



Dennis J O'Connor

December 16, 1950 - September 18, 2025

Dennis J. O'Connor, age 74, of Kankakee, Illinois, passed away peacefully at home on September 18, 2025, after a difficult battle with cancer.

Born December 16, 1950, Dennis was the son of Thomas M. and Evelyn O'Connor. He grew up in the Irwin area and graduated from Bishop McNamara High School before earning a business degree from Northern Illinois University. He proudly served in the U.S. Army Reserves.

In 1974, Dennis married the love of his life, Diane. Together they shared 51 years of marriage and raised three sons: Doug (Jamie) O'Connor of Mequon, WI, Jason (Christie) O'Connor of Kankakee, IL, and Ken (Eleni) O'Connor of Plainfield, IL. He was blessed with grandchildren: Aiden and Kyle, Kelly and Kendall, and Ryan, Dylan and Brayden.

A lifelong farmer in Kankakee County, Dennis dedicated himself to both family and farming. He was a longtime member of the Kankakee Farm Bureau, serving as an officer and director, and he also served as a board member of FS Kankakee Service Company. Later in his career, he also volunteered on the Garr Creek District drainage commission. He valued the camaraderie of his farm community and the generations of friendships he built through it.

He is survived by his wife, Diane; his children and their families; his brother Ron (Marty) O'Connor of Belleville, IL; and his sister Lynda O'Connor of Lancaster, SC. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Myra Taborek.

Dennis will be deeply missed. He will be remembered as a devoted husband,

father, grandfather, and friend, and as a legend to his sons. "God made a farmer."

The family wishes to thank the medical team at Riverside Cancer Center and Uplifted Hospice for their compassionate care.

A private family service will be held on September 27, 2025.

Cremation rites will be accorded following the service.

Arrangements are by Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home, Kankakee. In lieu of flowers, consider a memorial donation to the Kankakee County Farm Bureau Foundation which will support local agriculture scholarships.

Please sign his guestbook at www.clancygernon.com.

Tribute Wall

RO

“ *Farm Grandpa, I will forever cherish our fond memories. Whether it was the old stories, antique gifts, or shared meals, our time together was full of nothing but joy. Thank you for passing along your wisdom to me over the years as I matured. Although you are not here with us, you will forever be in our hearts. We love you Grandpa! Your first grandson*

-Ryan O'Connor

Ryan O'Connor - September 24, 2025 at 05:59 PM

RO

“ *Farm Grandpa, I'm going to miss the old stories, antique gifts, and shared meals with you. I've learned countless pieces of quality advice that I aim to follow everyday. Although you are no longer with us, you will forever be in our hearts. I love you Grandpa! Your first grandson*

-Ryan O'Connor

Ryan O'Connor - September 24, 2025 at 05:26 PM

 Dennis
Jans

“ *We wish to express our sincerest condolences to Diane, Doug, Jason, Ken, and Amy. Dennis will be sorely missed. We fondly recall our times together over the last 50 years. His wit and wisdom were unique and now will be missed.*

Dennis and Georgia Jans

Dennis Jans - September 24, 2025 at 03:43 PM

BF

“ Sending my deepest sympathies to the entire O'Connor family. DJ was a good guy, friend, and neighbor. Somedays he liked to be a lil onery but it was always in good fun. I thought a lot of him and he will be greatly missed.

Brad M. Fulton

Brad M Fulton - September 24, 2025 at 01:05 PM

EV

“ Dennis, the various times we enjoyed your company, conversations, meals together, humor, and farming stories will be missed. Although you are no longer with us, you will always remain in our thoughts and heart.

Our sincerest sympathies Diane and the entire O'Connor family.

Eve and Mike Dunn

eve - September 23, 2025 at 07:40 PM

CB

“ Sending our deepest sympathies to the O'Connor family. We are keeping you in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. May you cherish all of your special memories of Dennis.

The Bertolini Family

Christa Bertolini - September 23, 2025 at 07:00 PM

EL

“ Thank you, Dennis, for bringing farm life into this city girl’s view. Taking the boys on tractor and combine rides, Halloween hayrides, silver coins at Christmas, and enjoying whatever I cooked for you, are just a few of my favorite memories! Thank you for giving me Ken and welcoming me into your family 20 years ago. You will be missed. May you now rest, peacefully. Love, Eleni

Eleni - September 23, 2025 at 06:40 PM

TD

“ Sending our deepest sympathies. May you cherish all the memories of Dennis, as they are eternal. Wishing you peace in the days ahead.
-The D'Angelo's

Theresa D'Angelo - September 23, 2025 at 06:26 PM

KJ

“ My condolences to his daughter Amy and her family.
Kathy Jones

Kathy Jones - September 23, 2025 at 06:02 PM

CG

“ Our sympathy to the O'Connor family. Beginning with our common Farm Bureau involvement, it was always a pleasure to be in Dennis's company whenever we would see one another.

A great family man leaving a great family to carry on the O'Connor tradition.

Charlie Grotevant

Charlie Grotevant - September 23, 2025 at 02:17 PM

CO

“ As my Uncle and Godfather, he has given me many fond memories and much good advise. He will be missed.
Christopher O'Connor

Christopher O'Connor - September 23, 2025 at 11:24 AM

DO

“ My deepest sympathy to Dennis' family. I went to high school with him and saw him on occasion in the community. He was so kind and friendly.

Doris OConnor - September 23, 2025 at 11:10 AM

KS

“ I will always remember our conversations when he came into the office at Compeer. He was a kind man and devoted father. Farming was important to him.

My deepest sympathy to all of his family. May the angels surround you with peace.

Kathy Shanahan

Kathy Shanahan - September 22, 2025 at 11:02 PM

BD

“ It was my privilege to serve as Manager of the Kankakee County Farm Bureau when Dennis was a Director. Thank you, Dennis, for your service to the agriculture industry.
Bob Dyer

Bob Dyer - September 22, 2025 at 05:03 PM

JS

“ *Condolences to the O'Connor family.*

Jed and Sarah Siedentop

Jed and Sarah Siedentop - September 22, 2025 at 12:07 PM

GT

“ *Our sincere condolences to Diane and family. Dennis was a good, hardworking man who loved his family dearly. We will remember his wonderful smile and how he always made us laugh. He will be missed.*

Bob & Ginny Tanner

Ginny Tanner - September 22, 2025 at 11:28 AM