



Roger Timko

July 20, 1949 - March 6, 2024

Roger Michael Timko passed away at home on March 6, 2024, from pancreatic cancer. Before he died, he told everyone, "I had 74+ good years and a couple bad bad months."

Funeral services will take place Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Storm Lake, Iowa. Burial will be at a later date in the St. Mary's Cemetery. Visitation will be held Wednesday, March 13, 2024 from 5-7:00 p.m. at Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in STORM LAKE. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Roger began his 74+ years on July 20, 1949, when he was born to Michael and Irene (Pedemont) Timko in Berlin, Connecticut. He stayed on the east coast until he came to Iowa to attend college in LeMars. Roger received a B.A. with a major in English and a minor in Sociology from Westmar College where he also played football. Roger was very proud of the fact that he was the first Timko to have achieved a four-year degree. His intent was to become a teacher; however, God had a different path.

Upon his graduation from college in 1972, Roger became a Special Agent with the Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement (DNE), a division within the Iowa Department of Public Safety. He worked undercover from 1972-1985.

His physical appearance then was quite different from the one he sported later in life! He used various names but the one that was most dear to his Colts' heart was Bert Jones. (Bert Jones was a quarterback for the Colts for those of you who do not know this.) Roger recalls this time in his career as "exciting", but he also admitted it took a toll on him emotionally.

In 1986, Roger transferred to the Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI). Here he investigated homicides and felonies which included Felony Sexual assaults, Racketeering, Armed Robbery, Fraud and Public Corruption. It was the investigation of the death of a toddler at the hands of the toddler's drunk driving father that stayed with him the most. This also led to Roger becoming somewhat of teetotaler – drinking only for toasts at his children's weddings and other rare but special occasions.

Roger remained with the DCI until 1994 when he returned to DNE as a Drug Diversion investigator. This assignment dealt with the investigation of Pharmaceuticals. Roger also had a one-year special assignment investigating Pari-mutual gambling.

Roger retired in 2004. During his career in law enforcement, he was most proud of the fact that he made 1100 felony arrests. He enjoyed law enforcement immensely and would say he never regretted becoming a law enforcement officer instead of a teacher.

From 2015 to 2017, Roger worked as a Victim Advocate for victims of felony crimes through the Family Crisis Center. The agency, known as WISH (Western Iowa Survivors of Homicide), assisted victim of homicide and other violent crimes to navigate the criminal justice system and how to receive victim services. This was the "other side" of law enforcement and Roger loved it.

Roger did put his teaching degree to use throughout his 74+ good years. He taught at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy for over 25 years. He taught at Western Iowa Tech as an adjunct professor in criminology. Roger was engaged in the Iowa Attorney General Mandatory Training Assistance program which annually certified police officers for the State of Iowa. Roger was asked to conduct many trainings around the state and enjoyed speaking at various state and local agencies.

His profession was not the only thing that gave Roger joy in his 74+ years, and, ironically, it was his profession that led him to his wife of 32 years, Mary. Roger was working on a search warrant for the Johnson County Attorney's office in Iowa City. Mary was an assistant county attorney at the time. She thought he was handsome so she asked the attorney originally working on the search warrant if she could help Roger with it. That led to a relationship and marriage that lasted over 35 years.

Mary had 2 sons when she and Roger were married, Benjamin and Joseph McCollum. He took his role as stepfather to these two young boys very seriously. Roger never saw Ben and Joey as anything other than his sons. He would often say, "My heart can't tell the difference between a stepson and a biological son." He loved them with a genuine love of a father for his sons and helped guide them through life's many journeys. He always referred to them as his "sons."

In 1994, Mary and Roger had a daughter, Mary Rose. She was clearly the apple of his eye. Whatever she wanted, it seemed her father would get her, even if it meant an 11th hour enrollment at Buena Vista University or finding her a car that wasn't red.

Roger listed seeing Ben, Joey, and Mary Rose graduate from college as three

of his very proudest moments.

Some of Roger's greatest memories were family vacations. No matter where they travelled, there was always a sporting event associated with that trip. Whether it was a baseball field at the inaugural season of the Miami Marlins, tickets to the Milwaukee Bucs or Minnesota Timberwolves games, seats for the Vikings, Chiefs, or Hawkeyes, every vacation had a sporting element to it. Indianapolis did triple duty – the Colts game, a Pacers game and a visit to the Indy 500 track and museum. A trip out to visit relatives in Connecticut allowed for a Hartford Whalers hockey game and, dare I mention, a Patriots game. If there was a football training camp close by, we were there. Even Mary Rose got to go observe a Chiefs training camp when she was in a stroller and “met” Marty Schottenheimer. Roger just shook his head when Mary swooned over seeing Marcus Allen.

