



## Basil Kuzio Sr.

May 4, 2020

Basil Anton Kuzio, Sr., age 67, of Moorestown, NJ died on Monday, May 4, 2020 at home surrounded by loved ones after a 9 year battle with brain cancer. A hardworking family man, a respected leader, a lifelong learner, and a dedicated volunteer, Basil had many interests and accomplishments in life.

Born on May 9, 1952 in Bridgeport, CT, the son of Basil and Sigmunde (Kaindl) Kuzio. Basil attended St. John Nepomucene School, Bridgeport, CT. He was a proud graduate of Kolbe High School, Class of 1970, and continued his education at Villanova University (BA, 1974) and at Union College (MBA, 1988). The majority of Basil's career was spent at Travelers Insurance (where, by all accounts, he was the best boss) and, for the past 24 years, as a Financial Advisor with Ameriprise.

Basil married Janet E. (Hartnett) on October 11, 1975 and together they raised six children. His pride and joy, he never missed a chance to boast about his family, especially as college degrees were earned and as the family grew with loving spouses and grandchildren.

His cultural heritage was a big part of his identity and Basil was actively involved in several Ukrainian organizations, including: Plast Ukrainian Scouting Org, Ukrainian Engineers, and the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in Jenkintown, PA.

Basil had a gift for staying in touch with people from throughout his life, including old classmates, coworkers, and neighbors. The annual UConn basketball get-together with his good Kolbe Men stands out as an event he looked forward to every year. He established and led the Kolbe Cathedral High School Alumni Association, traveling to Connecticut often for board meetings and to support high school events.

Basil excelled on the football field as a young man playing with the semi-professional Upper Darby Sharks and later took to the basketball court with a striped shirt and whistle. A member of IAABO Camden Board 34 Basketball Officials for the past 25 years, he worked hard to earn his place calling college games with ECAC and NJAC. His referee skills didn't stop with basketball - Basil happily spent many hours reffing at the Moorestown Youth Flag Football League.

A lifelong athlete and sports fanatic, Basil ran an epic March Madness Bracket pool for over 30 years. He loved the NY Yankees, the Oakland Raiders and his Villanova Wildcats.

In recent years, he enjoyed attending Exit 4 Boot Camp and took great pride in winning the attendance award more than once.

Basil is survived by Janet, his wife of 44 years, and his children: Alexandra M. Wilson (Jesse), Katherine C. Vemis (Gregory), Natalie R. Trumbo (Andrew), Basil A. Kuzio, Jr. (Erika), Roxanne S. Schmid (Karl), and Lawrence A. Kuzio. And by his 9 grandchildren: Emmaline M., Amelia E., Gwenolyn H., Penelope C., Duncan A., Basil A. III, Sloane I., Walter B., K. Parker, and one on the way.

Predeceased by his parents and his brother Andrew G., Basil is also survived by 3 brothers, Johann Oberwallner, Michael J., and Walter F., several brothers- and sisters-in-law, and countless nieces and nephews.

Due to the requirements of social distancing, there will be a private burial. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Basil's name may be made to one of the many causes he supported: Kolbe Cathedral High School in Bridgeport, CT or PLAST Ukrainian Scouting Organization - 700 Cedar Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046.

# Comments

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“ I just learned that Basil had passed away, and while I knew he was ill for some time, his passing still came as a shock. I had known Basil since we were kids growing up together on White Street in Bridgeport. Ukrainian school & religious instruction at the Holy Protection Ukrainian Catholic Church on Grant Street, under the leadership of Fr. Shust & Pani Czuby, are a distinct memory of the times we shared, as were the days in Plast and camping at Bobriwka. And it's hard to forget the attempts that were made to teach us Ukrainian dance at the Ukrainian National Home on Beech Street. While our paths diverged over time, we did get reacquainted many years ago to share memories & old photos of those days. My sincerest condolences to the Kuzio family; Basil will be in my heart and memories forever.

**Nick Kopernik** - June 21 at 06:12 PM

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“ The Kolbe Cathedral Community and the Board of Directors extend their deepest sympathy to the Kuzio family. Basil called the huddle of Good Kolbe Men together and brought them back to the field at Kolbe Cathedral with championship style & grace! He was devoted to his family, his church and his alma mater.....we will remember him by establishing a scholarship in his name so he will always be part of Kolbe Cathedral.

