

[Subscribe Today](#)

Media Partner:

search:

[Ed Out](#) | [Log Out](#) | [PressPass Tips](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Advertise](#) | [News](#) 7 days 

# John Michael Kraft

[Classifieds](#)  
[Home News](#)  
[Opinion](#) [Obituaries](#)  
[Sports](#) [Celebrations](#)  
[Business](#)  
[Community](#)  
[Columnists](#)  
[Weather](#)  
[Entertainment](#)  
[Events](#)[Outdoors](#) [Food](#)  
[Features](#) [Teen Page](#)  
[Talk](#) [Agweek](#)  
[Prairie Business](#)  
[Magazine](#) [Photo](#)  
[Galleries](#) [Public](#)  
[Notices](#) [Associated](#)  
[Press](#)[Promotions](#)  
[Marketplace](#)  
[Newspaperprints](#)  
[Archive](#)[Member Center](#)  
[Company Site](#)  
[Contact Us](#)  
[Resources](#)  
[Subscribe](#)

XML

**REAL Cities****Published Monday, December 18, 2006**

## RELATED CONTENT



John Michael Kraft, 72, of Crookston, Minnesota, died at his home, Saturday evening, December 16, 2006.

John was born near Fisher, Minnesota on July 5, 1934, one of fifteen children of parents, Joseph and Elizabeth (Wald) Kraft. He enrolled in the Seminary in 1949, Illinois and then on December 29, 1954 entered the U.S. Army. He served overseas in Korea and following his honorable discharge on December 18, 1956 returned to Fisher, Minnesota to manage American Legion Post #242. John was united in marriage to Sandra Gunstinson on December 27, 1957 at the St. Francis Catholic Church in Fisher. The couple made their home in Grand Forks where John attended the University of North Dakota, majoring in English. After receiving his degree the family moved to Barnesville, Minnesota where he taught in the Elementary School. In 1965 John, Sandra, and their family moved to Richland Center, Wisconsin where he was employed by Wyeth Laboratories as a pharmaceutical sales representative. After several years he became an agent for the New York Life Insurance Company. For several years John coached the Richland Center American Legion Baseball Team. In 1978 the family returned to the Crookston-Fisher area and John was employed at the Polk County State Bank Insurance Agency. He later joined Emerson Insurance in Crookston as a part owner. John and Sandra moved to Grand Rapids, Minnesota, and after a few years relocated to Minneapolis where he was employed as an equipment adjuster for Anagram Inc. of St. Louis Park until his retirement in 2003. They returned to Crookston later that year. John had been battling cancer very courageously for the past two years. He was a member of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception parish in Crookston, a former member of St. Mary's Catholic Church at Richland Center, and a longtime member of the Knights of Columbus. John and Sandra were able to enjoy 48 years of marriage and the happy memories that came from their union. They also endured times of incredible sadness following the deaths of three of their children- Michael, who died shortly after his birth; Robert who was killed in an automobile accident; and Mary Lynn, who was also later, killed in an automobile accident. John will be remembered with great love by his family and many friends. Family members include his wife, Sandra; two sons and daughters-in-law, Craig and Cheryl Kraft of Seffner, FL, and Tom and Brenda Kraft of Crookston, MN; three grandchildren, Matthew (Lindsay)Kraft, Mary Kraft and Nicole Kraft; and a great-grandson, Landon ; six brothers and sisters-in-law, Leonard and Faye Kraft of Bellevue, WA, William and Joanne Kraft of Big Lake, MN, Kenneth and Eileen Kraft of Ham Lake, MN, James and Lois Kraft of Prior Lake, MN , Jerry and Sally Kraft of St. Louis Park, MN , and Ronald and Karen Kraft of

Text Size:

[A](#) [A](#) [A](#) [Print this article](#) [Email this article](#) [Most popular articles](#)

Champlain, MN ; seven sisters and five brothers-in-law, Sr. Lorraine Kraft of the Mount Saint Benedict Monastery in Crookston, Rose and John Schmitz of Thief River Falls, MN, Mary Ann and Tom Tubbs of Albert Lea, MN , Kathy and Bill Henry of Plymouth, MN , Karen and Don Atkinson of Burnsville, MN, Rita and Gerald Pigarelli of Sun Prairie, WI, and Angie Kraft of Plymouth ; a brother-in-law, Bill Page of Oak Creek, WI ; and several nieces, nephews, and other relatives. John also leaves his mother-in-law, Helen Gunstinson of Crookston; three sisters-in-law, Stephanie (Paul) Egeland and Jennifer (Ronald) Haggerty, of Fisher, MN, and Patricia (Bill) Roy of Santa Maria, CA; and a brother-in-law, Gerald (Pat) Gunstinson of Santa Barbara, CA. Besides his children- Michael, Robert, and Mary Lynn, John was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Elizabeth; a sister, Betty Page; his father-in-law, Ernest Gunstinson; and a brother-in-law, Vernon Gunstinson. May God bless John's memory. The funeral service for John Kraft will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, December, 21, 2006, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Crookston with the Rev. Bob Schreiner, presiding. Visitation will be at the Stenshoel-Houske Funeral Home on Wednesday from 5-7 p.m., with a 7 p.m. prayer service, and also for one hour prior to the funeral. Military Honors will be provided by the Crookston Veterans Council. Interment will be in the family plot in the Calvary Cemetery in Crookston.

[News](#) | [Weather](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Business](#) | [jobsHQ](#) | [carsHQ](#) | [apartmentsHQ](#)  
[Comments/Questions](#) | [Advertising Information](#) | [FCC Careers](#) | [Privacy Statement](#) | [Terms & Conditions](#)  
[Archives](#) | [Make Us Your Homepage](#)

[Forum Communications Company](#)

© 2006 Forum Communications Co. Fargo, ND 58102 — All rights reserved

Grand Forks Herald  
375 2nd Ave. N.  
Grand Forks, ND 58206-6008