



Jay W. Prauner

July 9, 1961 - January 25, 2025

NORFOLK -- Memorial service for Jay W. Prauner, 63, of Norfolk, will be held at 11:00 a.m., Monday, February 3, 2025 at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Norfolk. Rev. Lee Weander will be officiating the service. Private family inurnment will be held at the St. John's Lutheran Cemetery, rural Battle Creek. Visitation will be 2:00-5:00 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 2 also at Our Savior Lutheran Church. Jay's family will be sharing stories at 3:00 p.m., at the visitation. The service will be live-streamed at <https://www.youtube.com/@oslnorfolkne>. Jay passed away on Saturday, January 25, 2025 at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. Stonacek Funeral Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

Jay was born on July 9, 1961, in Norfolk, Nebraska to Gerald and Karon (Johnson) Prauner. Jay was baptized and confirmed at St. John Lutheran Church in Battle Creek, Nebraska. He attended St. John Lutheran School in Battle Creek and graduated from Battle Creek High School in 1979. Jay went on to attend and play basketball at Northeast Technical Community College in Norfolk before transferring to attend and play football at Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, Nebraska. He finished his schooling in 1983 with a degree in Business.

Jay married Becky Bauermeister in 1982 at St. John Lutheran Church in Battle Creek and they were married for seven years.

Early in his career, Jay managed King's Klostet in Norfolk where he sold big

and tall men's clothing. Following his passion for sports, Jay began working at the Norfolk Daily News in the sports department in 1986. He achieved his first career goal of becoming sports editor in 1996. He was then promoted to managing editor in 2022 and continued helping paginate sports pages, which he considered his favorite part of the job. Jay collected numerous awards for his pagination and writing throughout his career.

Jay married Sandy Hansen in 1992 at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Norfolk, and they were married for 32 years. Together they owned and managed MedType Transcription for 21 years, offering medical transcription services to surrounding healthcare providers and hospitals. Jay's hobbies included all things sports and he closely followed the Nebraska Cornhuskers, Los Angeles Rams, Pittsburgh Pirates, Philadelphia 76ers, and NASCAR Cup Series. He created and managed various fantasy sports leagues and even sold a custom fantasy football game to an online company in 2009. Jay also found great joy in participating in his children's athletic careers.

Jay was an active member of Our Savior Lutheran Church where he served the congregation through appointed positions and at evangelical events. Most recently, Jay enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren, golfing, cycling, assisting with home renovation projects and organizing cluttered spaces for family and friends.

Jay is survived by his children, April (Josh) Danon of Omaha, Jayden (Emily) Prauner of Norfolk, and Alex (Zachary) Kirby of Norfolk; six grandchildren, Ava Danon, Charlie Prauner, Scotty Prauner, Skip Prauner, Maxine Kirby, and Theo Kirby; mother, Karon Jansen of Battle Creek; siblings, Jerry (Jan) Prauner of Battle Creek and Jed Prauner of Norfolk.

Jay was preceded in death by his father, Gerald; and brother, Joel.

Condolences may be expressed to the family on-line at www.stonacekfuneralchapel.com.

Cemetery Details

St. John's Lutheran Cemetery

Battle Creek, NE

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 2. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Our Savior Lutheran Church
2420 W. Omaha Ave.
Norfolk, NE 68701
<http://www.oursav.org/>

Memorial Service

FEB 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

Our Savior Lutheran Church
2420 W. Omaha Ave.
Norfolk, NE 68701
<http://www.oursav.org/>

Tribute Wall

CH

“ Our sympathies to all. Having had April, Jayden and Alex in school and Jayden in sports it was Chuck’s pleasure. He particularly enjoyed coaching when he could banter with Jay as one of the officials. He was always in a good mood when he was on the court and around the kids. Chuck will always miss him.
Chuck and Rita Foxhoven

chuckfoxhoven - February 02, 2025 at 07:17 PM

BR

“ Jay called me one time, when he was a member of the Stephen Ministry at Our Savior Lutheran Church. It was just a check up call to me, but I appreciated it so much and he was so kind and genuine.

