



## Fred V. Kruse

September 20, 1936 - July 21, 2018

Frederick “Phred” Van Kruse

Fred V. Kruse, 81 of Havana, passed away July 21, 2018. He was born in 1936 in Havana IL, the son of Theodore “Ted” J. Kruse and Velma (VanEtten) Kruse. In 1959 he married Kay Asay and brought into the world two children from that marriage: Amy K Kruse of Belleville, IL and Kerstin A Kruse Liberty of Dallas Georgia. In 1990 he then married Verna Mae Vogt Landis, who brought two step-children to their union: August (Claudia) Landis of NV and Vicki (Larry) Landis Davis of AZ. Verna remained devoted to him through his death.

Fred is also survived by four grandchildren: Bailey R K Kruse (Belleville) and Solomon T Liberty (Dallas GA), Samuel M Liberty (Dallas GA), Meadowlark “Memi” V. Liberty (Dallas GA).

He was preceded in death by his parents and an infant brother, John David Kruse.

Fred was an active member of Havana Rotary for many years. A quiet patriot, Fred served in the Air National Guard and was activated during the Berlin crisis. He loved flying and received his private pilot’s license in 1965, taking his children on many aerial adventures as they grew up. A lover of ice cream, puppy dogs and snowball fights, Fred was a critical thinker with an impish sense of humour which he passed on in spades to both of his children. He believed in the power of education and attended Western University in Macomb IL, then later pursued and received his B.S. from University of Iowa

while courting Verna. Growing up on a farm, Fred understood farmers and many of the issues they face. After college, he continued farming in partnership with his father for a few years before setting out on an agriculture oriented career centered around serving the farming industry. In 1960, Fred formed Kruse Fertilizer Company. As extended droughts wrought havoc on farms in Mason County, in 1966 he formed Ag-Rain Irrigation Company to create solutions to those droughts. Fred and his partner Deane Behrends then merged the two companies under the one name of KIFCO in 1985. Through the years the company constantly up-dated their services and continued to introduce new machines and services for the irrigation and farming community. That company still employs locally and supports our community today. Fred's achievements weren't only recognized here at home. In 1998 at the annual Irrigation Expo and Conference in San Diego, CA, the National Irrigation Association awarded Fred the prestigious "Irrigation Industry Achievement" award for his outstanding contribution to the irrigation industry as a whole. He was a careful thinker, a planner, a quiet and steady soul, a loving and oh, so patient father and grandfather, and a solid pillar of the community. So few words; to encompass our many moments on this earth. He was a good human, and he leaves us with an influence that will not be forgotten by those whose lives he touched.

Visitation will be held on Friday July 27 from 3-5pm, with a brief memorial at 5pm at Hurley Funeral Home 217 North Plum St, Havana IL 62644. Online condolences can be made to the family at [www.hurleyfh.com](http://www.hurleyfh.com). Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association ([www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)), or to FARA at: Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance, 533 W. Uwchlan Ave, Downingtown, PA 19335. ([www.curefa.org/memorials](http://www.curefa.org/memorials)).

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JUL **27**. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Havana

217 North Plum Street

P.O. Box #648

Havana, IL 62644

(309) 543-2244

<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ Hurley Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Fred V. Kruse



Hurley Funeral Home - July 27, 2018 at 08:41 AM



“ Fred V. Kruse

October 12, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ Such a kind man, I am so sorry for the Kruse families loss.

Babe Hoover - August 02, 2018 at 02:35 PM



“ Dear Verna and Family. I served with Fred for many year on the Board of the State Bank of Havana and thought so highly of him. He was such an asset to the Bank . My thoughts and Prayers are with you. Eldon Becker

Eldon Becker - August 01, 2018 at 11:49 AM



“ Our father Richard Woodard befriended Fred over 50 years ago when their paths crossed through the fertilizer business. When our father closed his business and retired, Fred offered him a job at Kifco. Dad thoroughly enjoyed working for Fred and Dean for several years and after he retired from Kifco he would drive to Havana from Petersburg just to see all of the Kifco employees and Fred and Dean. Fred accomplished so much in his eighty one years of life. He was a wonderful man who our father always respected and greatly valued their friendship. May God bless Fred's family as they grieve his passing.