The trip to Jamaica in 2001 did not involve an organized sporting event but was eventful nonetheless. Roger thought it was a good idea to grant permission to Joey and Ben, 17 and 20 years old respectively, to go, unaccompanied by anyone, to the SumFest Concert which was held off the resort grounds and in another town on the island. That year featured Snoop Dogg, Alicia Keys and Ja Rule among others. It was at this concert that Snoopy Dogg, Ja Rule and another performer were arrested for swearing on stage. Mary still scratches her head and wonders how she let that happen.

With the entry of his beloved and “can do no wrong” daughters-in-law, Michelle and Emily, and son-in-law, Bobby Ivey, the whole family began to take family vacations to Branson. There were no sporting events here, but the activities in which we engaged were much tamer than Jamaica. These vacations were something that Roger looked forward to. It was his duty to take Joey and buy the best steaks for steak night. There were many shows to attend. He “met” the Blues Brothers which was a highlight for him. He really

enjoyed the guys' golfing day and just hanging out at the resort.

Roger loved all things sports. Anyone who ever drove by our house when the garage door was open or encountered Roger out and about knows that Roger loved the Indianapolis/Baltimore Colts. He loved the Colts since he was a young boy living in Connecticut and Johnny Unitas was the Colts quarterback. One of his favorite memories was being able to meet Dallas Clark in person. And one of his funniest tales was of Mary Rose pointing to a picture of Roger with a young man and commenting that she was assisting in redecorating "that man's house." She had no idea "that man" was Dallas Clark with her dad in the picture until Bobby told her.

Roger was also a diehard Yankee's fan. If you look closely in the garage, you will see some Yankee memorabilia strewn therein. On "jersey day" on one of the family vacations in Branson, Roger, Mary and granddaughter, Grace, sported Yankee Jerseys. Roger loved that.

The Colts were not Roger's only tie to Indianapolis. He attended the Indy 500 every year for over 50 years with one break. He had the same 2 seats every year and would invite family and friends to go along. It was at the Indy 500 that Roger asked Mary to marry him. When the announcer said, "Drivers start your engines," Roger proposed to Mary and then gave a thumbs up to his friends across the way when she said yes.

Roger loved golfing. If the weather were decent, in other words, very little snow on the ground, he would be golfing. He would often golf alone so he could skip around to various holes. He truly enjoyed the camaraderie of his golf cronies with whom he played in what he affectionately called "the geezer league.". He got 3 holes-in-one during the last five years – all witnessed. But his favorite golf companion around Storm Lake was Joey – wherever they ended up playing. Roger made the annual trip to Mozingo in Maryville,

Missouri for the NWMSU men's basketball fundraiser, the annual police officer's golf tournament in Waverly, Iowa, and the annual Buena Vista County Sheriff's Department tournament.

One of Roger's most passionate pastimes was going for a motorcycle ride on nice days. He had BMWs and, recently, purchased a Honda Gold Wing. You would never see him on cycle without a helmet, and one of those helmets even had a Colts emblem on it. He went motorcycling throughout the United States and would love to describe the scenery he saw. Roger went to Sturgis quite a few times and always brought back a patch that read "I rode mine all the way."

Roger had a soft spot for animals. He had many dogs in his lifetime as well. He had a drug dog, "Mike" that he took in after Mike could no longer perform his duties. Although neither he nor Mary were particularly "cat" people, they rescued their share of them throughout the years. It was a rare thing if Roger actually ever called a dog or cat by their "given" name – often resorting to calling them a name that was some version of their color. As Roger was dying, his cat "Little Red" (who is no longer little) stood sentinel. Red rarely left the room in which Roger was sleeping and became quite upset with anyone who tried to move Red off of his chair next to Roger.

Roger so proud of all of his children. He relished in telling people about Ben's success in coaching at NWMSU. He was particularly bummed that one of the D2 National Championships was cancelled due to Covid as he was sure Ben would have won a National Championship – again.

