



Russell K. Olexa

November 6, 1952 - July 14, 2013

Russell K. Olexa, age 60 of Orion Township, passed away suddenly July 14, 2013 in Redding , California . Russell was a member of Fisherman's Net Christian Church in Utica. He was a longtime volunteer with Abigayle Ministries. He loved cars, boats and "anything with an engine". He was a "Jack of all Trades" and loved to do it himself including jobs like building an ice cream truck for his sons and restoring old cars. He had many, many hobbies ranging from gemology to aircraft piloting and had a great passion for all of them. Beloved husband of Dawn. Dear father of Colin Laurie Olexa and Evan Olexa. Dear brother of Calvin Barbara Olexa. Loving uncle of Melissa Olexa. Dear son of the late Ollie and Janice Lorraine Olexa. Dear son-in-law of John and the late Rita Carlu. Dear brother-in-law of Kim Tim Carlu-Sorrell. Funeral service 11:00 a.m. Tuesday at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Rd. 3 blks. E. of Van Dyke Utica . Visitation Monday from 3:00 - 9:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers memorials are suggested to Abigayle Ministries. Please share a memory at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com

Tribute Wall

SB

“ *Lost of sadness*

steven branstrom - May 24, 2018 at 08:28 PM

AS

“ *Very sort to hear the news about Russ. A very kind, friendly and generous man and an excellent editor who I had the pleasure to work for as a freelance contributor. My condolences to his family*

Andy Sandford - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ *I'm so sad to learn of Russ' passing. I had the pleasure of working with him for many years from the PR side of the magazine business. I always enjoyed our chats, whether by email, phone or in person at trade shows. Russ' enthusiasm for his job, new technologies and cars of course! was always apparent. His kindness and humor will be well remembered. My condolences to his family.*

Monica DeBrot - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

WF

“ *My condolences to the Olexa family. My thoughts and prayers go out to your whole family. Psalms 147:3 says God, "is healing the broken hearted ones, and is binding up their painful spots." May God bring you comfort and peace.*

Williams family - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NE

“ I have some pretty good memories of my cousin Russ I called him Uncle Russ for the longest time because he seemed more like an Uncle to me, but it got too confusing because I already have an Uncle Russ : . The earliest memories go back to my childhood. I remember when cousin Russ, Dawn, Colin, and Evan would come to Conewango Valley, NY to visit Aunt Helen Grandma Helen for me. Grandma Helen always looked forward to their visits and so did I. I would have fun playing with baby Colin and later baby Evan while Grandma Helen, Russ, and Dawn happily talked away. Russ and Dawn together showed their love for and commitment to family. A little sidenote: I remember how Russ always used to go to Melinda's Amish baked-good stand to buy some of her delicious jelly before leaving Grandma Helen's place to drive back to Michigan. One special memory of cousin Russ is when he sent me a guitar. Somehow, he found out that my guitar had gotten broken on a flight from CA to NY. A few weeks later, I received a package in the mail. It was from cousin Russ, and it was a guitar. I was so surprised and happy that he cared so much about me and my broken guitar that he thought to send me a new guitar all the way from Michigan! I still have that guitar and it will always remind me of cousin Russ' thoughtful and loving heart. There are other things to share, but this little note is already too long. When I think of cousin Russ, I also think of his steadfast faith in and love for Jesus. I'm forever grateful that cousin Russ knew the Lord Jesus. He impacted my life in a positive way. I will definitely miss seeing him here with Dawn, Colin, and Evan. I am so, so glad that we WILL be seeing him again. Thank you for everything cousin Russ. Dawn, Colin and Laurie, and Evan, you will be in my thoughts and prayers!

Naomi Ennis - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MZ

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of Russ's passing. As president of a machine tool manufacturer I had great experience working with Russ because he applied himself as a true professional with a wonderful demeanor and a genuine passion for his work. It was always a pleasure to spend time with Russ. Sonja and I wish to extend our deepest sympathy to family and friends.

Michael Zakrzewski - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NL

“ Colin and family, I am so sorry to hear about your loss. Your dad was a wonderful person. I had the honor of working with him in PR/Marketing for several years. He was always so kind and thoughtful and always had a big smile on his face. We are keeping you in our prayers.

