



Phillip Charles Czernik

September 14, 1951 - January 14, 2018

Visitation for Phillip Charles Czernik, 66, of Kankakee will be from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, January 19, 2018 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 12:00 Noon on Saturday, January 20, 2018 at St. John Paul II Catholic Church- West Campus (formerly known as St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church) in Kankakee, where he was a member and usher. Rev. Joel Fortier will celebrate the Mass. Interment will follow at Mount Calvary Cemetery Kankakee.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital or the family wishes.

He entered into eternal life on January 14, 2018 at home with his family. Born on September 14, 1951 in Chicago to his beloved parents Felix and Mary Czernik he attended Holy Innocents Catholic School serving as an altar boy. He was accepted into Class 7A Lane Technical High School where he served as their star quarterback; headlining their playoffs at Soldier Field. He went on to Northeastern University Chicago where he played football and hockey. His final year he was scouted by the Minnesota North Stars (presently Dallas Stars) as a National Hockey League Prospect but was sidelined after sustaining an injury which ended his stint but not his fierce, steadfast loyalty to competition and athletics.

After meeting his beloved wife Paula they ultimately settled in Limestone where he managed hockey teams and coached at Kankakee Valley Park District's original rink off of Station Street.

He shortly thereafter began a career in construction, supporting his role models father-in-law Sam and brothers Joe, Bart, Pete, and John (founder Raymond Azzarelli, their father) with their company, Azzarelli Construction. "Safety Phil" as he became known began as a dispatcher, later moved into the role of Director of Transportation, then Safety Director after the company became Kankakee Valley Construction for a combined total of 42 years. He loved all his co-workers- every single one- and the thrill of watching a job come to fruition from start to finish. He enjoyed the camaraderie of the employees within both companies (Azzarelli and KVCC), Tobey's, and the many people they did business with within the community.

He took his skillset in the safety sector and forayed that into college instruction conducting a construction safety class and ran many workshops to train employees on construction safety measures.

He was a lover of all sports, especially Chicago teams including the Hawks and his beloved Cubbies. He supportively watched Game 4 of the 2005 Sox World Series with his father-in-law Sam (a die-hard Sox fan) knowing the Cubs would have their day...and did they ever. He was a member of the Elks Country Club; he loved golfing with his buddies and also dedicated his free time to his bowling league, which he also loved.

He was a member of multiple bands in his youth and after moving to Kankakee joined "Narcissus and Goldmund" and "The Traveliers." "The Traveliers," a country-western band entertained the community with Alabama covers at weddings, festivals, the Easter Seals Telethon, and Bishop McNamara's Madcaps. Phil played by ear and mastered the guitar, fiddle, keyboard, harmonica, and vocals. He was also inspired by the Beatles, especially Paul McCartney.

He was a dedicated family man to Paula and also his son Jon and daughter Rebecca, instilling in them a deep commitment to all things and encouraging them in dedication, drive, and determination. He was a strong supporter of Catholic education and numerous Catholic-based causes.

He was lovingly known as Uncle Philly/ Uncle Phillio to many nieces and

nephews including Augie, Jordan, Gina, and Lesley (his Godchildren). He is survived by his wife and children, his cherished mother Mary Czernik, his dear sister Susan Anderson and brother-in-law Marshall Anderson, sisters-in-law Mary McGrath and Jeanne James, brothers-in-law Rick (Vicki) Azzarelli, Jim (Mary) Azzarelli, and Greg (Julie) Azzarelli in addition to countless special friends and co-workers. He was preceded in death by his cherished father Felix, his grandparents, his father and mother-in-law Sam and Jean Azzarelli, brothers-in-law Ray Azzarelli and George McGrath, special Uncle Iggy, and many other beloved aunts and uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

His strength, drive, humility, graciousness, grace, and love have forever influenced everyone who is a part of his life. His mark on our hearts is indelible and awe-inspiring. Unforgettable.

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

2000 E. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **19**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Funeral Mass

JAN **20**. 12:00 PM (CT)

St. John Paul II - West Campus
953 South 9th Avenue
Kankakee, IL 60901

Tribute Wall

RM

“ To Paula, Rebecca, Johnathon I am truly sorry to hear of Phillip’s passing. Paula this is Ron his cousin. I was the best man at your wedding. I know I haven’t been in touch, but a lot has happened. If you would like to talk, I would be more than happy to talk with you. I am so sorry to hear of your loss. May God give you and your family the strength to carry on. May the good lord bless you and your family. Rest In Peace Phillip, Rest In Peace. My number is 520 822 7872. Hope to hear from you. Ron

Ron Michaloski - January 21, 2018 at 02:29 AM

SA

“ We have fond memories of Phil from the Park District Ice Rink where all of our children skated. He was a great and warm guy. Our sympathy to you Paula and your children. God's blessings on all of you.
Nick and Shirley Africano

Shirley/Nick Africano - January 19, 2018 at 06:32 PM

DM

“ Paula, I am so sorry for your loss. My condolences, also to Rebecca and Jon.
My sincerest sympathy.

David L Hegg, MD

David L Hegg, MD - January 19, 2018 at 11:48 AM

VD

“ Dear Rebecca I don't have enough words to tell you how sorry i am with the loss of your Father. My thoughts. prayers, and love are with all of you today and always,



Virginia R Dominick - January 19, 2018 at 09:04 AM

SS

“ Tony and I were saddened to hear of Phil's passing. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you, Paula, Rebecca and Jonathon. God bless you all. We will be thinking of you tomorrow.

