



Jozef Palimaka

March 1, 2025

The remarkable life of Jozef Palimaka has come to a peaceful close at his home in Port Lambton on Saturday, March 1, 2025. Jozef, son of Jan and Wiktoria (Zielinska), was born on May 9, 1926 in rural Poland near Krakow before the family moved to Eastern Poland (now Ukraine). At the outbreak of World War II, his family was torn from their home by the Russian Army, starting a treacherous journey that passed through the Siberian Gulags, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Iran before he joined the Polish Air Force and trained as an Aircraft Engine Mechanic in Palestine. In England, Jozef was eventually assigned to the famed Polish 303 Squadron. In 1955, Jozef and his wife Franciszka moved from England to Canada. Jozef was honoured to be Canadian and was proud to raise their family in a peaceful land. Settling in Wallaceburg, he honed his skill as a tool and die maker and co-founded Five Star Tool & Die Ltd. Jozef had an inquiring mind and he worked hard in order to ensure his children and grandchildren had every opportunity for higher education. Jozef took great pride in his Polish heritage and was a dedicated volunteer at the Polish Club in Chatham for many years. He was a dedicated member of the Polish Combatant's Association and was elevated by the Polish Airforce to the rank of honorary Lieutenant.

Jozef is predeceased by his beloved wife Franciszka (1995). He is survived by his brother Ken (Fila), and predeceased by his sister Helena (Ken) and brother Lou (Elizabeth). He is predeceased by his beloved daughter Renee, and he will be sadly missed by his children: John (the late Connie Johnson)

along with Connie's granddaughter Maggie; Richard and his partner Gale West along with his children Emily, Stefan and Katherine; Wesley and his wife Christine along with their daughter Jacqueline; Christopher; Zenia VanRuymbeke (the late Marshal) along with their children Jennifer and Tim; Alex and his wife Leslie along with their children Natalie, Megan and Dean. Jozef was loved by his great-grandchildren Madilyn, Seth, Evelyn, Autumn, Evan, and Matilda.

Jozef has been recognized by the Polish Government with the Gold Cross of Merit, the Knight's Cross of the Order of Poland Restituta, the Siberian Exiles Cross and he was scheduled to receive the Golden Medal of the Polish Armed Forces to recognize him as the last surviving member of 303 Squadron.

The family is truly grateful for the compassionate care provided by the professional staff from Care Partners, Victorian Order of Nurses (VON), the Doctors from St. Joseph's Hospice, as well as his devoted caregiver, son Chris.

Family and Friends will be received for visitation at the Haycock-Cavanagh Funeral Home, 409 Nelson Street in Wallaceburg (519-627-3231), on Thursday, March 6th from 5-8pm and on Friday, March 7th from 11am until 12:30pm. His Funeral Service will be celebrated at Our Lady Help of Christians Church on Friday at 1pm. If you wish to make a donation in his memory, his family would like you to consider either St. Joseph's Hospice (Sarnia) or the Canadian Polish Congress. Cherished stories and tributes may be left for the family at www.CavanaghFuneralHome.ca

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 6. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Haycock-Cavanagh Funeral Home
409 Nelson Street
Wallaceburg, ON N8A 4G9 (CA)
(519) 627-3231
contact@cavanaghfuneralhome.ca
<https://www.cavanaghfuneralhome.ca>

Visitation

MAR 7. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Haycock-Cavanagh Funeral Home
409 Nelson Street
Wallaceburg, ON N8A 4G9 (CA)
(519) 627-3231
contact@cavanaghfuneralhome.ca
<https://www.cavanaghfuneralhome.ca>

Funeral Service

MAR 7. 1:00 PM (ET)

Our Lady Help of Christians Church
422 Elgin Street
Wallaceburg, ON (CA)

Tribute Wall



“ Haycock-Cavanagh Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Jozef Palimaka



Haycock-Cavanagh Funeral Home - March 06, 2025 at 10:20 AM

“ Farewell to Mr. Jozef Palimaka
December 16, 2025

Polonia of Windsor-Essex bids farewell to one of the last WWII Veterans in our community – Mr. Jozef Palimaka, who passed away on March 1, 2025, at the age of 98.