Roger was also proud to tell people that Joey is the State Farm agent in Sac City. (Believe it or not, while at the hospital for his last time, Roger was drumming up business for Joey . He told a nurse's aide who daughter was

turning driver's age that she needed to check with Joey about car insurance.)

His baby girl, Mary Rose, could pretty much do anything she wanted – work as an interior decorator or be a stay-at-home mom. He was proud of her Sacrifice of Praise podcast and the faith that she spreads through this medium.

One of Roger's most enduring qualities was his generosity. His mailbox was full of solicitations from animal charities to which he had contributed. One of his last full sentences was a directive to Mary to donate to the Shriner's hospital and St. Jude's Hospital for children. Roger offered up his suffering at the end of his life for those children.

Friends and family were also on the receiving end of his generosity. Just let it be known to Roger any sporting team you liked, and he would accommodate you along the way with a jersey, a plaque, a signed photo, or other memorabilia from that team. He loved doing that. Additionally, when family members and various friends were in need, he did not hesitate to send some needed cash and would tell Mary to send some to her family and friends in need.

But perhaps the highlight of Roger's life was watching his children and grandchildren perform. He went to middle school, high school and college games and activities. He loved the fact that the Bearcats and Spoofhounds were streamed live and he could watch when he wasn't there in person. Roger was proud to talk about Peyton and Tate's athletic acumen at every sport possible to anyone who would listen. He marveled at Grace's grace when dancing at dance competitions. Roger was there when "Coach Mac's" Northwest Missouri State Bearcats won their 4 national titles. He sat through every Tornado football game, including the out of towners, in which Joey played.

Roger loved his 74+ years of life. He became more and more spiritual as his life went on. He prayed often for his family and for those less fortunate than he. He loved going to church and regretted any time he missed. In his last days, he would pick up his crucifix and look at it and shake his head “yes.”

I would say that Roger did, in fact, have 74+ good years. He made many friends throughout his lifetime. Amazingly, even when he had very little strength, he phoned many of them to ask them to be pallbearers at his funeral. Unfortunately, Roger wasn't able call them all personally.

Although Roger was able to accomplish most of his goals in life, there was one goal that Roger will never be able to complete - to take Mary Bloom (Bloomie) and Augie to the ice cream store in Storm Lake “every day” after they move back to Storm Lake. I know for sure he would have accomplished that goal with or without Bobby and Mary's permission. So, I guess it is up to Mary to make sure this happens.

Roger is survived by the love of life, his wife, Mary, of 31 years and 11 months. Roger and Mary shared many interests including a love of rock and roll music. Together they attended many concerts including the Eagles, the Doobie Brothers, Fleetwood Mac, Cher, Rod Stewart and Joe Cocker, among others. They waited in line in the rain at the Clay County Fair to see Foreigner only to have it be cancelled 15 minutes after it was set to start. Roger was so proud of the fact that Mary was a judge and would tell anyone he met that he was the one who encouraged her to take the judicial position in the Third Judicial District even though she had never lived there. He spent the last months of his life making sure that Mary would be taken care of after his death.

He is also survived by son, Benjamin McCollum and his wife, Michelle and

their 3 children, Peyton, Tate and Grace of Maryville Missouri; by son, Joseph McCollum and his wife, Emily, of Sac City, Iowa; and daughter, Mary Rose Ivey and her husband, Robert, and their children, Mary Bloom (“Little Mary” to him) and Augustine Michael (Augie) of Fargo, North Dakota (soon to be Storm Lake); sister, Elaine McCarthy of Berlin, Ct. as well as sisters-in-law, Linda Boss, Judith Heller and her husband, Patrick, Laurie Quintero and brothers-in-law, Tom and Ed Benish, and many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews.

Roger was preceded in death by his mother and father, Irene and Michael Timko, his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Mary Dolores and Raymond Benish, brothers-in-law, Bill McCarthy and W. Andrew Boss and sister-in-law, Pam Benish as well as nephew, Adam Benish.

