



Nicholas D. "Nick" Popovich

October 28, 1955 - November 13, 2018

Nicholas D. Popovich, 63, of Battle Creek passed away on Tuesday, November 13th, 2018 at his home surrounded by his family after bravely fighting cancer for over seven months. He was a wonderful husband, loving father, and fabulous brother and uncle.

Nick was born on October 28th, 1955 in Battle Creek to Thomas and Madalyn (Ensley) Popovich. He graduated from Battle Creek Central High School in 1973 and went on to play baseball at Glenn Oaks Community College. On November 5th, 1988 he married, his best friend and love of his life, Shelli D. Jones in Battle Creek.

Nick worked for the Kellogg Company for 27 years. He was a member of the Kellogg 25 year Club, Battle Creek Area Amateur Baseball Association Wall of Fame inductee and former member of Saint Paul Lutheran Church. When he was younger, Nick was an avid baseball player who played for the Phillies organization for nearly 10 years. Nick enjoyed working out, playing cribbage and euchre, and working in his yard. He especially treasured the time spent with his girls and taking vacations.

He is survived by his wife Shelli of Battle Creek; daughters, Erika (Jimmy Lorraine) Popovich of Williamston and Lexi (Michael Damon) Popovich of Battle Creek; siblings, Penny (Brett) Formsma, Leslie (Mike) Smith, David Popovich all of Battle Creek, and Tom (Pam) Popovich of Mishawaka, Indiana. He was preceded in death by his parents and his aunt Smilia Popovich.

Family will greet friends on Saturday, November 17th, 2018 from 4-7pm at the Battle Creek Chapel of the Kempf Family Funeral and Cremation Services 2838 Capital Ave. SW Battle Creek. Funeral services celebrating his life will take place at 4pm on Sunday, November 18th, 2018 at the Battle Creek Chapel of the Kempf Family Funeral and Cremation Services with Pastor Ray Brandon officiating. Following the funeral service, there will be a Celebration of Life at Riverside Country Club with dinner, music, stories, and laughter. A private family interment will take place at Floral Lawn Memorial Gardens on Monday November 19th, 2018. Family requests memorial contributions to Meals on

Wheels in Battle Creek or Angel Cheeks Foundation, a foundation that helps families in financial need give their young child a proper memorial service. Assistance with memorials is available at the Kempf Family Funeral and Cremation Services.

Comments



“ So glad Nick crossed my path. He's left me with some childhood memories of good times on the diamond. To Tom and family, I'm sure we'll see him again. GOD bless you all

Doug Brown - December 19, 2018 at 11:07 AM



“ I am so very very sorry to hear Of Nicks passing. What a great man he is along with the whole Popovich family. Many prayers and love to all. Truly so so sad.

Roxanne Galli

Roxanne Galli - November 22, 2018 at 04:58 PM



“ "Very devastated by the loss of a great friend in Nick Popovich. He was a man's man in every aspect and treated everyone with respect and kind words yet had a wonderful quick wit to make your day. The visitation & funeral were heavily attended showing just how much Nick was loved by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. He was a fantastic husband and father to 2 wonderful daughters who Nick will always be watching over. I have so many memories of playing with and against Nick over the years in the Stan Musial baseball league and watching him become one of BC's finest ever to come across the baseball diamonds. It was a pleasure this past summer to see him get into the BC Sports Wall of Fame in Bailey Park along with his brother Tom. It was an honor overdue & so well deserved.

RIP Nick and now the biggest U of Michigan football fan is now residing above in the heavens pulling for the Maize & Blue to beat Ohio State this Saturday.

Gary Katz Family
Battle Creek, MI

Gary O. Katz - November 21, 2018 at 04:29 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy to the Popovich and Jones families. My husband and I knew Nick for many years both in his early years and we all worked together at Kellogg's. So sad, a great loss.
Don & Lynn Hayes.

lynn hayes - November 20, 2018 at 06:25 AM



“ So sorry for your loss. We will miss seeing Nick at Paseo and have great memories of hanging out on our lanai enjoying his company. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Donna, Dave and JD Hill

Hill Family - November 18, 2018 at 09:26 AM



“ What a great, great guy. As a neighbor of Big Tom's family for a number of years, I was able to stay in touch with Nick, and Tom and his sisters. I loved the stories his mom and dad told about all his kids. He was so proud of them all, and Nick lead the way. As someone said, "So talented, and yet so humble." Know that your family is in my thoughts.