*Laura Woodard Heubner and Ann Woodard Ozella*

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**Laura Heubner** - August 01, 2018 at 09:13 AM



Christophe  
Collins

“ I'm so sorry, Kerstin and the rest of the family. Prayers for you and God Bless your father.

*C. Collins*

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**Christopher Collins** - July 27, 2018 at 11:01 AM



“ Wishing Fred's family comfort and peace in his memory. I was one of the Dental Hygienists at the practice in Peoria where Fred had appointments every 3 months. I always enjoyed Fred's visits...hearing about his travels and his work. I remember him sharing a picture of a hippopotamus "smiling" from one of his trips! Fred was a true gentleman and I am honored to have known him.  
*Deb Maxwell*

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**Debra Maxwell** - July 27, 2018 at 09:12 AM

ES

“ So sorry to hear of Fred's death. Sympathy to all of his family.



Elva Stigall - July 27, 2018 at 08:21 AM

LH

“ When we were in high school, Fred and I overhauled a car. We had it with the front end up on saw horses. Fred was sitting under it when his mom came out. She asked Fred what would happen if the car fell. He said "you'd have a little boy about a foot tall".

My sympathy.  
Leland Huber

Leland Huber - July 26, 2018 at 09:28 PM

JP

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Verna and the family. Fond memories of our trip to Kenya and Dubai with Fred and Verna. Pictures bring back many fond memories with down to earth people.

Joann Pickel - July 25, 2018 at 06:55 PM



“ Island Memories Casket Spray was purchased for the family of Fred V. Kruse.



July 25, 2018 at 05:17 AM



“ *Enduring Light Casket Spray was purchased for the family of Fred V. Kruse.*



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July 25, 2018 at 05:07 AM



“ *Kathy Foster lit a candle in memory of Fred V. Kruse*



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**Kathy Foster** - July 24, 2018 at 10:29 PM



“ *The Nelson Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Fred V. Kruse.*



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**The Nelson Family** - July 24, 2018 at 04:30 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Fred V. Kruse.*



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July 24, 2018 at 04:21 PM

HW

“ Our deepest condolences and prayers for you at this difficult time. As a friend and fellow Rotarian, I carry only fond memories. May the four winds carry him home.



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**Harry Wolin** - July 24, 2018 at 01:36 PM

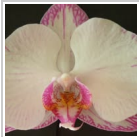
MS

“ I am very sorry for your loss. We grew up with Fred since our parents were close friends. Peace to you and family.

*Marilyn Huber Seacrost*

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**Marilyn Seacrist** - July 24, 2018 at 11:16 AM



“ My deepest condolences, I'm so sorry for your loss. Wish you all lots of strenght.  
*Paula*

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**Paula Gerdes** - July 24, 2018 at 10:47 AM

BC

“ *Becky Chaney lit a candle in memory of Fred V. Kruse*



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**Becky Chaney** - July 24, 2018 at 10:16 AM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Fred V. Kruse.*



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July 23, 2018 at 11:10 PM



“ *I will always remember Fred's smile, his kind words & thoughtful gestures (to those who had the pleasure to be in his company), his sincerity, his wisdom and the depth of his love for his family. He was a wonderful man and will be greatly missed by many. May you find peace and healing in your memories of Fred and comfort in the support of those around you. Much love and light to you all.*

*~ Tammy Hofer (Witherbee) & Family*

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**Tammy** - July 23, 2018 at 02:54 PM



“ *With our condolences, sorry for your loss....*



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**Lisa Thompson** - July 23, 2018 at 01:13 PM

NE

“ *Nancy Elliott lit a candle in memory of Fred V. Kruse*



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**Nancy Elliott** - July 23, 2018 at 12:54 PM