



## Kirk A Piehl

March 2, 1956 - May 27, 2024

Kirk Piehl, 68, passed away peacefully on May 27th, 2024. He was born on March 2nd, 1956 in Chicago, Illinois to G. Piehl and Marsha Piehl. Kirk was raised in Martinsville, Illinois until he relocated to Northwest Indiana.

Kirk's family lost a loving husband, devoted father and cherished Papa. He leaves his wife Pat of 45 years whom he always put first. He was employed by US Steel as a Millwright for 10 years. After, he gained employment at Sun Engineering where he worked as Plant Manager for over 40 years. Here he was referred to as "The King" of the shop where he trained and mentored many.

Following a battle with lung cancer, Kirk was graciously taken by our Lord to heaven with his loving family and best friends Philip and Willow Sanders by his side. Besides his wife, Pat, he leaves to mourn his children: Yvonne (Mark) Wendland, Matthew Piehl, Jeanette (Chad) Robinson and Heather Piehl; as well as 9 grandchildren: Savannah, Elaina, Chandler, Cooper, Maxwell, Harper, Eli, Olivia, and Myles. Kirk is also survived by brother Gene (Beulah) Piehl, Kathy (Dan) Pirello, other siblings, as well as many nieces, nephews, friends, co-workers and beloved pet, "Bruno".

He was preceded in death by grandson Jack Robinson.

In lieu of flowers, donations to The American Lung Association and/or your local animal shelter in his honor are appreciated.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held on June 22nd, 2024 at 10:00 AM at Nativity of Our Savior Parish, 2949 Willowcreek Road, Portage, Indiana

46368.

A celebration of Kirk's life will follow at Woodland Park, Oakwood Hall 2100 Willowcreek Road, Portage, IN 46368. Burns Funeral Home & Crematory Hobart entrusted with arrangements [www.burnsfuneral.com](http://www.burnsfuneral.com)

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MASS AT NATIVITY HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM 11 AM TO 10 AM\*\***

# Previous Events

## Mass of Christian Burial

JUN **22**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Nativity of Our Savior Parish  
2929 Willowcreek Road  
Portage, IN

## Celebration of Life

JUN **22**. 11:30 AM (CT)

Woodland Park Oakwood Hall  
2100 Willowcreek Road  
Portage, IN 46368

*Following mass*

# Tribute Wall

MR

“ Our family is so saddened by the loss of Kirk...He was a man's man, his demeanor was quiet (until he got to know you) and all around good guy! I had the pleasure of meeting him and Pat when we moved into the neighborhood 15 years ago and they became more like family. Kirk always leant a helping hand without even asking for help. He was always so considerate and it was almost like second nature for him to look out for all of us around our street. My children considered him and Pat like grandparents. There will certainly be void here in the hood. Continued prayers for Pat, Yvonne, Jeanette, Matt and the rest of his family as they navigate through this difficult time. They certainly where his pride and joy❤️

Marlene Rodriguez - June 21, 2024 at 11:52 PM

DR

“ Kirk was such a kind man! I will miss seeing him. Debbie Rykovich

Debbie Rykovich - June 21, 2024 at 04:33 PM

ST

“ Mr Kirk Piehl was one of the Finest Upstanding Men there ever was. He Loved his Family Very Much and I know he didn't want to leave but God had other plans and took him anyways. One of the Greatest Men that ever lived. A quiet man with a Huge Heart. Kirk was one of a kind Real Family Man that is Terrible Missed by his Family 🥹💧💔🙏

Sandy Thomas - June 18, 2024 at 09:47 PM

CH

“ Chris purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Kirk A Piehl.



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**Chris** - June 18, 2024 at 02:13 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Kirk A Piehl.



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June 17, 2024 at 04:06 PM

ES

“ Coach Kirk was always so kind and thoughtful. As a former Indiana Slammer, I feel honored to have been coached by him. Sending my condolences to all of his family and friends.

Love,  
Elizabeth Smith

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**Elizabeth Smith** - June 10, 2024 at 01:11 PM

SI

“ Steel Cities Steels, Inc. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Kirk A Piehl.



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**Steel Cities Steels, Inc.** - June 10, 2024 at 10:19 AM

PS

“ *Phil Schiller*

*I'm an a employee for Sun Engineering. I was a labor than a millwright for 36 years. All those years with Kirk are the most wondrous years, he taught me alot. Kirk will always help or save a person in their life. Kirk is a hero! He's my hero. I thank him and his family ! God bless everyone. King of the hill. Kirk Piehl.*

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**Phil Schiller** - June 04, 2024 at 08:03 PM

DM

“ *I have known Kirk for 20 years through my employment at Worthington Steel. Kirk never failed to rescue us from a major break down or issue which we were unable to fix. I have always been impressed by his knowledge and ingenuity. Kirk was never concerned and always had an easy going nature about him, which always instilled confidence. I am very sorry for the immense loss to his wife, kids, family, Sun Engineering family, and his friends. He was certainly a giant in the NW Indiana industrial world, and his legacy will live on.*

*David Morris*

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**David Morris** - June 04, 2024 at 03:40 PM



*My brother and I spoke shop talk day in and day out seldom was a conversation that hadn't happened that Kirk was not mentioned. Little did I know about Kirk but he always felt as close as my brothers are to me. Rest in peace brother in Christ. God Bless Kirk's family and friends. Steve S*

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**Steve Schiller** - June 04, 2024 at 09:46 PM

GE

“ I started at Sun Engineering in 1987, three years after Kirk. After about 6 months of running machines, I became a supervisor, working along with Kirk. His background as a millwright and mine as a machinist often gave us opportunities to discuss the different ways to approach a problem.

Before Kirk left to seek treatment, we would often end the workday in either one of our respective offices to discuss the day or just talk for fun.

I found that we both have roots in Casey and Martinsville, IL. Kirk shared many stories of his trips to Casey for pitching classes for his children.

One of the things I appreciated about Kirk was his constant reminder to not worry about it so much and it will not play out. That was not always easy for me.

The last day we spent together he came to my office, where we spent 2 hours talking about retirement, Medicare, cars, phones...but nothing about the shop. And we talked about the pride he had in his children's success.

In many ways, Kirk's leave in February helped prepare me and Sun Engineering to move forward, while still being able to reach out to him. I would often send him pictures of the projects we were completing.

I will miss his counsel. I like to think I earned his respect. He will be thought of often.

Guy Estes

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Guy Estes - June 01, 2024 at 07:03 PM