A Siberian exile, soldier of the Polish Armed Forces and mechanic in the legendary 303 Polish Fighter Squadron, he was a true patriot who dedicated his life to Poland's freedom. After the war, Mr. Palimaka made Canada his home, becoming a respected entrepreneur and owner of his machinery manufacturing company – Four Stars in Chatham, which he led until his retirement in 1985. He was a member of the Polish Canadian Club in Chatham since 1955. He also belonged to the Polish Airmen's Association in Detroit. From 2002 until his death, he served on the Board of the Canadian Polish Congress Windsor-Chatham Branch. In 2012, he became a Board member of the Polish Canadian Business and Professional Association of Windsor.

Always noble, generous and involved in many initiatives supporting the Polish Canadian community, Mr. Palimaka was honored with numerous military and state decorations including the Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta in 2019.

He is dearly missed, and he leaves behind the a legacy of achievements that may inspire others.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his Family, Friends, and the entire Polish Canadian community all over Canada. May He Rest in Peace.



JB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jerry Barycki - March 22, 2025 at 08:01 PM

WT

“ My condolences to the family.

William Thorner - March 13, 2025 at 12:04 AM

DA

“ Danuta lit a candle in memory of Jozef Palimaka



Danuta - March 10, 2025 at 03:25 AM

JB

“ John & Teri Buda lit a candle in memory of Jozef Palimaka



John & Teri Buda - March 09, 2025 at 08:53 PM

JB

“ *John and Teri Buda lit a candle in memory of Jozef Palimaka*



John and Teri Buda - March 09, 2025 at 08:49 PM

AK

“ *Uncle Joe was a true Polish patriot. He never forgot his fatherland and came here almost every year. And then he always visited Krakow and us. We will miss him...*
Anna Kucala and family from Krakow, Poland



Anna Kucala - March 09, 2025 at 05:47 PM

WT

“ *My sincerest condolences to the Palimaka Family. Jozef was truly a great man, and excelled in everything he took on. So sorry i could not attend the service for Jozef.*

He will be remembered as one of the Good Ones.

Rest In Peace, Jozef.

Walter Tomaszewski - March 08, 2025 at 09:11 PM

LD

“ Liz and Mike Dunlop lit a candle in memory of Jozef Palimaka



Liz and Mike Dunlop - March 08, 2025 at 07:46 PM

DM

“ So sorry for your loss Zenia, and to your family



Dan & Donna Miskokomon - March 07, 2025 at 02:13 PM

GT

“ Very sorry Ric to learn of the passing of your father. I have always admired the Palimaka family, from grade school days when I would see you, many of your brothers and sisters and your parents at school events, to regular mass services week after week throughout our childhood, when I would see you all enter, led by your father. I saw a beautiful family and know that your parents were exceptional. Please convey the sympathies of Trish and I to all of your kin, and know that we are thinking of you at this difficult time.



Grady and Trish - March 07, 2025 at 12:24 PM

TW

“ Deepest condolences to the family.

Tad & Eugenia Wolanski - March 07, 2025 at 09:28 AM

MV

“ Dear Wes and Chrissy, and Zenia and your families, we are so sorry for your loss. You are all in our thoughts and prayers-Love, Mary and Lionel



Mary VanDamme - March 06, 2025 at 04:03 PM

MP

“ Sincere condolences to all the family. A life truly well lived. Thinking of you.

Margaret Palimaka - March 06, 2025 at 12:35 PM

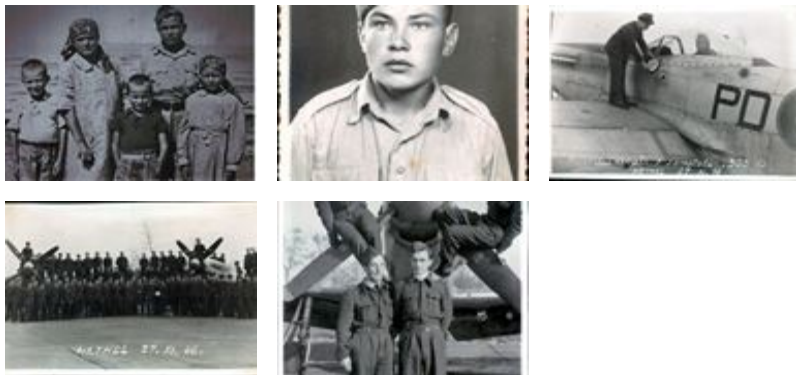
JS

“ My deepest sympathies to Chris and the Palimaka family on the loss of your father. His life was an extraordinary story of wartime hardship, patriotism, hard work and success and, above all, dedication and care of his family. It is an honour to have known him. My thoughts are with you during this sad time. Jan Slavik