Gary Bundy - November 17, 2018 at 08:49 AM



“ A sad day and a great loss. Our fellow classmate and gifted athlete will be missed by all who knew him. So talented but yet so humble. I remember skating with him and his sisters at Irving park when we were in school. What great times. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire family.

Jeff and Barb Shouldice BCCHS 73

Jeffrey Shouldice - November 17, 2018 at 08:46 AM



“ Our deepest condolences to the entire Popovich family. Nick was an amazing first baseman who I had the priviledge of playing with in the city league. He will be missed by many and always remembered as a great man. Chris and Susan Doyle

Chris and Susan Doyle - November 16, 2018 at 10:38 PM



“ Nick was one of the most gifted baseball talents to come from Battle Creek he was such a joy to watch. His beautiful sister Leslie would give the referees a big shout out if she felt they gave her brother or anyone else on the team a bad call I really believe she knew more than they did it was fun to watch! I remember that Nick was so humble even though he was one of the best players around. May the peace and love of God surround the Popovich family at this time and always. The Keelan Family

Diane Keelan - November 16, 2018 at 03:11 PM



“ My prayers and most sincere condolences to the family. Nick and I played together in high school and summer baseball. His dad as coach...the some of the best memories of my life.

Marvin Austin - November 16, 2018 at 01:05 PM



“ We are so sorry to hear about your loss. Our prayers are with the family.
Billy/Heather Presgrave

presgraves - November 16, 2018 at 12:14 PM



“ Shelli, Erika, Lexi and family,
Our deepest sympathy to you.

The Birds

Mary Bird - November 15, 2018 at 08:10 PM



“ Deepest sympathy to to Popovich family.

Donna/Terry Lawrence - November 15, 2018 at 02:36 PM



“ My sincere condolences to the family. Nick was a great teammate of mine at Glen Oaks C.C. And a tough opponent. He as a Phillie and me as a Red. He was a tough out! One of the truly nicest guy's I've known. Your pain is gone, but your memory never will be. I will be praying for the family. Bruce Berenyi

Bruce Berenyi - November 15, 2018 at 02:24 PM



“ My condolences to Nick's Family n Friends! Great Man n Sportsmanship! Danny Byers

Danny Byers - November 15, 2018 at 02:15 PM



“ Nick was one of the most talented baseball players to come out of Battle Creek and a joy to watch. Leslie used to give the referees a big shout out if they made a bad call against her sweet brother, I believe she really knew more than most the referees knew! Our Hearts and Prayers are with the entire Popovich family at this time. The Keelan Family!

Diane Keelan - November 16, 2018 at 02:54 PM



“ My best memory of Nick is back when we both played for the Battle Creek Mets, under his Dad Tom as coach.. Nick was such talented infielder, it was around then we referred to him as "the human vacuum cleaner". It was an honor to have known him. May God bless and comfort all of Nick's family and friends.

Kevin Arms - November 15, 2018 at 01:49 PM



“ Shelli and Family,

Love to you and your family. So sorry.

Rick and Heather Jensen

Heather Jensen - November 15, 2018 at 01:41 PM



“ Penny, Leslie, Jeff, Shelli
I am so sorry to learn about Nicks passing he was a good guy and will be missed my thoughts and prayers go out to all of you during this very difficult time

Jason Lee - November 15, 2018 at 01:36 PM



“ Condolences to Shelly and the entire family. Nick was a great ball player and great man. Always had something kind to say.
Rest In Peace!
Bruce and Anne Barea

Bruce Barea - November 15, 2018 at 12:59 PM



“ Condolences to Shelly and the entire family. He will be missed by all that knew him.
Tom and Nancy Bommersbach

Tom Bommersbach - November 15, 2018 at 11:40 AM

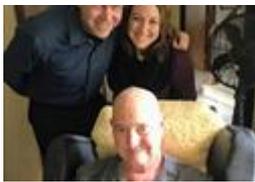


“ I am blessed to have known this amazing man. Although it was only for a short time, he taught me so much about life and unconditional love. What a courageous battle he fought. I loved his positive energy and had so many laughs during our visits.

