



## Raymond Joseph Kozak, Jr.

February 12, 1943 - January 8, 2016

Raymond (Ray) J Kozak, Jr passed away suddenly and peacefully in his Perrysburg home on January 8, 2016.

Born in Toledo on February 12, 1942, Ray grew up in the Polish Village. He attended St Francis de Sales High School. Among his accomplishments were: earning his Eagle Scout medal and competing in the state wrestling championships. Ray attended The University of Toledo, where he was a member of the Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity. As part of the fraternity, Ray created life-long friendships that he maintained until his passing. While at the University, Ray met the love of his life - Jeri (Heinl) Kozak. The two were married in January of 1968.

A gifted artist and graphic designer, Ray was hired by Hickory Farms in 1968. He advanced through the company, serving as the Director of Marketing from 1976-79 before becoming Vice President of Research and Development in 1979. Ray was largely responsible for the look, image, and feel of the Hickory Farms brand.

Following his entrepreneurial spirit, Ray left Hickory Farms in 1983 to start Le Petit Gourmet. This well-known and loved bakery-deli-caterer featured locations at Southwyck and Franklin Park Mall, as well as Portside. Ray's artistic talents helped Le Petit thrive; the restaurant often featured his unique

hand-carved fruits and vegetables. Turning a radish into a rose, a honey dew into a swan, or monogramming a watermelon, Ray ensured Le Petit's offerings were the most talked about part of any party.

An active member of the community, Ray was a member of the Maumee Rotary where he received the prestigious Paul Harris award. He was also an active member of the St. John's High School auction committee, and he was presented with the Magis Award for his service.

Ray was forced to retire from Le Petit in 1999 when a brain aneurysm left him partially paralyzed. His wife Jeri cared for him on a daily basis. He enjoyed watching his grandchildren's athletic events and theatrical performances. He could often be found enjoying lunch at Le Petit Gourmet in Maumee. While the aneurysm may have limited him physically, it never impacted his sense of humor and spirit of life. His family feels the last 16 years were a blessing of bonus time with Ray. Ray always said life was, "Basically, sensational" or "Damn good."

Ray was preceded in death by his parents, Raymond Sr and Alvina (Zychowicz). He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Jeri, 5 children: Chris (Ann), Mike (Lisa), Liz (Pete) Felaris, Sarah (Jason) Dzierwa and John (Jessica), 13 grandchildren: Emily, Jacob, Avery, Nick, Drew, Josh, Jason, Josie, Cameron, Jude, Owen, Jed and Campbell Rae, and sister Suzanne Flynn.

Friends may visit at the Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Rd on Tuesday, January 12 from 2-8 p.m. with a Scripture service and a "Sharing of Memories" at 7. The funeral ceremony will begin in the mortuary on Wednesday, January 13 at 10:15, followed by the mass at 11 a.m. at St. John XXIII Catholic Church in Perrysburg. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to be made to St. John XXIII Catholic Community in Perrysburg, or Maumee Rotary. Please view Ray's memorial video tribute and leave a condolence message at [CoyleFuneralHome.com](http://CoyleFuneralHome.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **12**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home  
1770 S. Reynolds Road  
Toledo, OH 43614

## Service

JAN **13**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. John XXIII Church  
24250 Dixie Hwy.  
Perrysburg, OH 43551

# Tribute Wall

CV

“ 1 file added to the album Video Tribute



COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS - January 14, 2016 at 09:13 AM

VK

“ As members of the SFS wrestling team, I fondly remember Ray's sense of humor, smile and can do attitude. He is missed.  
Vince King, SFS '62

Vince King - January 13, 2016 at 09:14 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Raymond Joseph Kozak, Jr..



January 12, 2016 at 09:30 AM

BK

“ *Jeri and family:*

*So sorry to hear of your loss- I am in Tennessee with grandchildren so will not be able to be with you at the service. Know that I am sending you thoughts and prayers for healing, love, trust and serenity.*

*I am blessed and privileged to have met you and Ray back when Ray came home from the hospital and I did physical therapy with Ray off and on over several years. How many times we worked on "lean forward, sit to stand, cane forward, swing that leg, head up-keep walking!"(Ray did all the work!)-I just tried to facilitate. He always expressed a sense of humor through it all and never gave up-no matter how many times I/we(!) would say-"How about one more time, Ray?"*

*And Jeri-when I think of an inspiration for Perseverance, love, trust, compassion and strength -I think of you and Ray and I thank both of you!*

*Peace&Love,  
Bob Kantner*

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**bob kantner** - January 12, 2016 at 09:04 AM

CS

“ *Ray; You are truly going to be missed by everyone who has ever met you. I, for one, will miss your keen sense of humor and the monogrammed watermelons you made for our family reunions. What a gift from God that talent was! I'm sure God will be enjoying your sense of humor in Heaven now, too, Ray. And Jeri - what a wonderful, remarkable, loving mate you were. I'm sure God must have had a hand in you two meeting your soulmates. Your cousin, Carol Heini Szurminski*

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**Carol Heini Szurminski** - January 12, 2016 at 08:29 AM

DP

“ Ray, got the news old friend. Our beginning was St. Francis. & wish I could remember what brought us together but guess it really doesn't matter. What I do know is those were formulative years for me and I believe for you as well. We marked that journey with stories of the Oblate Fathers too numerous to mention. We wrestled, and soon talked cars - yours were always cooler than mine, cruise'n in your '40 is a chapter in itself. We studied art and Art Museum classes had a life or their own. Our pool matches .... Wow, how many breaks did we have - hundreds for sure. And along the way we shared dreams and life's plans. Along the way we dated the same girl - sequentially, not simultaneously thank goodness. Testament to our shared good taste since my marriage to that gal will celebrate 49 years this April. When I moved away during our college years, we lost touch for many years, until the nite of our reunion when we reminisced till dawn. And then it happened once again.

