



John "Zeke" Zanona

August 2, 1962 - August 21, 2025

NORWAY-John Joseph "Zeke" Zanona, age 63 of Norway, passed away in the early hours of Thursday August 21, 2025, at Aurora Medical Center Bay Area in Marinette, WI.

He was born in Norway, on August 2, 1962, John was a life-long resident of the area, involved in a variety of careers and pastimes.

He built over a dozen beautiful homes, camps, and other structures in the area. Zeke drove logging trucks and other equipment for Nickels Logging for years, went south to help with hurricane clean-up in the Southern U.S., and the past couple of years, helped Vulcan Wood Products and Hometown Lumber with deliveries.

John had many interests, among them, Racing - in his earlier years he raced both dirt bikes and stock cars and he made several treks to big events like Daytona, the Brickyard, and the Indy 500; Cards - he loved a good game of Smear and Cribbage was always a blood sport.

Most of all, he lived for Deer Season and November 15th was practically a holiday for Zekers. He grew up hunting out of his uncle's camp in the Merriman area and switched to the Faithorn area when his dad bought property there. His deer camp crew were his dad Bill, cousin Paul, nephew Collin, and sometimes his buddy, Tony. He was especially proud of his prize bucks and had a couple of exceptional trophies mounted.

John is survived by his son Jacob (Sara) Zanona of Norway and their daughter Natalie Grace, the apple of Zeke's eye; also survived by his parents, William "Bill" and Patricia "Patsy" Zanona of Norway; sister Wendy Watson (Guy Caverson); niece Kyla Watson (James Boyuk) and their daughter Lily; nephew Collin Watson (Ashley Hurley) and their children, Murphy and Alice, all of Sudbury, Ontario, Canada. John also had a huge extended network of aunts, uncles, cousins and friends throughout Upper Michigan, the US and Canada.

John had a way of making fast friends, many of whom remained in his life to the end. Some were family like Paul Meneghini, Frank Devine, Rob Devine, Collin Watson; others became family, like “Par” Jim Parolini, “Sedo” Tony Kramer, “Schultzie” Paul Schultz, “Chooker” Scott Hanson, “Pimps” Timmy Faull, Paul Menard, Jeff Goudreau, Christina Hurkmans, and most especially, Karol Neuens, his sweetheart. If we have missed anyone, our apologies. Please know he loved you.

Family will greet friends on Monday, September 1, from 10-11 a.m. at the Ortman Funeral Home in Norway.

A memorial service will be held on Monday at 11 a.m. at the Ortman Funeral Home with Fr. Abraham Mupparathara of St. Barbara’s Church, officiating.

Interment to follow at the Norway Township Cemetery with a Celebration of Life immediately afterward until 3 p.m. at the American Legion Hall in Norway.

Cemetery Details

Norway Township Cemetery

Norway Township, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Ortman Funeral Home
618 Norway Street
P.O. Box 155
Norway, MI 49870
(906) 563-5700
ortmanfuneralhome@norwaymi.com
<https://www.ortmanfuneralhome.com/>

Memorial Service

SEP 1. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Ortman Funeral Home
618 Norway Street
P.O. Box 155
Norway, MI 49870
(906) 563-5700
ortmanfuneralhome@norwaymi.com
<https://www.ortmanfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall

LK

“ Love Tim Kraemer purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John "Zeke" Zanona.



Love Tim Kraemer - September 01, 2025 at 10:51 AM

LK

“ Love Tim Kraemer planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John "Zeke" Zanona.

Love Tim Kraemer - September 01, 2025 at 10:51 AM

VJ

“ Vicki J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John "Zeke" Zanona.

Vicki J. - August 29, 2025 at 01:11 PM

RM

“ Rick & Melanie Mendez purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of John "Zeke" Zanona.



Rick & Melanie Mendez - August 26, 2025 at 09:00 PM

RM

“ Rick & Melanie Mendez planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John "Zeke" Zanona.

Rick & Melanie Mendez - August 26, 2025 at 09:00 PM

TF

“ The Jezorski Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John "Zeke" Zanona.



The Jezorski Family - August 25, 2025 at 08:48 PM

TF

“ The Jezorski Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John "Zeke" Zanona.

The Jezorski Family - August 25, 2025 at 08:48 PM

PM

“ Pete and Barb Mendez purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of John "Zeke" Zanona.



Pete and Barb Mendez - August 25, 2025 at 08:42 PM

TF

“ The Bal Family purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of John "Zeke" Zanona.



The Bal Family - August 25, 2025 at 04:27 PM

TF

“ The Bal Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John "Zeke" Zanona.

The Bal Family - August 25, 2025 at 04:27 PM

TF

“ The Mendez Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John "Zeke" Zanona.



The Mendez Family - August 23, 2025 at 08:55 PM

TF

“ The Mendez Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John "Zeke" Zanona.

The Mendez Family - August 23, 2025 at 08:55 PM