

Kevin Michael Czekanski
November 23, 2022
Age 68
Cleveland, Ohio

Kevin Michael Czekanski, known to many as Mickey, died on November 23, 2022 at age 68 in Cleveland, Ohio.

He was the beloved son of the late Dorothy and John J. Czekanski Sr. and the loving brother of the late John J. Czekanski Jr. Kevin is survived by his sister Karen Stewart (LHS class of 1971) and her husband Tom of Randolph, New Jersey. Kevin was the uncle of Brad, Jennifer, Emily, and Lisa and a great-uncle to seven.

Kevin grew up in Lakewood. After graduating from LHS, he attended Ashland University, but he soon followed his heart onto the Great Lakes. At age 19, he stepped foot on the deck of an ore carrier named the Crispin Oglebay, which began a lifelong adventure. Kevin rose through the ranks—deckhand, watchman, wheelsman, licensed officer, and finally captain.

He also had a great love of animals, especially his beloved Labrador Retrievers, Benny and Lola, and an English Bulldog named Chopper.

Kevin was a respected, kind, generous, and loving man.

When Kevin was a student at Lakewood High, he was the vice president of our senior class, as well as the varsity football manager for two years and on Student Council for three years.

Some of our classmates have fond memories of Kevin and cherished seeing him during out 50th reunion weekend in September 2022:

Laurel Stevens: Kevin and I shared a life together for many years. We owned a beautiful home and raised our two Labradors, Lola and Bentley. We have remained close and loving friends. Kevin was a wonderful provider and treated my children as if they were his own. He was our family. He was an intelligent, witty, and compassionate man. I am devastated by this loss, but I'm confident Kevin is already entering his next happy life. Love you always Kevy."

Mike Conroy: "We were best friends from third grade to sixth grade. I think of him every November 22, as I did this year, which was the day before he died. November 22 is the date of John F. Kennedy's assassination. On that day in 1963, Kevin and I walked home together. At the reunion picnic he told me he remembered that we also spent that weekend together and that he always thinks of me on the anniversary of JFK's death. He was such a nice guy."

Dan McCown: "Quite a guy, quite a life. We are lucky to have been a part of it."

Cindy Fox Toman: "This is so sad. I'm glad we got to see him at the reunion. Just the nicest person. He was a sweetheart."

Fran Brokaw: "What a wonderful kind man he was. We were in classes together from kindergarten on. Be well, Kevin. Safe journeys."