Shelli, Erika, Jimmy, Lexi, and Mike,

Your family is incredible and the way you all supported each other through all of this is truly inspiring. I am so deeply sorry for your pain and sorrow and I pray for peace and strength for all of you. Remember the good times, the laughs, and everything he did to make life special. Love you all so much!

Amy (and Rick)



Amy Bates - November 15, 2018 at 09:39 AM



“ So sad to hear of Nicks passing. Sending prayers and hugs to Shelli and girls. Rest In Peace Nick.

dianne Hyslop - November 15, 2018 at 09:15 AM



“ 11 files added to the album High School Photos



Dave Bell - November 15, 2018 at 09:08 AM



“ Shelli, Erika, Lexi, Mike and Jimmie -

I cannot put into words the impact that this man had on my life. Male role models were easy to come by being part of the Popovich family....and Nick was the best. When I was little, he was taller than life, loved to work out and always had time for

Jeff, Brooke and I. He shared his love of Grape Nuts and Cream of Wheat with me at the kitchen table on many occasions, and I felt so special for it. He was so kind and genuinely cared for us. I am a better person and view life just a little bit sweeter because he was in it. Thank you for sharing him with Madaline and I these last few short months....those were memories Maddie and I will never forget.

Love to you all-

Courtney (Arms) and Madaline Hoelscher

Courtney Arms - November 15, 2018 at 08:44 AM



“ Our thought and prayers with all. Nick had a wonderful smile and a infectious laughter.. Mary and Patti

Patti Dowding - November 15, 2018 at 08:24 AM



“ Although I didn't personally know you, I will always remember you as part of my childhood, growing up and going to Bailey Park, to watch baseball and especially the Stan Musial World Series. Thank you for being part of my childhood and may you RIP, sir.

Todd Markos - November 15, 2018 at 06:37 AM



“ Deepest Sympathy to all the family. RIP Nick.
We met you all in Fort Myers and may all your great memories get you through.
Sending prayers .
Doug and Carol House from Canada



Carol House - November 15, 2018 at 06:31 AM



“ Nick was a great person and a super baseball player. I remember watching him and his brothers play in the Stan Musial World Series back in the 80's. May you RIP Nick. Sending thoughts and prayers to the family.

Tom Cameron - November 15, 2018 at 06:19 AM



“ Nick was a wonderful man to work with, so sad to hear of his passing, hugs and prayers to his family.

Myranda Long - November 15, 2018 at 05:07 AM



“ I'm saddened to learn of Nick's passing, he was a wonderful man, husband and father. My condolences go out to Shelli and the girls as well as Digger & Diane Jones who I know truly loved him like a son. May his memory be eternal!

Don Babas - November 15, 2018 at 02:55 AM



“ To all of you I am so very sorry for you all. My heart aches for your loss. It was such a privilege to have known Nick. He had an aura of peace about him that filtered to all around him. Memories are golden gifts and thru them, Nick will always be with you all. Big hugs and my prayers of great comfort and inner peace.

theresa elwell - November 15, 2018 at 05:28 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Nick's passing. Sending prayers and thinking of all of you.
Kelly and Paul Downey

kelly Downey - November 14, 2018 at 10:35 PM



“ Thoughts and prayers to all of you! So sorry to hear of Nick's passing!
What a very loving and caring family you have! Thinking about all of you!

Lynette Winstone - November 15, 2018 at 07:09 AM



“ So sorry for your loss, your in our thoughts and prayers.

Angie Bentley - November 14, 2018 at 10:06 PM



“ I am so very sorry for this great loss to your family. Nick was such a wonderful man loved by many. He will be deeply missed. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Karla Rice

karla rice - November 14, 2018 at 09:44 PM



“What we have once enjoyed, we can never loose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us.”...Helen Keller. I will never forget the times we all shared....Godspeed Nick

Pam - November 14, 2018 at 09:29 PM



“ I have so many memories. One Nick and I shared with laughs and smiles was when we would race around the block we lived on (Sherman Rd) going in opposite directions to see who would get back to driveway first Knowing who would win at the halfway point but riding as fast as each could to Win. Love you Nick

Thom Popovich - November 14, 2018 at 09:26 PM



“ May you Rest in Peace, Big Red

Stu Olsen - November 14, 2018 at 05:17 PM