**Jo-Anne Jakab** - May 22 at 10:24 PM

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“ My thoughts and Prayers to the Family and Friends. You learn much from Team Sports. I was fortunate to be on the same Football Team and learned life lessons from watching Basil give 100%. God Bless

**Paul A. Campagna** - May 09 at 12:15 PM

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“ He will be missed. It was a pleasure to work with him over the past 5 years and he was well respected in the Moorestown Flag Football community.

Rob McCandless and Moorestown Flag Football Refs

**Rob** - May 08 at 10:54 PM

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“ Growing up with an exemplary older brother, Basil made it easy for me to get attention, all I had to do was break something. Mom was always saying Basil did this and Basil did that. Basil, Basil, Basil! Oh brother! I remember Basil's first day going to Kolbe, he was in hallway in tie and jacket with a K emblem on it, hurrying to catch the Barnum/State bus. I admired how he would answer correctly, rapid fire, questions on the afternoon quiz shows. I always thought he would make a formidable Jeopardy contestant. The one memory I believe best describes Basil is a photo in the wedding album where he is admiringly looking at the wedding bands, the look of anticipation on his face of all the good things to come. Mom was right, Basil did do this and Basil did do that and all of them well. Basil knew where he was going and he figured out how to get there. And Oh brother, your passing has burned a hole in my soul. RIP Walter and Madie Kuzio

Walter Kuzio - May 08 at 07:26 PM

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“ I have such wonderful memories of my Uncle Basil, but one memory in particular stands out. When I was about eight years old, I was at the shore in Margate, New Jersey with my family, the Hartnetts, as my mom was back in Pa. packing the house to move. I was having such a great time at the shore, that one night the adults were discussing finding a way for me to stay longer, but there was the dilemma of arranging a ride back up to Pa. Uncle Basil immediately volunteered to drive me back two additional weeks later, allowing me to create such wonderful memories that I still remember fondly to this day. And when he was driving me home, there was a sudden heavy rainstorm. Uncle Basil immediately looked over at me to make sure I was O.K. And those are the qualities I will always love and appreciate about my Uncle Basil...his kindness, love, and protection.

Elisabeth Fuhs - May 08 at 06:45 PM

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Walter Kuzio - May 08 at 06:30 PM



“ Growing up with an exemplary older brother, Basil made it easy for me to get attention, all I had to do was break something. Mom was always saying Basil did this and Basil did that , Basil, Basil , Basil! Oh brother! I remember Basil's first day going to Kolbe, he was in the hallway in tie and jacket with a K patch on it, hurrying off to catch the Barnum/State bus. I admired how he would answer correctly , rapid-fire during afternoon quiz shows. I always thought he would have been a formidable Jeopardy contestant. The one memory that I believe describes Basil best is a wedding album photo where he is looking admirably at the wedding bands and his face shows the anticipation of all the good things to come. Mom was right, Basil did this and Basil did that, and all of them well. He knew where he was going and he figured out how to get there. Job well done! And Oh brother your loss leaves a burning hole in my soul . RIP

Walter F Kuzio

Walter Kuzio - May 08 at 01:21 PM



“ Our condolences to the Kuzio Family, our prayers are with you. We met Basil when he would bring his daughters to the Voloshky School on Monday nights.

Lydia and Gene Markiw



Lydia M Markiw - May 08 at 08:11 AM



“ My condolences to the Kuzio family. I had the honor to have known Basil as an officiating partner on the basketball court and as part of my financial planner's network. Basil will be missed by more than his family.

Joe Gorski - May 07 at 05:46 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to Janet and family and Basil's. Known him for 55 years. The kind of man you'd want your son to become. Nobility in a time of complacency. Honest and loyal. The guy you'd want in the foxhole with you. Can't say enough about the feeling of loss. Know that he will remain in all our hearts #34

Gary Cahill. Kolbe 1970

gary cahill - May 07 at 10:48 AM

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“ Basil as a senior at Kolbe High helped me navigate my freshman year at the school. We were the only two Ukrainians who attended Kolbe. Both our Dads worked together at Patmore Millwork in Bridgeport for over 20 years so I got to see Basil at various picnics and other social events. We kept in touch and later saw each other in E.Chatham at the Plast summer camp our kids attended. Basil kept in touch with me after that letting me know about his kids and giving me updates about our hometown Bridgeport,Ct. Basil was a really Great guy who truly loved his family and was so proud of his children and grand children. He will be sorely missed ! My condolences to the Kuzio Family.