74+ years well lived indeed.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery

1238 600th St.
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 13. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Storm Lake
1615 W Milwaukee Ave,
Storm Lake, IA 50588
(712) 732-1911
jensenfuneralhomes@gmail.com
<https://www.fratzkejensen.com>

Funeral Service

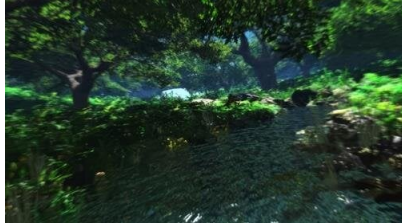
MAR 14. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church -- Storm Lake
320 Seneca Street
Storm Lake, IA

Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Roger Timko*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - March 13, 2024 at 10:52 AM

SM

“ *I miss my friend and so do a lot of other people R.I.P*



Steph Mickelson - March 30, 2025 at 06:35 PM

JK

“ *Mary & family,*

*So very sorry to hear of Roger's passing. He was a very interesting person and this is definitely the best account of someone's life I have ever read! In my time years ago working for the assistant county attorney's office, I could tell that he loved his job and his wife & family very much. What a wonderful outlook on life he had and this area was very blessed to have him here.
You have my sympathy & prayers.*

JoLee King

JoLee King - April 02, 2024 at 05:22 PM

NB

“ *Mary, I was so sorry to read of Roger's passing. May love and cherished memories help to heal your loss.*

Nancy Baumgartner

Nancy Baumgartner - March 20, 2024 at 03:05 PM

BI

“ *Roger was one of my first DCI agents as a new prosecutor in Muscatine County in 1981. Professionalism and Roger Timko mean the same thing.*

Bruce A. Ingham - March 15, 2024 at 03:01 PM

CR

“ *Mary, I send my condolences on the untimely death of Roger. Wishing you the best after your loss. Cory Ritchie*

Cory Ritchie - March 14, 2024 at 11:32 AM

KS

“ *Roger and I spent a lot of time traveling across the state teaching law enforcement officers about changes in narcotics law and improvements in investigation techniques. I couldn't ask for a more knowledgeable training partner or fun companion. We usually managed to schedule a round of golf in and a couple of cigars on our travel days, followed by a relaxing meal and conversation. I learned how much Roger truly loved his wife and kids when he spoke of their achievements. Even after retirement, we continued to get together for some golf and cigars, until my health issues prevented that in the last couple of years. Roger was a good friend and will be dearly missed.*

Kevin B. Struve, former Assistant Attorney General

Kevin Struve - March 13, 2024 at 04:28 PM



“ Lisa Mazurek & Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Roger Timko.



Lisa Mazurek & Family - March 13, 2024 at 04:24 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Roger Timko.



March 13, 2024 at 11:17 AM



“ 156 files added to the album LifeTributes



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - March 13, 2024 at 10:45 AM

TF

“ *The Peterson/ Meyer families purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Roger Timko.*



The Peterson/ Meyer families - March 13, 2024 at 09:01 AM

JB

“ *Jeff & Mary Petersen (go Badgers) purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Roger Timko.*



Jeff & Mary Petersen (go Badgers) - March 12, 2024 at 04:58 PM

AB

“ *Mary and family:*

*For each hour of your loneliness, I wish you a day of comfort;
For each minute of grief, a year of peace;
And for every tear, a thousand reasons to smile.*

Thinking of you during this sad time and hoping that warm memories will ease your sadness and comfort your heart.

Sincerely, Ann Brodersen, Sioux City

Ann Brodersen - March 12, 2024 at 10:31 AM

KM

“ Our prayers are with the Timko family- Mary, Ben/Michelle, Joe/Emily, Mary Rose/Robert during such a difficult time. Cherish the many memories you made together as a family and never forget the love he had for all of you.
Kevin & Julie McKinney



Kevin & Julie McKinney - March 12, 2024 at 10:17 AM

MS

“ Mike & Alisa Phillips, Kari & Devang Shah purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Roger Timko.



Mike & Alisa Phillips, Kari & Devang Shah - March 12, 2024 at 09:12 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Roger Timko.



March 11, 2024 at 11:34 PM

BK

“ *Mary and family,
It has been an honor for me and my family to have known Roger for the past 38 years. I became a DCI agent in 1985 and my first assignment was narcotics enforcement. Little did I know that the person I was replacing was “ a legend”. It was not easy following in Roger’s footsteps but he immediately embraced me and became a mentor, confidant and lifelong friend. His generosity and friendship extended to my wife and my sons, Jeff and Dave. A visit from Roger always included sports memorabilia for my sons and they will keep and cherish those forever. The sports memorabilia he has given me adorn the walls of my basement and are without a question some of the most special things I own. I will never forget the golf outings, the bowl games we watched together and especially the races we attended together. I’m honored to be the person who got to go with Roger to his final Indy 500.
Mary and family, please know that Roger was loved by many, including me and my family. He was a rare and wonderful man who will be missed everyday. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.
Bill and Judy Kietzman*