J. Slavik - March 06, 2025 at 12:33 PM



“ 76 files added to the album Life Tributes



Haycock-Cavanagh Funeral Home - March 06, 2025 at 10:15 AM

DP

“ *He was my hero and a man I will always look up to sending my love and condolences from one soldier to another.*



Dillon palimaka - March 06, 2025 at 09:25 AM

OR

“ *To the Palimaka family: our condolences on the loss of your father. He tasted hardship, joy and pain and kept the faith through it all. Now he is resting in God's arms. A life well lived.*
Ed & Odra Riedl



Odra Riedl - March 06, 2025 at 09:05 AM

JM

“ I first met Joe when I was very young. John used to play with a neighbour a few doors down on Margaret Av who was a mutual friend of mine. Occasionally we would go with John to his house and I met the family. Little did I realize the relationship that we would share in the years to come. Joe became a customer of mine for many, many years. We always enjoyed speaking when he dropped by the office. He was such a gentleman.

Just a few years ago my wife and I were out for a drive and pulled into the cemetery north of Sombra, somewhere I had not visited before. There we found the stone marking Franciszka's grave. Although I was in no way responsible for Joe coming to Canada, I couldn't help but feel proud as I read the inscription on their stone. Joe described his gratitude for being accepted and welcomed into our country. I am glad that he was able to enjoy his adopted country for so long, having successfully created a business and employing many residents in our area.

My deepest sympathy goes out to the family.

Jim Myers - March 05, 2025 at 11:04 PM

CV

“ *Connie VanBellinghen lit a candle in memory of Jozef Palimaka*



Connie VanBellinghen - March 05, 2025 at 09:16 PM

DR

“ *Dear Wes and Chrissy,*

*Sending my deepest sympathy to you both
and your family. You are in my thoughts and
prayers,*

Deb Ryan



Deb Ryan - March 05, 2025 at 06:59 PM

BC

“ *Beth & Steve Coopman lit a candle in
memory of Jozef Palimaka*



Beth & Steve Coopman - March 05, 2025 at 06:20 PM

JM

“ *So sorry for your family's loss - the greatness
of a person can be measured in the legacy he
leaves - my thoughts and prayers are with
you during this time*



John Michiels - March 05, 2025 at 02:50 PM

LB

“ Sending love to all Uncle Joe's children, brother and family. Uncle Joe was a marvellous and inspirational man who we adored seeing. My thoughts are with you all loads of Love Lucy, Jake, Cadence, Lachlan and Martha (Maria Kolowska/Roper's Daughter)



lucy billington - March 05, 2025 at 01:53 PM

AR

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Andrzej Ruta - March 05, 2025 at 01:18 AM

SC

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts are with all of you.



Sherry (Rose) & David Crowe - March 04, 2025 at 09:48 PM

RY

“ Rose-Marie Yazbeck lit a candle in memory of Jozef Palimaka



Rose-Marie Yazbeck - March 04, 2025 at 09:13 PM

LP

“ *My Deepest condolences to Jacqueline and Family.*



Lisa Parker - March 04, 2025 at 05:53 PM

DC

“ *Wes and Chrissy, i'm so sorry to hear of your loss. May you find comfort in knowing he is in heaven. Thinking of you at this difficult time.* ❤️🙏

Diana Cornelis - March 04, 2025 at 05:39 PM

AH

“ *Sincere condolences to the Palimaka family. What a wonderful tribute to a life well lived as outlined in his obituary. May you find peace, comfort and blessings as you celebrate his life together.*

