his own brother wasn't physically able during those growing up years.
There must be a game in heaven going on now and he is "up to bat."
Love,
Aunt Leenie (Earline Outman)

Earline Outman Norton - February 02, 2021 at 06:58 AM

SL

Thanks Aunt Leenie - you are correct. He's playing ball and laughing right now. Love you

shannon lockas - February 02, 2021 at 11:30 AM

JK

“ I had the honor of knowing Dean thru softball. He was a true family man who I greatly respected. I will miss Dean but will always have the memories of knowing him.
Jim "Jimmy" Kulakowski Mobil #8

James G Kulakowski - February 01, 2021 at 11:30 PM

SL

Thanks Jimmy. He loved playing with you guys❤️❤️

shannon lockas - February 03, 2021 at 06:49 AM

AB

“ After being my coach for two years, Dean was one of the greatest men I have met. On the Thunder and in high school ball, I always wore the number 10. I remember one time in high school we were playing against the team Payton was on. And while I was on deck getting ready to bat, Dean calls out from behind the fence and goes “just because you’re on the opposite team doesn’t mean I’m not rooting for you” and he pointed up. It took me a second to realize that he was pointing to his hat. Which was blue with just the number 10 on it.

Andrew Berwanger - February 01, 2021 at 11:03 PM

SL

Oh Drew. He loved you boys so much. He is so proud of you❤️❤️

shannon lockas - February 03, 2021 at 06:51 AM

WF

“ We always have so very fond memories of Dean /aka “Coach Dean”. No matter where we were at, whether it was at the Ball Fields, at a Party, or bumping into him at the store, Dean’s wonderful smile, his personality, and his gripping handshake/hug was always so welcoming. We’ll miss his warmth, and jovial manner, and the way he loved his family was obvious to all. Our hearts go out to the Lockas Family during this difficult time. Our Deepest sympathies, and we too will miss this wonderful man. Veronica, Tim and Marc. (Wierz / Arias)

Wierz / Arias Family - February 01, 2021 at 09:47 PM

SL

You are so sweet. Dean loved watching Marc develop as a player but especially the impressive man he became. Thank you❤️

shannon lockas - February 03, 2021 at 06:53 AM

LC

“ We will always remember that smile and happy go lucky attitude. No matter what, when he drove by a smile and a wave always was a pickup and made us smile. You will be missed. Blessed to have known him.

Steve and Lorie Cipolla

Lorie Cipolla - February 01, 2021 at 07:59 PM

SL

Thanks Lorie & Steve. He was a small town guy who loved this neighborhood. He always commented about how hard you & Steve worked in the yard but clearly he was never inspired by it. Lol. Thanks again❤️

shannon lockas - February 03, 2021 at 06:58 AM

JS

“ Dean was my roommate , co-worker,teammate, and a good friend, see you on the field of dreams someday buddy, RIP

jeff schuster - February 01, 2021 at 06:55 PM

SL

Thanks Jeff. It was so fun to reconnect with you each year at the beer festival ❤️❤️

shannon lockas - February 03, 2021 at 07:00 AM