Bill Kietzman - March 11, 2024 at 11:33 PM

DS

“ *Mary and Family,
Was so sorry to hear of Roger losing his life so early! I had great memories of working with him when a trooper in eastern Iowa and his assistance as I was promoted thru the years! Any time we ran into each other Roger always knew you and was a dear friend! Looked forward to his positive outlook on life and jovial comments, always had something to say.
Roger was a true friend and Deb and I will miss him greatly! Doug and Deb Stream*

Doug Stream - March 11, 2024 at 02:16 PM

DP

“ DNE Zone 2 Past and Present planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Roger Timko.

DNE Zone 2 Past and Present - March 11, 2024 at 10:06 AM

DP

“ DNE Zone 2 Past and Present purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Roger Timko.



DNE Zone 2 Past and Present - March 11, 2024 at 10:06 AM

DP

“ Don Diane Porter lit a candle in memory of Roger Timko



Don and Diane Porter - March 11, 2024 at 09:37 AM

DP

“ Our sympathy goes out to you Mary and family in the loss of Roger, a neighbor of 20 years. He really was a generous and giving man. He was intelligent and witty with many good stories, which were shared with us in our backyards. We were also often the recipients of his favorite cupcakes from Aurelia, or breads from the farmers market. Thank you, Roger, for all of the good and interesting visits! We will really miss seeing and visiting with you.

Don & Diane Porter - March 11, 2024 at 09:36 AM

BM

“ Bill Missman planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Roger Timko.

Bill Missman - March 10, 2024 at 11:44 AM

BM

“ Bill Missman purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Roger Timko.



Bill Missman - March 10, 2024 at 11:44 AM

JS

“ Sorry to hear of Roger's passing. lots of great stories and laughs at Abner Belle's and the golf course. I'm sure Roger is already rubbing elbows with the elites. RIP my friend

Jason Stoltzfus - March 09, 2024 at 10:24 PM

AG

“ Mary and family sorry for your loss, thinking of you with lots of prayers. Ann and Carol Grundmeier



Ann and Carol Grundmeier - March 09, 2024 at 11:46 AM

TC

“ After reading Roger’s life story one would have to agree with him....he lived an amazing life. Debonair looks...stylish dresser... always had time for a conversation. He and Mary were a striking couple together and perfectly matched. My Dad really enjoyed golfing with him and the other “geezers.” Seems he left the legacy he desired... a family that loved him deeply and friends that will always remember him ✨ God Bless, Roger.

Tim/Pegi Cavanaugh - March 09, 2024 at 09:50 AM

KM

“ My sympathy to you all! Roger was quite a guy!



Kay Marvin - March 09, 2024 at 12:14 AM

RS

“ Mary, my condolences to you and the family on the departure of one guy that I was proud to know and work with. The tribute written for him is spot on and I know he will be watching over you guys just like he did in life. Working with him undercover, or at the office or driving Lt. Harry crazy he enjoyed what he did and was very good at it. He even looked like Serpico. He always had my back and provided me with good advice about the business and people. Please take care and be safe.

Rick SyWassink

Rick SyWassink - March 08, 2024 at 10:11 PM

SM

“ Roger was a great friend we use to go to the Sprint car races in Spencer Iowa and the Indy lights in eastern Iowa and on occasion Going to Jackson Minnesota and others.
Going to miss him a lot. R.I.P Roger my friend.

Steph /Sharon Mickelson - March 08, 2024 at 06:43 PM

AS

“ Andy Smith planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Roger Timko.

Andy Smith - March 08, 2024 at 05:04 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Roger Timko.



March 08, 2024 at 05:04 PM

DZ

“ Deborah Zerfoss lit a candle in memory of Roger Timko



Deborah Zerfoss - March 08, 2024 at 04:49 PM

PF

“ *Peg Flynn lit a candle in memory of Roger Timko*



Peg Flynn - March 08, 2024 at 03:13 PM

DS

“ *I am so sorry Mary for your loss of Roger. My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family for God to give you strength and comfort at this time.*

Dewyne Stucynski - March 08, 2024 at 03:01 PM

DS

“ *Dewyne Stucynski lit a candle in memory of Roger Timko*



Dewyne Stucynski - March 08, 2024 at 02:55 PM