



Kenneth L. Zalar

July 24, 1950 - November 14, 2025

Kenneth "Ken" Zalar, 75, of Timberlake, Ohio, passed away peacefully on November 14, 2025, surrounded by his loving family.

Born on July 24, 1950, Ken dedicated his life to family, service, music, and community.

Ken served with honor and distinction as a police officer for 28 years, first as a patrolman and later as a detective. He began his career working in the Sheriff's Department. He took tremendous pride in protecting and supporting the people around him. He played a major role in the Cops and Kids program and was well known throughout the community for his generosity, humor, and unmistakable presence. In recognition of his impact, he was named Slovenian Man of the Year, a tribute to both his heritage and his commitment to others.

Outside of his uniform, Ken was a force of personality, someone who seemingly knew everyone and was loved by all. He had a gift for making people laugh, telling a great story, and making any room feel lighter just by being in it. Ken loved polkas and formed the band Ken Zalar & The Captain's Crew, which proudly earned a place in the Polka Hall of Fame. Music wasn't just a passion for him; it was a way he brought people together.

Ken also lived a life of energy and heart. He participated in Pedal to the Point to support MS research and inspired others as a spinning instructor, encouraging people to push forward, just as he always did.

Above all, Ken was a family man. He is survived by his beloved wife Margie; his children Kristen (Joe) Cipo, Rachel (Kevin Crognale), and Kenny (Meghan

Kilbane) Zalar; and his cherished grandchildren Alexia, Rosalie, and Owen, who brought him immeasurable joy. He also leaves behind his cousin Joe White, who was more like a brother, sharing a lifelong bond built on love, laughter, and family.

Family and friends are invited to pay their respects on Friday, November 21, 2025, from 3-8 PM at Monreal Funeral Home, 35400 Curtis Blvd., Eastlake, Ohio.

A funeral Mass will be held on Saturday, November 22, 2025, at 12:00 PM at St. Justin Martyr Church, 35711 Stevens Blvd., in Eastlake, with burial to follow at All Souls Cemetery.

Ken Zalar leaves behind a legacy of service, song, strength, and laughter. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Cemetery Details

All Souls Cemetery

10366 Chardon Road
Chardon, OH 44024

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **21**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Monreal Srnick Funerals & Cremations
35400 Curtis Blvd.
Eastlake, OH 44095

Funeral Mass

NOV **22**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Justin Martyr
35781 Stevens Blvd
Eastlake, OH 44095

Burial

NOV **22** (ET)

All Souls Cemetery
10366 Chardon Rd.
Chardon Twp, OH 44024

Tribute Wall

MM

“ Maryanne M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kenneth L. Zalar.

Maryanne M. - December 15, 2025 at 07:57 AM

RA

“ Rico A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kenneth L. Zalar.

Rico A. - November 21, 2025 at 04:44 PM

TZ

“ Tony, Rose, Anthony & Katherine Zalar planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kenneth L. Zalar.

Tony, Rose, Anthony & Katherine Zalar - November 20, 2025 at 10:31 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Kenneth L. Zalar.



November 20, 2025 at 10:31 AM

MN

“ Milka, Jessica, Mario, Rachel, Jen, Nina purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Kenneth L. Zalar.



Milka, Jessica, Mario, Rachel, Jen, Nina - November 20, 2025 at 06:17 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kenneth L. Zalar.



November 19, 2025 at 11:57 AM

AJ

“ Annie Jeff Hannah Wendy Keith & Julie purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Kenneth L. Zalar.



Annie Jeff Hannah Wendy Keith & Julie - November 19, 2025 at 11:28 AM

AJ

“ Annie Jeff Hannah Wendy Keith & Julie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kenneth L. Zalar.

Annie Jeff Hannah Wendy Keith & Julie - November 19, 2025 at 11:28 AM

TF

“ *The Mansell family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Kenneth L. Zalar.*



The Mansell family - November 19, 2025 at 07:34 AM

MC

“ *Margie, Kristen, Rachel, LK, still can't believe I call him LK...Lexi, Rosalie, and Owen...So very sorry for your loss. I guess the one and only good thing is that now you don't have to worry about buying ear plugs anymore...*

Kenny Zalar, AKA, the Bozo....so much to say, so little time...

I remember all the summer cookouts, the fall clam bakes, I remember all the times he'd play the squeeze box for everyone. I remember all the great camping trips that we took together.

I remember the often LOUD conversations, especially if there was a disagreement, and for some reason there was often a disagreement. ...

I also remember what a good and caring person he was, and when you needed something he was right there for you.

But what I remember most is how much he helped out my mother when my father passed away and in all that he did. So, God Bless you Bozo, say hello to everybody up there for me, especially Dad and Danny.

Michael Cipo - November 17, 2025 at 04:21 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Kenneth L. Zalar.*



November 17, 2025 at 12:31 PM



“ *The Herrin-Kilbane family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kenneth L. Zalar.*

The Herrin-Kilbane family - November 16, 2025 at 09:06 PM



“ *The Herrin-Kilbane family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Kenneth L. Zalar.*



The Herrin-Kilbane family - November 16, 2025 at 09:06 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kenneth L. Zalar.*



November 16, 2025 at 08:44 PM

CE

“ I’m so sad to hear this. I used to board my horses in concord which is where I met him. He was very kind and friendly and full of smiles. I’m so terribly sorry for your loss

Christy Estok - November 16, 2025 at 05:12 PM

TF

“ The Vespa family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kenneth L. Zalar.

The Vespa family - November 16, 2025 at 01:55 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kenneth L. Zalar.



November 16, 2025 at 01:55 PM

PH

“ Ken always had a smile and a kind word whenever we ran into each other. He was always interested in what I had to say, A sincerely nice guy. Thoughts and prayers to Margie and family.
Patty Hayes

Patty J Hayes - November 16, 2025 at 07:40 AM

DR

“ *Doug and Anna Rhodes purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Kenneth L. Zalar.*



Doug and Anna Rhodes - November 16, 2025 at 02:02 AM