Shirley & Tony Swain - January 18, 2018 at 06:59 PM

RM

Paula this is Ron Michaloski, Phillip's cousin. I was the best man at your wedding. I am very very sorry for your loss. I just heard of Phillip's passing. My heart goes out to you, Rebecca, and Jonathan. I was shocked to read of his passing. He was my cousin, and we had some real good times back in Chicago when I was growing up. Haven't been in touch, lots of reasons why. Again very sorry to hear of your loss. If you ever want to talk 520 822 7872.

Ron Michaloski - January 18, 2018 at 07:49 PM

JR

“ I'll always remember playing hockey as well as working together at the old ice rink, the kind and competitive heart Phil had. He was a special person.

Our thoughts and prayers go to Phil and his family.

Jan and John Rodgers

Jan & John Rodgers - January 18, 2018 at 11:47 AM

JW

“ Paula , My heart goes out to you and your Children.Phil was such loving guy and always so friendly he will be missed by everyone. God Bless all of You our Prayers are with you. Love John & Carm Woodaz



John & Carm Woodaz - January 17, 2018 at 08:36 PM

J(

“ Of course, of course, "Car 5 (Chuck) to (was it KCU 679?)" and Phil would answer! During the early part of my career when I was in the field, Phil was at the Azzarelli Construction dispatch desk. It was a healthy economy back then. A lot of various construction crews were busy and there were no cell phones. They depended on the two-way radio. They depended on Phil. I think fondly of those days. Please accept my sympathy and warmest regards.

Jim Piekarczyk, Co. Engineer (Retired) - January 17, 2018 at 07:14 PM

JM

“ Janine Marcotte lit a candle in memory of Phillip Charles Czernik



janine marcotte - January 17, 2018 at 04:56 PM

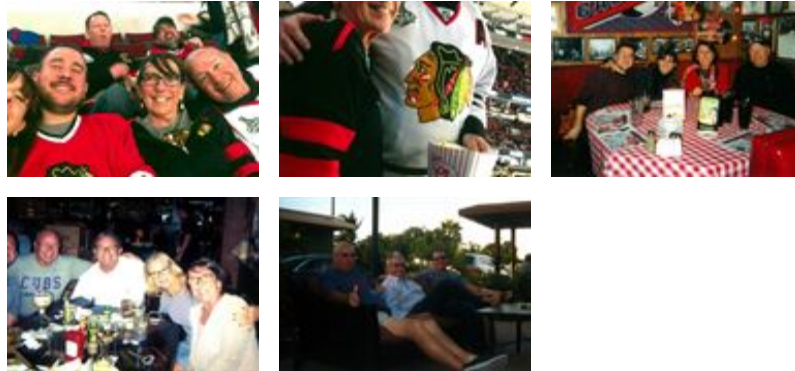
GL

Dear Paula and family, I am so sorry for your loss. My prayers and thoughts go out to you all.

Gloria Lagesse - January 19, 2018 at 02:03 PM



“ 50 files added to the album Life Tributes



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - January 17, 2018 at 09:47 AM

BO

One of Kankakee County's hockey greats! Thanks for coaching us way back when, Phil!

Bobby Olszewski - January 17, 2018 at 12:53 PM

NV

“ *Paula and family, I am so sorry for your loss Phil was always a sweet and special guy I don't think he every was angry I know he will be missed by many Sending you Love and Hugs if you ever need someone to talk to I am always here. I will not be able to make it to the services I have to go to my Great Nephews funeral I will be there in spirit.*



Norma J Vaughn - January 17, 2018 at 09:05 AM



“ *My condolences to the family. Phil was so good to me when I was pastor at St. Martin. He was such an excellent usher and community leader. I will miss him dearly.-Father Mario Quejadas*

Mario Quejadas - January 17, 2018 at 03:02 AM

BM

“ *Paula, Rebecca and Jonathan, Phil was a wonderful man!! He will be greatly missed, so sorry for your loss. Thoughts and prayers with all of you.*

Barbara & John Messina

Barbara Messina - January 16, 2018 at 09:37 PM

JC

“ *So sorry for your loss,, thoughts and prayers to your family,,good guy to work for..*

Justine (Russ) Collins

Justine. Collins - January 16, 2018 at 06:52 PM

HR

“ *Humberto Rodriguez lit a candle in memory of Phillip Charles Czernik*



Humberto Rodriguez - January 16, 2018 at 03:13 PM

MT

“ *So sorry for your loss Paula and family. What a wonderful tribute! May the Lord give you comfort and peace. Remembering our years of growing up together. I met your daughter at jury duty some years back.*

Your friend, Marva Shipman Taylor

Marva Shipman Taylor - January 16, 2018 at 02:48 PM

AH

“ *Good memories!*

Allan Hollister - January 16, 2018 at 02:20 PM

TM

“ *Tom Mallaney lit a candle in memory of Phillip Charles Czernik*



Tom Mallaney - January 16, 2018 at 07:43 AM

 Laura Meents

“ *All our love and prayers, beautiful sentiments above. Love, The Meents Family*

Laura Meents - January 15, 2018 at 08:16 PM

KE

“ *I was Phils golf partner at the Elks and we had a great time. His saying was that we came to have fun and if we won that would be icing on the cake. What a great friend and man he was. We spent many hours on the golf course and I was never aware of all his Great accomplishments. Although it was several years ago I will always treasure and remember the good times and conversations we had. I feel honored to have known him and my prayers are with the family.*

Kelly Davidson

kelly - January 15, 2018 at 07:57 PM

KK

“ *Our every prayer is with the entire Czernik family. We are blessed to have known your incredible husband and father. He was an amazing man. He will be greatly missed. All our love. The Kane Family*

Kimberly Kane - January 15, 2018 at 02:27 PM