



Dean A. "Boots" Kassik

May 6, 1955 - March 10, 2025

Dean Albert Kassik "Boots" was born on May 6, 1955 to Arlene V. Vnoucek and Leonard P. Kassik in Friend, Ne, and passed away on March 10, 2025 at his home surrounded by his children, son in laws, grandchildren, and loving wife.

Dean attended Milligan High School and graduated with the class of 1973, participating in football, track, basketball, band and choir. They were an extremely close and loving class. He attended Milford Trade School, and graduated with a degree in Diesel Mechanics.

Dean was a volunteer Fireman, served on the Village of Milligan Town board, was a member of the Community Club, Kassik Milling Bowling Team, attended Milligan United Methodist Church, coached on the Milligan Fun for All Softball Team, boys elementary Basketball Team, and was currently on the Fillmore County Zoning Committee.

Dean was married to Laura Beth Bigelow on January 12, 1985, in Napa, California. To this union three children were born, Abbey Marie, Ashley Leigh, and Dean Michael. They made their lifetime home in Milligan, NE

Dean worked at the family business Kassik Milling, as a young boy, later becoming full partners in the business with his brother, Mike. This company was Deans pride and joy. Dean was the mechanic, and all-around fix everything guy, and Mike was the Office Manager, managing all the financials and formulating feed and sales. They made the perfect team, and Dean looked up to his older brother, and loved him and his sister Pat very much. Dean loved nothing more than to work in his beloved shop, fixing and repairing, tinkering, and partying with the guys after the day's work was done. There was a sign in the shop that said "you break and Boots will fix it", he was gifted in figuring out how machines worked and could fix anything. He was very close to all his employees and treated them like family. Dean and his brother also farmed their family farms. He loved most of all harvest time working long hours in the fall combining.

Dean was a very mellow, kind and extremely humble man. He loved all mechanics,

bowling, fishing, camping, attending his children's sporting and extracurricular activities and he never missed one. He loved to drink his Busch latte and party. He was patient, slow to anger, often a peacemaker always thinking long and hard before speaking or losing his cool. Most often his best advice was Que Sera Sera "Whatever will be will be" or he could be found Busch latte in hand toasting "Na zdravi" with his big huge Grandpa Vnoucek hands.

His children were a deep joy in his life. First-born Abbey, the strong responsible leader, big sister that took joy in tending to her younger siblings, second born Ashley, the easy going and happy go lucky child much like her father, and his only son, Dean Michael, the true wild child, the life of the party, full of energy and excitement keeping everyone on their toes. Each one of his children inherited their wonderful characteristics from Dean, always having a part of their dad shine within them.

Dean adored his son in laws, Stavi, and Mr. Glenn, and treated them like his own sons. He was very proud of the loving and gentle way they treated his girls and their children.

The true love of Deans life were his grandchildren, Ava (Jo Jo), Lilly (Lilac), Kora (Kobra), Livia (Rosie), Laney (Leonard), Blake (Ginger), Mack (Mac a boy), and Brooks (Bubba) the special one that Poppa couldn't play with too much because of his illness, but would sit on his lap for hours, drinking a bottle, and reading a book. Their "Poppa", as they called him, was the happiest when all the kids were at the house playing, laughing, and dancing. He often stated that they were his greatest joy, and simply the icing on his cake.

In his later years, Dean and Laura began to finally travel, and took many trips to, South Padre Island, Chicago, Mackinac Island, New England, Florida, and California. Dean was going to retire on his seventieth birthday. They had plans to spend parts of the year somewhere warm and on the water, but he didn't want to be gone away from his kids and grandkids for very long.

Dean is proceeded in death by his son, Dean Michael, parents Arlene and Leonard Kassik, in laws, Henry and Roma Bigelow, and several cousins, and loving Aunts and Uncles. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Laura, daughters and son in laws, Abbey and Glenn Ballentine, and Ashley and Steve Havel, Grandchildren, Ava Kennedy, Lilly Kassik, Livia Kassik, Blake Ballentine, Kora Havel, Laney Havel, Mack Havel, Brooks Havel, brother and sister-in-law, Mike and Deb Kassik, sister and brother-in-law Pat and Tim Remmers, Sisters in law, Julie Pimentel, and Beth Dunlap, brother-in-law and wife, Mark and Becky Bigelow, uncle, Joe Vnoucek, uncle-in-law, Dick Rischling, a host of nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, cousins, and many many dear friends.

A Funeral Service for Dean was held on Friday, March 14, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the Milligan Auditorium in Milligan, Nebraska with Kim Dunker presiding.

There were 4 special music selections for Dean's funeral service, "The Dance" by Garth Brooks, "Let It Be" by The Beatles, "Humble and Kind" by Tim McGraw and "As Nas Cesty Svedou" by The Milligan Czech Brass Band.

Pallbearers include Steve Becker, Doug Kotas, Larry Roit, Bob Vnoucek, Rich Kassik, Evan Remmers, Blake Baller, T.J. Kotas and John Kassik.

