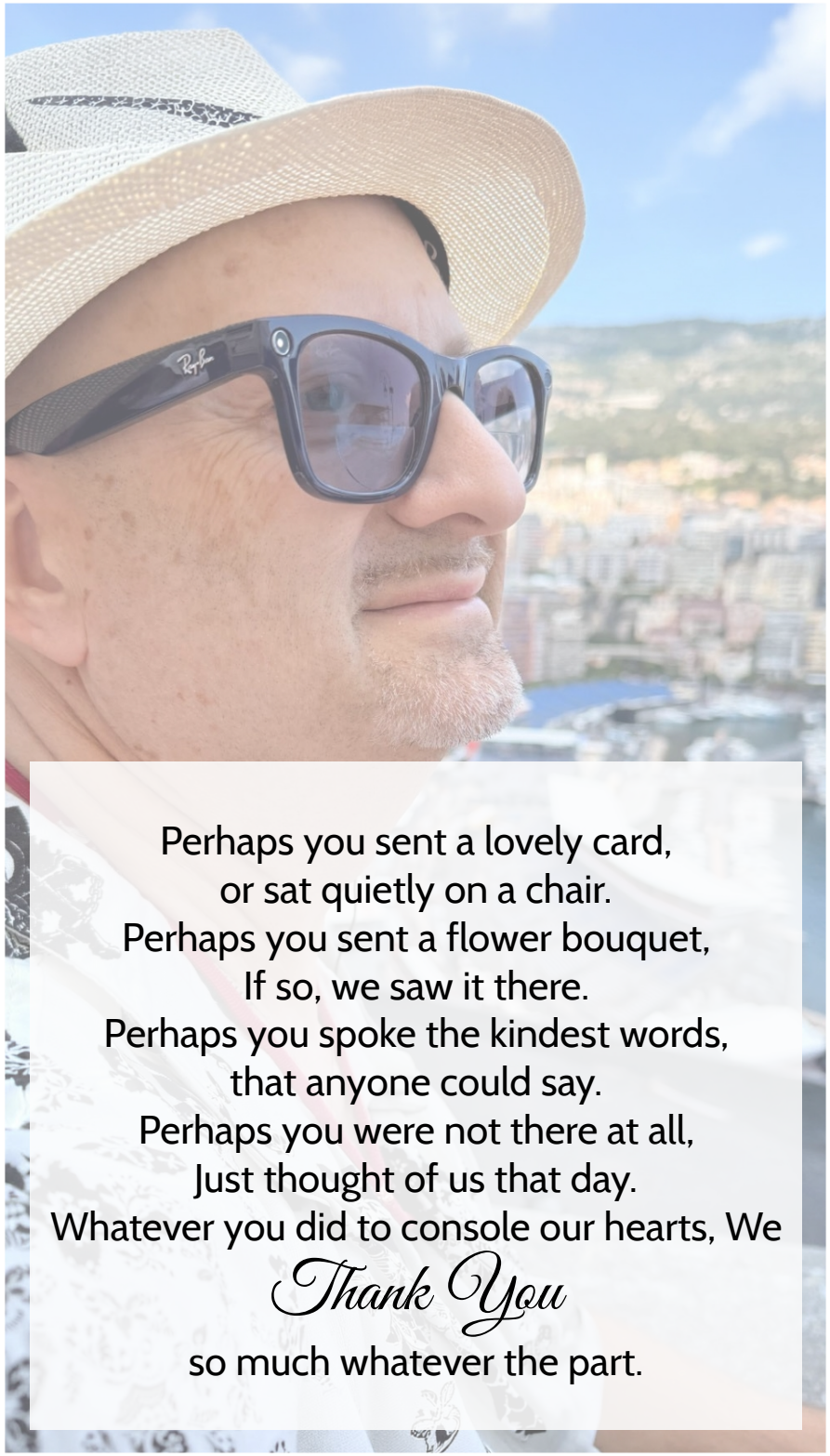


Perhaps you sent a lovely card,
or sat quietly on a chair.
Perhaps you sent a flower bouquet,
If so, we saw it there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words,
that anyone could say.
Perhaps you were not there at all,
Just thought of us that day.
Whatever you did to console our hearts, We

Thank You

so much whatever the part.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Celebrating

THE LIFE OF



John Kruk

January 18, 1965 - October 20, 2026

John Lawrence Kruk grew up in Ivanhoe, Minnesota, and graduated from Ivanhoe Public School in 1983. He continued his education at Saint Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minnesota, where he studied business administration and teaching, graduating in 1988. John married his high school sweetheart, Lori Halling on July 2, 1988, in Tyler, Minnesota, at St. Dionysius Catholic Church. Their marriage was a special partnership, and they were the best match for each other. John and his wife, Lori, shared a love of family, holidays, travel, and making memories together. Together they moved to Marietta, Minnesota, where John pursued a teaching opportunity. They later relocated to the Twin Cities area, where they continued to reside.