Nancy Lauseng - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ As an advertising/PR exec, I was fortunate to have been able to work with Russ on the editorial side of the metalworking manufacturing industry fo a number of years. I will remember fondly his infectious laugh, wry sense of humor, that sparkle in his eyes, and great smile. Russ' passions outside of his writing career were many and varied. He was committed to helping the less fortunate. Dawn, may you and your family find peace and comfort in knowing that Russ will be long remembered for the exceptional friend he was to so many. Peace be with each of you.

Judy Bellem - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. I know that had it not been for Mr. Olexa, I would not be making movies and commercials. He sold me the first real camera I ever owned, and without his guidance, I know I would not be where I am today. He inspired me in many ways, and he will be truly missed by my family, and me.

Stewart Smith - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ Dawn, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Kristine and I are keeping you and your family in our thoughts and prayers.

John Kernan - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ I worked with Russ in publishing/PR for more than 25 years, and will always remember him for his professionalism and his kindness. Russ was a truly nice guy and a well-respected communicator. Rest in peace.....

Brad Kuvin - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of your husband's passing. I hope you wrap yourself up in the love of your family and friends. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time!

Joanne Rowe - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ I am so sorry for your loss. My father also passed away from a heart attack. He was 57 and my parents were on vacation. Please know that you and your entire family are in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. Your BPS family is here for you!

Bill Pugh - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ I am so sad to hear of Russ's passing. I worked with him at Trend Publishing when I was just a young journalist, cutting my teeth in the metals industry. Without him, I wouldn't have had much success writing about the vast topics that were required of me. Instead of googling something that I didn't understand, I would just pick up the phone and call him. He always made himself available and never made it seem as if he was too busy for me - or for anyone. But, he was so much more than a walking metals encyclopedia: He had a heart of gold. I'll truly miss him.

Abbe Miller - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ I am so sad to hear of Russ's passing. I worked with him at Trend Publishing when I was just a young journalist, cutting my teeth in the metals industry. Without him, I wouldn't have had much success writing about the vast topics that were required of me. Instead of googling something that I didn't understand, I would just pick up the phone and call him. He always made himself available and never made it seem as if he was too busy for me - or for anyone. But, he was so much more than a walking metals encyclopedia: He had a heart of gold. I'll truly miss him.

Abbe Miller - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TI

“ Very sad news. Russ and I worked at G. Temple Associates industrial ad agency in Southfield/Farmington Hills and he later did some contract writing for me. I respected his work and appreciated his laugh. A true professional and a go-to guy. The world needs more of his type. Condolences to the family. God be with you, brother.

Todd Earl, Warsaw, Indiana - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TI

“ *Very sad news. Russ and I worked at G. Temple Associates industrial ad agency in Southfield/Farmington Hills and he later did some contract writing for me. I respected his work and appreciated his laugh. A true professional and a go-to guy. The world needs more of his type. Condolences to the family. God be with you, brother.*

Todd Earl, Warsaw, Indiana - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ *Russ and I go way back. We worked and played together for 30 years. Lately we had not seen much of each other but I remember all those good times we had together. I will miss him dearly.*

Pat Bafile - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ *Dawn and Sons, so sorry for your loss.*

Darrell and Sharon Crull - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ *Dawn, Colin, and Evan-We are so very, very sorry to hear of Russ's passing ! Our prayers are with you all. We hope the love and care of family and friends holds you up through this difficult journey.
Marita, Steve and Amber Mandalari*

Marita Mandalari - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KL

“ Russ was a great father and an amazing brother in the Lord. As a youth pastor, I could always count on him to pitch in if his kids were involved in a youth group activity. So many people will miss him terribly, but we don't grieve as those with no hope. Our hope is in the joy he is experiencing now in the loving arms of our Lord. Russ, you've earned your rest. Kathy Larkin

Kathy Larkin - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

EG

“ My condolences. Your family is in my thoughts & prayers during this difficult time.

Eugene Groesbeck - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GR

“ There are no words adequate to describe the character of our dear friend. Russ was so special in so many ways, and will be sorely missed. Our prayers for peace and strength go out to Dawn, the boys, and all those who love him.

Gail Rokowski - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM