



Rudolph A. Klecka

May 10, 1919 - November 20, 2011

Rudolph "Rudy" Klecka, Sr. of East Bernard, Texas passed away peacefully on November 20, 2011. He was born to John and Caroline Toman Klecka in East Bernard, Texas on May 10, 1919 and lived his entire life in East Bernard, an active member of Holy Cross Catholic Church faith community as a member of the Knights of Columbus #2500. He was also a member of the American Legion, Post 226 in East Bernard.

On November 28, 1941, he married his high school sweetheart, Henrietta Urbish Klecka.

In 1946 they opened their small business, Klecka's Dry Goods and Cleaners on Leveridge Street, where they also sold Czech crystal, jewelry and other items brought from the Czech Republic.

Rudy served in the U. S. Army from 1941 until the end of World War II in 1945. While stationed in England, he met several Czech aviators serving in the R. A. F., which proved to be lifelong friendships. From 1969 through 2004, Rudy and Henrietta led tours as KlubKontinental primarily to the Czech Republic and kept up with these aviators and their families. Thousands of Czech and American Moravians found their relatives and at the same time, kept the ties between a free USA and a Communist ancestral home, and with it, hope for freedom alive.

After the 1989 Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia, Rudy and Henrietta

joined several Czech American and Czech émigré physicians in the Houston area as Founding Board Members to found The Texas-Czech Physician Exchange Program, hosting Czech doctors for three month exchange studies tours at the Houston Medical Center. With his wife, Rudy was also Board Member of the Czech Culture Center in Houston, Texas.

In 2005, Rudy was the recipient of the "Czernin Palace Bronze Memorial Medal" in gratitude to him and Henrietta for their significant contributions in preserving and promoting relations between the Czech Republic and the United States of America.

Rudy is survived by three sons: Rudy Nathan, James Michael Patricia, Edward Henry Angelita, eight grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren and a brother, August of East Bernard, Texas. He was preceded in death by his parents, seven siblings and his wife Henrietta.

Visitation will be on Friday, November 25 from 9:00 to 10:00 AM, followed by the Funeral Liturgy at 10:00 AM, Holy Cross Church, 839 Church Street, East Bernard, Texas.

Pallbearers are Johnnie Klecka, Patrick Klecka, Kim Klecka, Joshua Klecka, James Dusek and John Murrile.

Memorial donations may be sent to Holy Cross Church, PO Box 1325, East Bernard, Texas 77435; the Texas-Czech Physician Exchange Program or the Czech Cultural Center in Houston.

Words of condolence may be left for the Klecka family at www.davisgreenlawnfh.com.

Service arrangements are under the direction of Davis-Greenlawn Funeral

Home, 3900 B. F. Terry Blvd., Rosenberg, Texas, 77471, 281-341-8800.

Tribute Wall

MK

“ *Mr. Klecka contributed so much to the American-Czech relationship. When I was in Germany in the late seventies, I would meet their tour at Rothenburg on the Tauber to visit with people from home. He was taking a group into Czechoslovakia, a place I could not go due to being in the military. He was always interested in my life and what was going on in it. He was a kind and generous man. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.*

Mary Lou Krenek - December 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ *Dear Ed, James, And Rudy Jr., Your Dad will be missed by many people. Through out his life he met and touched many people's lives. Your Dad and Mother have taught us many things, and also that life is so short here on Earth. We can only carry on and share what we have learned from them and others along our journey of life. May all of you carry on with your young ones the way your parents did with you. That we always remain good friends and keep in contact with each other. May Rudy Rest in Peace.*

Michael -Angeles Wurm - November 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MZ

“ *Please accept condolences from the Gonzales Co. CHS group - Peggy Elzner Janota, Pres.& I am the Treas. May he find rest in Heaven with his Czech ancestors.*

Margaret Hobizal Zella - November 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

EB

“ I would like to express my deepest sympathy to the Klecka Family for their loss. Although I have been gone from my home town of East Bernard for many years, I have fond memories of the Klecka family. May you find comfort in our Lord as we all wait to meet each other again. God Bless you all now and always.
Eva

Eva Hlavinka Batla - November 27, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ My deepest condolences to the Klecka family for the loss of their Father, in memory of a very kind, helpful and generous Brother in Christ, servant of the Lord, who lived an exemplary christian life. He has also helped my parents and me a great deal. I will certainly shake his hand when it is my time to see the Lord face to face. The Lord reward him forever.

Alois Renner - November 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BE

“ Eddie, I am sorry for your family's loss of your dad. Mr. Klecka was a wonderful man, I always had a fondness in my heart for him. It is very hard when our parents pass, I lost daddy a year ago in August, and Stephen last January. Remembering him will bring smiles to your heart. May God keep and watch over you as your go through each day.