Beth Reeves - February 02, 2025 at 01:42 PM

SL

“ I always enjoyed visiting with Jay, thought I didn't see him often. He could be pretty quiet until you mentioned football or basketball, then he was chatty and full of statistics. My sympathy to his family. Rest in your Savior's arms till we meet again. S. Larson

Sharon Larson - February 02, 2025 at 01:24 PM

RB

“ I will always remember Jay as a great friend (whom I hardly ever got to see), a kind, gentle and soft spoken “brother in law” as well as an incredible natural athlete.

Jay amazed me with his almost effortless ability to play basketball. He was a deadly long range shooter before the age of the “3” and most certainly was one of the greater basketball players in the state of Nebraskan the late 1970’s.

I remember bringing my roommate Mike Dando from college (a UNL shot putter) to the famous “standing room only” Howells vs Battle Creek game at the Norfolk City Auditorium in 1979. My roommate was speechless regarding the crazy atmosphere and tremendous game. He commented that Jay Prauner was probably the best basketball player in Nebraska. Well, he certainly was that night!

Despite not getting the opportunity to see Jay for many years (something I now truly regret). I will always remember him as very intelligent, a wonderfully talented athlete, a wonderful father and influence to my niece April and a great newspaperman and dedicated sports enthusiast.

Jay will truly be missed by all who knew him as well as the community of Northeast Nebraska. With tears in my eyes I will think of you often “Jaybird”!

Russel Bauermeister - February 01, 2025 at 01:32 PM



“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Jay W. Prauner.



February 01, 2025 at 02:04 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jay W. Prauner.

February 01, 2025 at 02:04 AM



“ Abby, Abbey, Taylor, Haley and family purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Jay W. Prauner.



Abby, Abbey, Taylor, Haley and family - January 31, 2025 at 09:23 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Jay W. Prauner.



January 31, 2025 at 12:23 PM



“ Northeast Machine Teammates purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Jay W. Prauner.



Northeast Machine Teammates - January 31, 2025 at 11:03 AM

NT

“ Northeast Machine Teammates planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jay W. Prauner.

Northeast Machine Teammates - January 31, 2025 at 11:03 AM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Jay W. Prauner.



January 31, 2025 at 09:34 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jay W. Prauner.

January 31, 2025 at 09:34 AM

KO

“ Kelly O'Connell lit a candle in memory of Jay Prauner



Kelly O'Connell - January 30, 2025 at 08:01 PM

TT

“ *The Hastings Tribune purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Jay W. Prauner.*



The Hastings Tribune - January 30, 2025 at 10:14 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Jay W. Prauner.*



January 30, 2025 at 09:44 AM

MM

“ *Marlene Moritz lit a candle in memory of Jay Prauner*



Marlene Moritz - January 29, 2025 at 09:09 PM

DD

“ *I didn't know Jay well other than to see him at church. I always enjoyed his sports writing in the paper. All of you are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Don Dammast - January 29, 2025 at 04:47 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Jay W. Prauner.



January 29, 2025 at 01:00 PM



“ Jayden's Buddies purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of Jay W. Prauner.



Jayden's Buddies - January 29, 2025 at 11:43 AM



“ Jayden's Buddies planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jay W. Prauner.

Jayden's Buddies - January 29, 2025 at 11:43 AM



“ EWPA Crew purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Jay W. Prauner.



EWPA Crew - January 29, 2025 at 01:21 AM



“ EWPA Crew planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jay W. Prauner.

EWPA Crew - January 29, 2025 at 01:21 AM

BS

“ *My deepest condolences to the entire extended family!*



Brian J. Schlote - January 28, 2025 at 10:50 PM

CO

“ *CINDY OCONNELL lit a candle in memory of Jay Prauner*



CINDY OCONNELL - January 28, 2025 at 12:50 PM

GM

“ *GINA MCDONALD lit a candle in memory of Jay Prauner*



GINA MCDONALD - January 28, 2025 at 09:40 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Jay W. Prauner.*



January 27, 2025 at 09:19 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jay W. Prauner.

January 27, 2025 at 09:19 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Jay W. Prauner.



January 27, 2025 at 07:47 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Jay W. Prauner.

January 27, 2025 at 07:47 PM



“ Jacie, Quiana, Emma purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Jay W. Prauner.



Jacie, Quiana, Emma - January 27, 2025 at 06:59 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jay W. Prauner.



January 27, 2025 at 05:04 PM