Stefan Peleschuk - May 07 at 08:17 AM

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“ Forever a Kolbe man. Thanks Basil for helping to organize all the UCONN games. God bless you and your beautiful family. I miss you already.  
Dave Turechek

David Turechek - May 07 at 12:29 AM

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“ My sincere condolences to the Kuzio Family. I am a member of Board 34 basketball officials and officiated many games with Basil. He was always fun and a dedicated official. Basil came out to support our officiating crew in our playoff game in March of 2020. I'm glad I got to see him. I hope we did him proud. From one Wildcat fan to another, rest easy Basil. You earned it.

Edward D'Andrea - May 06 at 09:27 PM

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“ My prayers and condolences go to the Kuzio family. Basil was a great boss (Travelers Insurance Co), a trusted and knowledgeable financial advisor and a friend for 30 years. He loved his family and his sports, you could see his passion for them in the stories he told. He and his beautiful spirit will be missed.

Mary Ann Chiumento

Mary Ann Chiumento - May 06 at 05:39 PM

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“ My condolences to the entire Kuzio family. I knew Basil through basketball officiating. We reffed together both in High School and College games. Always a pleasure to work with and to have conversations about our families. Basil will be missed in many ways.

**Michael Woodrow** - May 06 at 05:04 PM

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“ My Condolences to the Kuzio Family, my prayers are with you. Basil was Good man, a Class Act, he will be missed.

**Harvey Sumner** - May 06 at 02:03 PM

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“ Basil was our financial advisor for many years. He was such a an amazing person. Basil was always compassionate, patient and he loved his family. He will be missed by so many including our family. My condolences to the Kuzio family.

**Megan Fecteau** - May 06 at 01:40 PM

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“ i am so sorry to hear this and my deepest condolences to his beautiful family. I worked for many years with Basil (he was my supervisor) a stand up guy. Always laughing and joking with the best heart around. Basil loved his wife and children and family was everything to him. We always used to enjoy receiving updates on all of his beautiful children. My years spent at Travelers Insurance were made more memorable because of him. RIP dear Basil, you are forever remembered!

**Terry (Brunelle) Woods** - May 06 at 12:58 PM

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“ Basil and I were referees together. I was always glad to see him name as my partner.

He was kind and dedicated to his craft.

He was a good friend to me, both on and off the court.

When I will think about him, I will smile. as we all should.

**Roy Goldfarb**

**Roy Goldfarb** - May 06 at 09:50 AM



“ Basil and I grew up together. He remembered when I taught him how to tie a neck tie. He was a year behind me at Kolbe HS. Basil was always willing to give of his time. He helped people whenever he could. Rest in Peace my friend. Dan Conte

Dan Conte - May 06 at 09:15 AM

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“ Basil always had perfect attendance- grammar school and high school, never missed a day!

Was forever driving and probably drove with his car tank on empty more than anyone I know!

Basil was my best friend from high school and closest of friends for 54 years. Always stayed in touch. It is hard to imagine life without him. I will miss him greatly.

Our condolences to Janet and their wonderful family. Love, Dennis and Linda Teixeira

Dennis & Linda Teixeira - May 06 at 08:22 AM

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“ Doreen Sabol lit a candle in memory of Basil Kuzio Sr.



Doreen Sabol - May 06 at 07:53 AM

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“ I met Basil at Exit 4 bootcamp a few years ago and always enjoyed his kind presence, gentle spirit and constant determination. I can tell he had a lot of love surrounding his life. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. Susan

susan Batastini - May 05 at 09:16 PM

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“ I worked with Basil during my Travelers years. He was a good man and will be missed my many. Basil: your work is done and you have been set free. Rest in peace rest in peace. Joy Funk

**Joy Funk** - May 05 at 07:10 PM

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“ First day of home room at Kolbe HS with Basil

Basil: Hi i'm Basil

Me: what s your first name

Gonna miss u brother, u are a great husband, father, friend

until we meet again!

**Dan Orlovsky** - May 05 at 06:48 PM

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“ I worked in the same office as Basil when I first got into the industry. I enjoyed talking football, the Raiders, and college basketball with him. He was a great guy. My thoughts are with the family at this difficult time.

**Brian Attard** - May 05 at 06:42 PM

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“ Basil was a great guy. He was always there to help with Board 34 basketball officials. He loved to ref, and he never said no to an assignment. HE WILL BE MISSED. G-d rest his soul and Peace to his family. I am very sorry.

**Jeff Cohen** - May 05 at 05:49 PM