Anne Hazzard - March 04, 2025 at 03:43 PM

JE

“ *Sending our sincere condolences to the Palimaka family.
Thinking of you in the days ahead.
Jean & Dave Elliott*



Jean Elliott - March 04, 2025 at 02:35 PM

JS

“ With our deepest condolences -- Head
Executive Board of the Polish Combatants'
Association in Canada



J. Semrau - March 04, 2025 at 01:39 PM

DL

“ Don & Kris Lee lit a candle in memory of
Jozef Palimaka



Don & Kris Lee - March 04, 2025 at 12:52 PM

CF

“ Out heartfelt Sympathies and prayers are with
Jozef's family



Clarence & Cindy Feddes - March 04, 2025 at 12:03 PM

CM

“ We are very sorry for your loss



Chris & Chrissy Mahu - March 04, 2025 at 11:22 AM

KW

“ *K Wojtak lit a candle in memory of Jozef Palimaka*



K Wojtak - March 04, 2025 at 11:14 AM



“ *Sincere condolences to all the family, Joe was a very good respected man ,always a gentleman 🙏*



Margaret Aarsen - March 04, 2025 at 09:41 AM

LL

“ *Lee Van Landeghem lit a candle in memory of Jozef Palimaka*



Lee Van Landeghem - March 04, 2025 at 09:29 AM

JN

“ *Julie Nemeth lit a candle in memory of Jozef Palimaka*



Julie Nemeth - March 04, 2025 at 09:25 AM

GB

“ Gary & Janice Broidioi lit a candle in memory of Jozef Palimaka



Gary & Janice Broidioi - March 04, 2025 at 09:16 AM

GM

“ George McGaffey lit a candle in memory of Jozef Palimaka



George McGaffey - March 04, 2025 at 08:54 AM

DA

“ Our sincere condolences to all the family



Dennis and Annmarie Alexander - March 04, 2025 at 08:40 AM

SA

“ So sorry for your loss Zenia and family



Sue Anderson - March 04, 2025 at 08:38 AM

AS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Arleta Sziler - March 03, 2025 at 09:38 PM

AS

Veterans from Post 126 in Windsor want to express sympathy to the Jozef Palimaka Family!

WWII Veteran Josef Palimaka, was an active member of the Polish Army Veterans Association of America (PAVA), Post 126 in Windsor. He was respected and loved by the Veterans and Polish Communities in Windsor and Detroit. The above picture was taken when Canadian Defence Minister Anita Anand and MP Irek Kusmierczyk were visiting Polish Club Dom Polski in Windsor in April 2023. May his memory be blessed... We never forget our friend Jozef Palimaka!

Arleta Sziler - March 04, 2025 at 01:04 PM

GF

“ Gerry Flynn lit a candle in memory of Jozef Palimaka



Gerry Flynn - March 03, 2025 at 08:24 PM

JH

“ Zenia, kids and all the family, our sincere condolence

Jason and Tracy Hedden - March 03, 2025 at 06:14 PM

SU

“ *Uncle Joe was a remarkable person, a loving son of Poland, and a credit to his adopted country of Canada. I will always remember how much he and Aunt Fran enjoyed our visits when my siblings and I were kids---I don't know how they fit five more kids plus my parents into their house when we came to stay, but somehow they managed with grace, patience, and lots of great food! Sending love and condolences, Susan Howard*

Susan - March 03, 2025 at 05:48 PM

SU

“ *Susan lit a candle in memory of Jozef Palimaka*



Susan - March 03, 2025 at 05:29 PM

BR

“ *We were neighbors of the family when we were kids. My Mom would go and take care of the kids when their Mom was in the hospital with a new baby. Joe would come into the store where I worked and we would always have a chat about the old days. He was the most gentle soft spoken man I ever knew I am so sorry for your loss. Condolences to all the family.*

Brenda - March 03, 2025 at 05:24 PM

BS

“ *Brenda & Robert Stokes sent a virtual gift in memory of Jozef Palimaka*



Brenda & Robert Stokes - March 03, 2025 at 05:20 PM

EJ

“ *Eric And Sandra Johnston lit a candle in memory of Jozef Palimaka*



Eric and Sandra Johnston - March 03, 2025 at 05:17 PM