



## Brian D. Opalka

August 29, 1972 - December 29, 2019

Brian D. "Bo" Opalka, 47, of Van Dyke Avenue, Amsterdam, passed away at home on Sunday morning December 29, 2019, following a long, inspirational, and courageous battle with brain cancer.

He was born in Amsterdam on August 29, 1972, a son of Donald and Judith Przybylowicz Opalka and was a 1990 graduate of Broadalbin-Perth High School. Brian attended FMCC and HVCC and was a lifelong area resident.

Mr. Opalka was employed as the store manager at Ace Hardware in Amsterdam for 20 years before retiring due to illness.

Brian's determination and strength were evident in his never waning ability to face life and his medical challenges without complaint. His children were his most rewarding accomplishment. Together they had an incredible bond filled with humor and love.

He was predeceased by his father, Donald, a nephew Jeffrey Opalka, Jr., grandparents Steven and Sadie Opalka, and William Przybylowicz.

Survivors include his wife, Karen Cichy Opalka, whom he married on July 5, 1996. They were best friends, soulmates, and inseparable. He is also survived by three sons, Alec, Matthew, and Braydon Opalka; a daughter Kaylin Opalka,

all at home; his mother Judith Opalka of Amsterdam; two brothers, Jeffrey Opalka of Fort Johnson and Kenneth (Ronda) Opalka of Valrico, FL; his maternal grandmother Edna Przybylowicz of Hagaman; several aunts, uncles, cousins and nieces.

Cremation was performed at Park View Crematorium, Schenectady. Calling hours will be held on Thursday from 4 - 7 pm at the Robert M. Halgas Funeral Home, Inc., 111 County Highway 106 (Corner of Route 29 & Black Street), Johnstown followed by a prayer service at 7pm with Rev. Jeffrey L'Arche. Memorial contributions may be made to the Make a Wish Foundation.

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

JAN 2. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Halgas Funeral Home  
111 County Highway 106  
Johnstown, NY 12095  
(518) 883-5323  
debbie@halgasfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.halgasfuneralhome.com/>

## Prayer Service

JAN 2. 7:00 PM (ET)

Halgas Funeral Home  
111 County Highway 106  
Johnstown, NY 12095  
(518) 883-5323  
debbie@halgasfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.halgasfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall

MA

“ Karen,  
We are so sorry to hear of Brian’s passing. He was a wonderful guy  
and will be greatly missed. Condolences to you and your family. You  
are in our thoughts and prayers.  
Love, Mary and Mike Andolina

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**Mary Andolina** - January 07, 2020 at 10:30 AM

JM

“ Karen, Dave and I are so sorry to hear about the loss of Brian. We  
just heard about it tonight after reading a note by Bill Wills on  
Facebook. I know there are no words that anyone can say but  
please know that you and the children and your mom are in our  
prayers and thoughts.  
Jan and Dave Morrow

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**Janice Morrow** - January 06, 2020 at 08:41 PM

TC

“ Sorry to hear of your loss.

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**Tom Coughlin** - January 05, 2020 at 10:05 AM



“ White Standing Spray was purchased for the  
family of Brian D. Opalka.



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January 02, 2020 at 07:13 AM



“ *Sympathy Arrangement In Basket (Large) - Multicolor Pastel Mixed Flowers was purchased for the family of Brian D. Opalka.*



January 01, 2020 at 10:27 PM



“ *Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Brian D. Opalka.*



January 01, 2020 at 06:50 PM



“ *Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Brian D. Opalka.*



January 01, 2020 at 12:58 AM



“ *“I am deeply saddened by the loss that you and your family have encountered. My condolences.”*

**Darlene Bullock** - December 31, 2019 at 07:12 PM

SC

“ *Sheila Carmichael lit a candle in memory of Brian D. Opalka*



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**Sheila Carmichael** - December 31, 2019 at 06:09 PM



“ *Peaceful Wishes was purchased for the family of Brian D. Opalka.*



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December 31, 2019 at 10:31 AM



“ *Classic Sympathy Basket Arrangement was purchased for the family of Brian D. Opalka.*

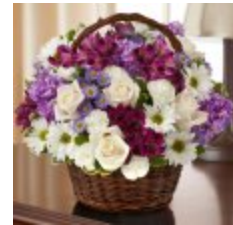


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December 31, 2019 at 10:04 AM



“ *Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White was purchased for the family of Brian D. Opalka.*



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December 31, 2019 at 09:58 AM

AO

“ Amy & Michael Ouellette purchased the Sincere's Sorrow - Peach, Orange and White for the family of Brian D. Opalka.



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**Amy & Michael Ouellette** - December 31, 2019 at 08:40 AM

BS

“ For the past 20 something years, I worked with Brian at Sears Hardware, True Value, and Ace, did we have our differences, absolutely. But you could not ask for a better boss. The Tesiero Family was lucky to have a man like Brian to run their store and we were lucky to have him as our leader. I sure will miss him, our deepest condolences and sympathy to the Opalka family  
Brian the fighter, RIP

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**Bob & Sandy Scott** - December 31, 2019 at 06:05 AM



“ Crossing Over Lid Decoration was purchased for the family of Brian D. Opalka.



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December 30, 2019 at 09:39 PM

LG

“ Karen and family, I am so very sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

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**Lisa Guttenberg** - December 30, 2019 at 08:06 PM

MP

“ I’m very sorry to hear about Mr. Opalka’s passing. My condolences and prayers to Karen and the entire family. Sending up a special prayer especially for Braydon as well (one of my students from last year). Braydon, always remember your dad was very proud of you and your siblings. I could see it in his face each time I saw him. He will now be your special guardian angel. Much love to your family  
❤️ Molly Petrin

Molly Petrin - December 30, 2019 at 07:49 PM



“ Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Brian D. Opalka.



December 30, 2019 at 04:47 PM

GY

“ We are very sorry for your families loss.  
You all are in our prayers Mr & Mrs Eric Yesse and family

Gina Yesse - December 30, 2019 at 04:39 PM

SS

“ Thoughts and prayers to you Karen and family 🙏🙏🙏💕

Susette Sullivan - December 30, 2019 at 04:36 PM

BK

“ *So very sorry for your loss*



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**Betty Kilinski** - December 30, 2019 at 04:01 PM



“ *Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Brian D. Opalka.*



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December 30, 2019 at 02:44 PM

JF

“ *Brian was a wonderful, kind, loving human being!! He never judged anyone and would give a hand whenever someone needed it. He was a great family friend. Prayers to the family*

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**jodi frasiee** - December 30, 2019 at 01:01 PM