Belita - November 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ I am sorry for your loss. My deepest sympathy and my condolences. I met Mr. Klecka few months ago but I considered him a nice person. May the Lord helps you to face this hard moment. My support and prayings for all the family.

Berny Rodriguez - November 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ Dear Jr, Mickey and Eddie,

How blessed you boys were to have as your parents Uncle Rudy and Aunt Henrietta. They were truly the most giving and respectable people that God can give to us here on earth. Now they have completed their work and are joined together with our true Heavenly Father.

I can't begin to tell you how much your parents meant to me. I loved them so much.

Patsy

Patricia A. Wurm - November 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

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Patricia A. Wurm - November 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

QB

“ We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the entire Klecka family along with our most sincere and loving prayers.

May your mourning be complete, your memories fulfilling, and your celebration of life, endless.

Love,

Quincy & Patricia Britt - November 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SN

“ *Dear Klecka Family,*
We were so saddened to hear of the passing of Rudy. It was such a pleasure to have visited with him for a while last July when we were in Texas. He was very alert and animated at the time, and enjoyed showing us all his treasures from the Czech Republic. Rudy was one of the kindest and gentlest people we have ever had the privilege to know, and we admired all the wonderful qualities that made him the special person that he was - especially his wit, charm and a caring heart that made him a great friend as well. We will miss him very much, and sincerely share in your pain and sorrow at this difficult time.

Love, Steve & Heather Novosad

Stephen & Heather Novosad - November 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CO

“ *Prayers and thoughts are with all the Klecka family. Uncle Rudy was a caring and gentle man whom will be missed. He is now together with Aunt Henrietta looking over us all!*

Celeste Urbish Orr - November 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the Klecka Family - Your dad will be missed but not forgotten!*

Jerry & Jodie

Jodie & Jerry Smaistrla - November 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MV

“ *Rudy, James and Ed,
I have fond memories of the many times I interacted with your Dad growing up in EB and also, when we moved back in '76 until he closed the store. Terrie & I moved from EB to Willis in March '07. My condolences to you and your families. Your Dad was an honorable gentleman. God Bless.*

Mark & Terrie Vacek - November 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ *Rudy and Henrietta were my life long friends. They opened up the world of our ancestry to our family and for this I will always be grateful.
May God bless them and their families forever.*

Clarice Marik Snokhous - November 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

FJ

“ *May he Rest In Peace.*

Frank Jedlicka - November 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PK

“ May the angels accompany the soul of my beloved father-in-law, dad Klecka to his place of eternal rest, I will forever cherish the memories of James and my "honeymoon" trip with dad and mom Klecka to the Czech Republic in 2001 with the extended family. Dad and mom are sorely missed at the family dinners around our table. Our hearts are sad to look across our yard to the home place and know that they are no longer there. May Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior bring peace to the family and to their three son's Rudy, James, and Eddie, who will miss their dad so very much as days go on. Thank you to each of you who have called, and expressed your love for dad Klecka. Please keep the family in your prayers.
Their daughter-in-law,
Pat Klecka

Patricia Klecka - November 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

FS

“ A loving, kind, courageous man -- always gracious and willing to open his home to us when we came to visit extended family in East Bernard. He regaled us with tales of the trips into occupied Czechoslovakia -- real sacrifices for love of kin and country. A man of faith, hope and love -- reunited with Aunt Henrietta during their anniversary month!

Requiescant in pace, Uncle Rudy.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord; send Your Holy Spirit to comfort those who suffer the loss of his presence.

Florence Urbish Sebern - November 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ Please except my sympathy at this sad time I know Rudy will be missed. So many people knew and loved him.

Evelyn Skopik - November 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Dear Uncle James, Aunt Pat and family,
We are so sorry for your loss and will be praying for you all. Much love!

Matt & Angie Buser and family - November 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ My prayers & condolences to the Klecka cousins and the whole family at this time. Uncle Rudy was a truly great & kind man & the epitome of Texas hospitality. Many wonderful memories to treasure until we meet again!

Marycarol Liddle - November 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PK

“ My grand father was a great man , respected by all, he will be missed . For he and grand mother are together taking their final tour. love Patrick, Heidi,Josh,Lynnsey, & Cade. P.S. NASTRAVI!

Patrick Klecka - November 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Betty and I wish to express our deepest condolences to the family for their loss - and our posthumous gratitude to him for all of his efforts in cementing the relationship between the East Bernard community and the native land of our ancestors. I should add that Betty especially appreciated his providing such an excellent source for Czech crystal.

Charlie & Betty Hlavinka - November 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM