



Kirk R. "Hoss" Essenpreis

November 5, 1963 - November 3, 2022

Kirk R. "Hoss" Essenpreis, age 58 of Highland, IL, died Thursday, November 3, 2022, at his home in Grantfork, IL.

He was born on Tuesday, November 5, 1963, in Highland, IL, the son of Larry and Kathleen (nee Hencke) Essenpreis.

On Saturday, August 4, 1990, he married Wendelyn M. (nee Gruner) Essenpreis at St. Gertrude Catholic Church, Grantfork, IL, who survives.

He was a member of Saint Gertrude Catholic Church; Madison County Firemen's Association, Collinsville, IL; Grantfork Fire Protection District (21 years) (5 years as Chief); Woodmen of the World, Lodge #105, Highland, IL; Knights of Columbus, Council #1580, Highland, IL; Bocce Ball League.

Kirk was born and raised in Highland, IL; he graduated from Highland High School in 1982. He played on the Highland High School "Bulldogs" football and wrestling teams and was a member of the FFA. He served with the US Army from 1984 to 1988, with duty in Germany. From 1988 to 2004, he worked for Highland Machine and Screw; and from 2004 to present he worked for the Highland Community Schools as a custodian at the High School. He was loved by the faculty and students. He enjoyed sitting in his garage waving at every car that passed by. His home was a shrine to the St. Louis Cardinals

Baseball team. He enjoyed camping with family, was very patriotic, devoted to the fire service, active with the Grantfork Annual Homecoming, coached his daughter's softball team, and loved to barbecue. Kirk was a true Highland "Bulldogs" fan, a great "PAPA", devoted husband and father.

Survivors include:

Wife - Wendelyn M. "Wendy" (nee Gruner) Essenpreis, Grantfork, IL

Daughter - Kristen L. (Significant Other - Brandon Laird) Leonard,
Nicholasville, KY

Daughter - Kalene M. (Fiancé - Kyle Kovarik) Essenpreis, Wood River, IL

Son - William P. "Wil" (Girl Friend - Heather Scarborough) Essenpreis,
Grantfork, IL

Grandchild - Kaleb L. Holden

Grandchild - Dakota "Kody" R. N. Holden

Grandchild - Kelsi A. M. Holden

Grandchild - Josephine J. M. Kovarik

Parents - Larry L. "Biddy" and Kathleen A. "Kathy" (nee Hencke) Essenpreis,
Highland, IL

Sister - Jamie D. (Jimmie) Murphy, Highland, IL

Sister - SuzAnne J. (Michael "Mike") Kollmann, Highland, IL

Brother - Jared E. (Tricia) Essenpreis, Arvada, CO

Aunt & God Parents - Lenny & Judy Hoffmann, Highland, IL

Nieces and Nephews - Many

Cousins - Many

Father-In-Law - Clifford W. Gruner, Grantfork, IL

Brother-In-Law - Steven W. (Debra) Gruner, Pocahontas, IL

Sister-In-Law - Victoria L. Gruner, Grantfork, IL

Brother-In-Law - Richard A. (Cheryl) Gruner, Keyesport, IL.

He was preceded in death by:

Mother-In-Law - Judith M. "Judy" (nee Voegele) Gruner - Died 7/1/2020.

Arrangements are being handled by Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

The family has requested you wear Highland Bulldog attire at the Evening Visitation.

Evening Visitation will be held from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Morning Visitation will be held from 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM on Wednesday, November 9, 2022, at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, November 9, 2022, at Saint Gertrude Catholic Church in Grantfork, IL, with Rev. Fr. Paul J. Bonk, Pastor, officiating.

Interment will be at Saint Gertrude Catholic Cemetery in Grantfork, IL.

Memorial contributions may be made to Grantfork Fire Department or American Lung Association.

Tribute Wall

MM

“ *Megan M lit a candle in memory of Kirk Essenpreis*



Megan M - November 08, 2022 at 04:19 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Kirk R. "Hoss" Essenpreis.*



November 08, 2022 at 12:48 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kirk R. "Hoss" Essenpreis.*



November 08, 2022 at 11:24 AM

RB

“ *I remember all the fun we had in high school. Thanks for the memories.*



Richard Barth - November 08, 2022 at 11:06 AM

JB

“ 258 files added to the album Family Album



Jay Boulanger - November 07, 2022 at 03:33 PM

MS

“ Mary Stumpf lit a candle in memory of Kirk Essenpreis



Mary Stumpf - November 07, 2022 at 02:18 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kirk R. "Hoss" Essenpreis.



November 06, 2022 at 07:18 PM



“ *Large Heart - 'Death leaves a heartache' was purchased for the family of Kirk R. "Hoss" Essenpreis.*



November 06, 2022 at 07:14 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Kirk R. "Hoss" Essenpreis.*



November 06, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *Jo-Ann Steiner lit a candle in memory of Kirk Essenpreis*



Jo-Ann M Steiner - November 05, 2022 at 10:57 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kirk R. "Hoss" Essenpreis.*



November 05, 2022 at 08:48 PM

BK

“ *Such a friendly young man, I always look for his wave when I drive by. He will be missed.*

Bonnie Kloss - November 05, 2022 at 07:13 PM

RR

“ *To the family of Kirk, we send our sympathy and prayers. Kirk was a wonderful friend. He worked with me, Marsha at Highland Machine and with Russell at Highland Schools. He will be truly missed. Bless you all at this sad time. Russell & Marsha Rinderer*

Russell & Marsha Rinderer - November 05, 2022 at 10:57 AM

BS

“ *Sincere sympathy to his family. God Bless 🙏*

Bob & Beckie Schrupf - November 04, 2022 at 11:51 PM

TS

“ *Kirk will be missed and gone, but never forgotten. The hallowed halls of HHS will never be quite the same without him. Many great conversations over the years on many subjects, mostly the St. Louis cardinals.*

Prayers to Kirk's family during this time.

Todd Strong and family.

todd strong - November 04, 2022 at 09:25 PM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Kirk R. "Hoss" Essenpreis.*



November 04, 2022 at 08:08 PM