

Celebrating the Life of
TOM W. KOZISEK

August 25, 1961 – December 3, 2025

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Clear Lake Open Bible Church
10:30 a.m., Saturday
December 13, 2025

OFFICIATING

Pastor Adam Henaman

MUSIC

“Graves to Gardens” by Brandon Lake/Elevation Worship
“Praise” by Brandon Lake/Elevation Worship
“Raise a Hallelujah”
Special Music
“Because He Lives” by Signature Sound
“It’s A Wonderful World” by Louis Armstrong

LAST CALL

Garner Police Department

*The family invites everyone for a time of food
and fellowship in the church fellowship hall
immediately following the service.*

Cafaldo
FUNERAL HOMES



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
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Thomas “Tom” Kozisek, 64, of Lake Park, Iowa, passed away on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, held in the deep love of his family and the eternal comfort of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Though his earthly journey has ended, the impact of his life—and the faith with which he lived it—will continue to shine brightly in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

Tom was born on August 25, 1961, in Storm Lake, Iowa, to William and JoAnn (Bowman) Kozisek. He grew up surrounded by the values that shaped him into the man he would become: humility, loyalty, kindness, and a genuine love for people. He attended St. Mary’s School, where he formed lasting friendships, developed an early love of music, and first displayed the gentle, dependable nature that would define him throughout his life.

A LIFE OF SERVICE

After graduating, Tom felt a calling—to serve, protect, and make a difference. He attended Western Iowa Tech and earned a degree in Police Science/Technology then began what would become a remarkable 35-year career in law enforcement. Tom served the communities of Newell, Emmetsburg and Bloomfield, IA, and Columbus, MS, before he and his wife, Bon, moved to Garner, Iowa, in 1995, where he served as Chief of Police for 21 years—a role that fit him perfectly. Tom was a D.A.R.E. Instructor, a member of the I.L.E.A., Child Death Review Team, Iowa Sex Crimes Investigators Association, and many more.

Tom wasn’t the kind of officer who led with authority; he led with respect. With quiet strength and unwavering integrity, he served the people of Garner with fairness, compassion, and a true sense of responsibility. His commitment to his community earned him the trust and admiration of countless individuals over the years. After retiring from Law Enforcement, Tom continued to serve his community, at ACE Hardware in Garner and Bomgaars in Spirit Lake, where he made many new friends.

PASSIONS THAT FILLED HIS LIFE

While Tom lived a life of service, he also lived a life filled with joy and passion. One of his greatest joys was being a devoted Nebraska Cornhusker fan. To say he was a fan would be an understatement—Tom loved the Huskers. He read every article, followed every podcast, and made yearly trips to Lincoln to cheer on his beloved team. His Iowa friends—especially the Hawkeye fans—never missed a chance to rib him, and he never missed a chance to smile and give it back in return.

Music was another thread woven through every chapter of Tom’s life. From singing in the St. Mary’s choir to playing tuba in the high school band, music was part of his identity. His passion continued into adulthood, where he played bass guitar in a local Garner band for many years, forming friendships and memories along the way. Whether playing, singing, or simply listening, music brought Tom joy, comfort, and connection.

A FAITH THAT DEFINED HIM

The greatest transformation in Tom’s life came when he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior and had a personal relationship with Him. His faith took root deeply and quickly, shaping every part of his life from that moment forward. Tom didn’t just believe—he lived his faith.

He became an active member of his church, playing in the church band, serving wherever he was needed, and openly sharing the joy of his salvation. His love for the Lord was evident in his conversations, his actions, and the peace that radiated from him.

When Tom received his diagnosis, his faith never wavered. He never questioned God, never asked “Why me?”, and never let fear overcome his trust. He faced his illness with quiet strength, calmness, and complete surrender to God’s plan. His steadfast faith in the midst of struggle was a powerful testimony to everyone around him.

A FAMILY MAN THROUGH AND THROUGH

Tom was preceded in death by his father, William; his mother, JoAnn; his sister, Patricia; and his baby sister, Lori Lee. He leaves behind the love of his life and wife of almost 34 years – Bon; his son, Andy (Ryan Heffernan) Kozisek of Pensacola, FLA, daughter Regi (Sam) Van Lenning of Fostoria, IA, and son Ryley (Mara) Kozisek of Ft. Dodge, IA; and his treasured grandchildren: Knoxlynn, who brought him immeasurable joy, Karter, Kaitlyn and Kylie who he loved immensely, and was so proud to be a great grandpa to Kaliyah. Tom was also a beloved brother to Doug (Junko) Kozisek, Karla Scholl, and Janet Mins. His extended family, nieces, nephews, and many dear friends will forever carry his memory in their hearts. Tom cherished his family deeply. He supported them wholeheartedly and showed them—every single day—what quiet strength, kindness, and unwavering love look like.

A LEGACY THAT WILL ENDURE

Those who knew Tom will remember a man who greeted the world with humility, kindness, and a steady sense of purpose. They will remember his gentle humor, his loyalty, his passions, and his deep faith. Tom touched countless lives—sometimes through his service, sometimes through his music, and often through simple acts of love and compassion.

He will be remembered as a devoted husband, loving father and Papa, loyal brother, trusted friend, and a faithful servant of the Lord. His legacy is not only in the years he lived but in the many lives he touched and the love he gave so freely.

Though Tom will be deeply missed, his spirit remains alive in the memories he leaves behind and in the assurance that he now rests in the arms of his Savior—whole, restored, and at peace.

DEATH – WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO EXPLAIN IT

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, “Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side.”

Very quietly, the doctor said, “I don’t know...” “You don’t know? You’re, a Christian man, and don’t know what’s on the other side?”

The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, “Did you notice my dog? He’s never been in this room before. He didn’t know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing ... I know my Master is there and that is enough.”

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Every minute someone leaves this world behind.

Age has nothing to do with it.

We are all in "the line" without knowing it.

We never know how many people are before us.

We can not move to the back of the line.

We can not step out of the line.

We can not avoid the line.

So while we wait in line:

Make moments count.

Make priorities.

Make the time.

Make your gifts known.

Make a nobody feel like a somebody.

Make your voice heard.

Make the small things big.

Make someone smile.

Make the change.

Make love.

Make up.

Make peace.

Make sure to tell your people they are loved.

Make sure to have no regrets.

Make sure you are ready...

- Marianne Baum

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