As John Lennon once said, you make plans and life happens...and family and jobs and miles - of course none of those good reasons. Friends disconnect and one day the call comes, and you ask why. Love you man, you are an important part of my life.

Jeri, you are in Kathy and I's thoughts. Ray was, most definitely in a league of his own, but of course you know that better than anyone.  
Love, Dick and Kathy

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Dick Pulse - January 11, 2016 at 10:04 PM

TK

“ I am privileged to have worked for Ray at Le Petit Gourmet while in high school. He always made his employees feel part of his family (true, many of them already were), calling him by his first name and his mother “Busha” (Polish for grandma). He treated us with respect, kindness, lightheartedness and humor. I’ll always remember how he would walk us out to our cars after closing shop at night and sincerely thank us for our help. He was dedicated to his family and to the shop, and his passion and energy were contagious. My college entry essay was entitled “The Croissant Capital of South Toledo”, based on my positive experiences and lessons learned under his patient leadership at Le Petit.

*My heart goes out to Jeri and family, and Ray’s many loved ones. Heaven has gained a great man.*

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**Trish Kandik** - January 11, 2016 at 09:27 PM

RM

“ Ray and I go back to the turnaround pledge class of Alpha Sigma Phi at the University of Toledo, about 1960. Our group went through a lot together. Even during Hell Week, Ray kept us laughing. He is a gentleman and a scholar, with a heart beneath his vest (Alpha Sig song).

*Bob and Pat Myers*

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**Robert Myers** - January 11, 2016 at 07:23 PM

CT

“ 2 files added to the album Video Tribute



Coyle Funeral Home Video Tributes - January 11, 2016 at 06:52 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Raymond Joseph Kozak, Jr..



January 11, 2016 at 02:43 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Raymond Joseph Kozak, Jr..



January 11, 2016 at 02:09 PM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Raymond Joseph Kozak, Jr..



January 11, 2016 at 01:52 PM

DO

“ One of my crazy memories of Mr. K that I will NEVER forget...I was 16 and working at the Southwyck store. Being a lazy 16 year old, I didn't want to go into work one day. I called in and told Mr. K that my grandma was really sick and I was needed at home. What I didn't realize was that our parents were friends and they called my mom to see if my grandma was okay. Talk about feeling foolish!!! Well played Mr K. Surprisingly, he didn't fire me. If I remember right, I think he asked me why I lied and then just shook his head at me. I would have fired me on the spot! That just goes to show how awesome Mr. K was. God picked a good one when He picked Mr. K. You will be missed Mr. K. Prayers and love to the family. - Deanna Olsen

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**Deanna Olsen** - January 10, 2016 at 10:14 PM

LM

“ Dear Jeri and family,

*We're so sad to learn about Ray. We loved him the moment we met.  
It was Halloween*

*1983 or 4. All the families on Thornapple were "trick or treating" it.  
When we approached your house it was real "spooky". There was  
this strange person at the door. He glimmered in the dark light. Our  
kids didn't want to go to the door. But they wanted the candy. He  
was covered from "head to toe" with shinny stuff. What is it ? It was  
oh so spooky. All the kids were nervous. No one had ever seen the  
likes of it. They didn't know what to make of it. But they wanted the  
candy. So we inched closer. We got up real close. Then, there it  
WAS, a man covered from head to toe with dozens of strips of 35  
mm film.....shimmering and shining ! REAL SPOOKY ! Oh my God !  
Talk about nervous.*

*But.....he had candy. And a great "Trick or Treat" ! That was  
Ray ! He also, offered the parents, a shot.....more or less to  
calm them down.*

*To all the Kozak family, you're in our hearts and prayers.*

*We love you.*

*Laurie and Bob Moore*

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**Laurie and Bob Moore** - January 10, 2016 at 05:05 PM

GK

“ A neighbor and friend from long ago. You were an inspiration to all you talked to. I will always remember the first time in many years when i saw you and Jeri in church. we talked about how our children grew up too fast. i will never forget when i mentioned how i have seen Chris on TV and you quickly shook your finger at me saying, "And I taught him everything he knew.." Yes you will be missed...may God bless and strengthen Jerri and family during the days ahead...Genevieve Geha Kirkbride

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**Gene**<https://login.secure.vieve> Kirkbride - January 10, 2016 at 04:57 PM

AB

“ Dear Kozak family,  
May God Bless you and keep you close to his heart. Your dad was a great man and touched the lives of many people. It was a pleasure to have known him and watch him raise a great family with a great woman by his side.  
Sincerely,  
Alison and Dan Brumenshenkel

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**alison Brumenshenkel** - January 10, 2016 at 08:23 AM

TK

“ Jeri and family,  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Ray was so fun loving and full of energy and great to be with. Jeri, you are an inspiration to all of us. Pat and I are in Vietnam so we will be unable to join you for the service but we will be with you in spirit. At Hector's funeral, Ray had me mark a date of June 15 on my calendar for a get-together at Catawba and I hope we can keep that date. All our love. Tim and Pat Kearney

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**Tim Kearney** - January 10, 2016 at 02:33 AM



“ *Amazing Arboricola was purchased for the family of Raymond Joseph Kozak, Jr..*



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January 09, 2016 at 01:50 PM



“ *RAY WAS ONE STRONG GUY AND HIS WIFE TWICE STRONG. I CAN ONLY REMEMBER ALL GREAT TIME THAT YOU AND RAY HAD.*

*LOVE*

*DAVE AND LESLEY*

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**DAVE KASPRZAK** - January 09, 2016 at 12:48 PM