Honorary Pallbearers were Ava Kennedy, Lilly Kassik, Kora Havel, Livia Kassik, Laney Havel, Blake Ballentine, Mack Havel, Brooks Havel, Jimmy Crabtree and Larry Capek.

Graveside Services were conducted following the Funeral Service at the Bohemian National Cemetery in Milligan, Nebraska.

Cemetery Details

Bohemian National Cemetery

Milligan, NE 68406

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 13. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Farmer & Son Funeral Home-Kotas Chapel
Main Street
Milligan, NE 68406
(402) 759-3617
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

Family Present for Visitation

MAR 13. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Farmer & Son Funeral Home-Kotas Chapel
Main Street
Milligan, NE 68406
(402) 759-3617
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

MAR 14. 10:00 AM (CT)

Milligan Auditorium
Main Street
Milligan, NE 68406

Tribute Wall

CW

“ Would like to express my condolences to Mike and the Kassik family. Don't know if you remember John Walsh but he loved the time he spent at the mill, Leonard and the Kassik family. I always remember how wonderful Leonard and his wife and sons treated our family when John passed. God Bless.
Cindy Walsh

cindy walsh - March 14, 2025 at 02:42 PM



“ 85 files added to the album Flower Arrangements



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - March 14, 2025 at 02:15 PM

LF

“ Love you! Brit-Luke & family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Dean A. "Boots" Kassik.



Love you! Brit-Luke & family - March 13, 2025 at 07:54 PM

LF

“ Love you! Brit-Luke & family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dean A. "Boots" Kassik.

Love you! Brit-Luke & family - March 13, 2025 at 07:54 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Dean A. "Boots" Kassik.*



March 13, 2025 at 12:24 PM

ET

“ *Everyone at Neuerburg Trucking purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Dean A. "Boots" Kassik.*



Everyone at Neuerburg Trucking - March 13, 2025 at 12:15 PM

ET

“ *Everyone at Neuerburg Trucking planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dean A. "Boots" Kassik.*

Everyone at Neuerburg Trucking - March 13, 2025 at 12:15 PM

DC

“ *Daryl&Rhonda Drewes, Goebel Construction purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Dean A. "Boots" Kassik.*



Daryl&Rhonda Drewes, Goebel Construction - March 13, 2025 at 11:33 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dean A. "Boots" Kassik.*



March 12, 2025 at 08:21 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dean A. "Boots" Kassik.*

March 12, 2025 at 08:21 PM

MC

“ Megan Charko purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Dean A. "Boots" Kassik.



Megan Charko - March 12, 2025 at 06:59 PM

EM

“ Edgardo Macías purchased the *Serenity Wreath* for the family of Dean A. "Boots" Kassik.



Edgardo Macías - March 12, 2025 at 05:30 PM

EM

“ Edgardo Macías planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dean A. "Boots" Kassik.

Edgardo Macías - March 12, 2025 at 05:30 PM

EM

“ Edgardo Macias purchased the *Magnificent Life Spray* for the family of Dean A. "Boots" Kassik.



Edgardo Macias - March 12, 2025 at 05:24 PM

EM

“ Edgardo Macias planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dean A. "Boots" Kassik.

Edgardo Macias - March 12, 2025 at 05:24 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Dean A. "Boots" Kassik.



March 12, 2025 at 05:07 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dean A. "Boots" Kassik.

March 12, 2025 at 05:07 PM

JC

“ Jason and Stefanie Capek purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dean A. "Boots" Kassik.



Jason and Stefanie Capek - March 12, 2025 at 04:51 PM



“ Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Dean A. "Boots" Kassik.



March 12, 2025 at 01:17 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dean A. "Boots" Kassik.

March 12, 2025 at 01:17 PM

RV

“ Robert Vavra purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Dean A. "Boots" Kassik.



Robert Vavra - March 12, 2025 at 07:56 AM

RV

“ Robert Vavra planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dean A. "Boots" Kassik.

Robert Vavra - March 12, 2025 at 07:56 AM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Dean A. "Boots" Kassik.



March 11, 2025 at 06:01 PM



“ Rhonda Sanders and Rhonda Tofte purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Dean A. "Boots" Kassik.



Rhonda Sanders and Rhonda Tofte - March 11, 2025 at 04:40 PM



“ Rhonda Sanders and Rhonda Tofte planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dean A. "Boots" Kassik.

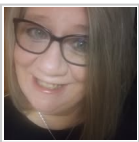
Rhonda Sanders and Rhonda Tofte - March 11, 2025 at 04:40 PM



“ Pat & Keith Mathiesen lit a candle in memory of Dean Kassik



Pat & Keith Mathiesen - March 11, 2025 at 03:37 PM



“ Janine Uldrich lit a candle in memory of Dean Kassik



Janine Uldrich - March 11, 2025 at 02:23 PM

VJ

“ Virginia Johnson lit a candle in memory of Dean Kassik



Virginia Johnson - March 11, 2025 at 01:56 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dean A. "Boots" Kassik.



March 11, 2025 at 01:17 PM



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

March 11, 2025 at 01:17 PM