A lifelong Minnesota Vikings fan, John never missed a game. Even when the team disappointed him, he never gave up on them. John loved sports and knew sports statistics and trivia like few others. He played football and basketball in high school and later officiated many sporting events. He also became part of the boys' basketball coaching staff that led ROCORI High School in Cold Spring, Minnesota, to the state championship in 1988. John was proud to represent the school and be part of the team. Sports were more than just a pastime for John; they were a lifelong passion and a central part of who he was. Whether he was playing, coaching, officiating, sharing his knowledge, or cheering on the Vikings, sports brought him tremendous happiness and were truly one of his greatest joys in life. In 2018, John had the opportunity to attend Super Bowl LII at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, an experience he thoroughly enjoyed as he took in the excitement and atmosphere of one of football's biggest events. Although he was thrilled to be part of such a memorable occasion, he couldn't help but wish the Minnesota Vikings had been on the field. He continued to hope and pray that one day he would have the chance to see his beloved Vikings compete on the sport's biggest stage. John loved attending major sporting events and was fortunate to attend the 2019 Final Four championship games at U.S. Bank Stadium. He always believed that when an event of this magnitude comes to your own backyard, you simply have to be there to experience it firsthand. During his career, John had the opportunity to travel to Denver for business, where he was fortunate enough to meet John Elway, the two-time Super Bowl champion and Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee. For a lifelong football fan, the chance to talk football with a legend of the game was truly a memorable and joyful experience. As an avid sports fan, he also enjoyed attending and cheering at games his great niece and nephews were participants in.

John worked for Solutran/Optum and through his 24 year plus career John made meaningful contributions supporting Government operations and serving as a Transaction and Settlement Analyst. John brought expertise and attention to detail to his work and financial funding and settlement. While his knowledge was deeply valued, he will be remembered most for his willingness to help others and the lasting relationships he built along the way. John also looked forward to retirement and traveling the world. He and Lori enjoyed taking a Viking cruise to see many countries. John was fascinated by the history connected to the places they visited. Exploring historic churches and admiring different styles of architecture brought him joy, and he loved taking photographs and sharing the stories and history behind them.

The Minnesota State Fair was another cherished tradition. Every year, John, Lori, and his sister Lori attended on the first Friday of the fair. John had his own method for navigating the fair: starting at the animal barns in the morning and finishing the day in the midway. He especially enjoyed playing the pop-ring game and won many large stuffed animals, which he donated to children. We all looked forward to this event annually as we enjoyed the sights of the fair, taking silly pictures of eating our favorite foods. The spiral cut fried potato chips and Sweet Martha's cookies became a must have treat annually. John had a traditional straw hat he would always wear to the fair sporting the Vikings horns which were also acquired at the fair.

John, who also liked to be known as "The Man," loved family gatherings and holidays and was often the life of the party. He had a wonderful personality and always had a joke ready. People naturally gravitated toward him because he made it so much fun to be around him. He treasured the camaraderie of family and friends and enjoyed good food, especially a Polish heritage treat known as cheese pancakes. Above all, John had a strong faith in God.

John Kruk, age 61, passed away on October 20, 2026, at North Memorial Hospital in Robbinsdale, Minnesota with his family by his side.

John will be remembered for his love of family, his quick wit, his passion for sports, his curiosity about history and the world, and the joy he brought to those around him. His warmth, humor, and enthusiasm for life will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

John will be lovingly remembered by his wife, Lori Halling-Kruk of Maple Grove, MN; parents, Erich and Celina Fokken of Canby, MN; sister, Lori (Jim) Monsrud of Sioux Falls, SD; sisters-in-law, Eunice Herrick of Lynd, MN, Shirley Halling of Ames, IA, Beverly Appel of Tyler, MN, Jane DeVos of Owatonna, MN, Jude Lindgren of Fargo, ND; and brother-in-law, Dennis Halling (Carol) of Arco, MN. Special mention, Kelly and Michelle Appel and kids, Brayden, Colton, Donovan, Gavin and Morgan, all of Arco, MN; Desmond DeVos of Mankato, MN; and Megan DeVos (Jamie and son, Jaxon) of Rochester, MN; many nieces and nephews, special friends, Scott Anderson, Vernon Thompson, Mike Schmidt and Steve Lambrecht. He was preceded in death by his father, Lawrence Kruk; grandparents, John and Antoinette Kruk; Henry and Nealdeah Matthys; parents-in-law, Floyd and Mae Halling; brothers-in-law, Bob Halling and Duane Herrick; aunt, Evelyn Skorcwezski; uncle, James Kruk; and great-nephew, Cory Gladis.

IN LOVING Memory

John Kruk



Mass of Christian Burial

Saturday, October 31, 2026 - 10:30 AM

St. Dionysius Catholic Church - Tyler, Minnesota

Celebrant - Father Tanner Thooft

Scriptures

Isaiah 43:1-5 Psalm 23 Romans 5:5-11 John 10:14-16

Pianist - Todd Peterson

Soloist - Jamie Schreurs

Congregational Hymns

"Here I Am Lord" - 390 "How Great Thou Art" - 431

"I Am The Bread of Life" - 355 "Amazing Grace" - 447

Casketbearers

Brayden Appel Colton Appel Donovan Appel

Gavin Appel Morgan Appel Mike Schmidt

Interment

St. Dionysius Catholic Cemetery - Tyler, Minnesota

Arrangements By

HARTQUIST FUNERAL HOME