



Steven J. Lawinger

February 18, 1955 - February 22, 2025

Mineral Point – Steven J. Lawinger, age 70, of Mineral Point, passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 22, 2025, at St. Mary’s Hospital in Madison.

Born on February 18, 1955, to Bill and Helena (Salzmann) Lawinger, Steve was raised on a dairy farm south of Mineral Point, where his passion for farming took root. His strong work ethic and determination shaped his success in both agriculture and athletics throughout his life.

Steve attended St. Mary’s Catholic Grade School and graduated from Mineral Point High School. An exceptional wrestler, he finished his senior year (1972-73) with a remarkable 31-1 record, capturing the WIAA State Title at 155 lbs. His high school career concluded with an impressive 48-6-0 record. He continued his wrestling journey at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where his strength and speed secured him a spot on the UW Badger wrestling team alongside his brother Rich and later his cousin Paul Lawinger. Steve placed three times in the Big Ten Championships and became an NCAA All-American in 1977. In 1974, he won a gold medal in freestyle wrestling as the 165 lb. National Champion at the Junior Olympics. His achievements were recognized with an induction into the Allen E. Bauman Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1999.

Beyond athletics, Steve was a dedicated businessman, founding and

operating Lawinger Grain Co., which served farmers throughout Southwest Wisconsin. Farming was more than a profession to Steve—it was a way of life, and it became even more meaningful when he was able to share it with his niece, Hannah, his beloved little sidekick.

Steve kept Mineral Point his home, often seen out with his good friend Pat Ford, catching up with friends and sharing stories. Known for his independent spirit, Steve lived life on his own terms, finding his greatest joys in his family, his goddaughter Kimberly, Niki Jo who he considered his daughter and lifelong friends who became like family to him.

Steve was also a devoted member of St. Mary's & Paul's Catholic Church.

Steven is survived by his siblings; Patti (David) McKinley (Matt, Mandy and Mike); Laura (Gary) Jenkins; Nick (Margo) Lawinger (Nick Jr., Nichole and Curtis); Ann (John) Trace (Tammi, Travis, Tricia and Trevor); Jane Lawinger (Miranda, Alex and Gabe); Billy (Patti) Lawinger (Elizabeth and Hannah); Children of late brother Richard (AmyBeth, Adam, Tara and Kimberly his god-daughter).

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Richard, twin sisters Mary Beth and Mary Helena, and his nephew Will.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, March 3, 2025 at Ss. MARY & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH in Mineral Point. Burial will be held in St. Mary's Cemetery. A visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 11:50 a.m. on Monday at the church.

Memorials may be made to the Mineral Point Wrestling Club in Steve's honor.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Cemetery

700 Dodge Street
Mineral Point, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 3. 9:00 AM - 11:50 AM (CT)

Ss. Mary & Paul Catholic Church
224 Davis Street
Mineral Point, WI 53565

Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 3. 12:00 PM (CT)

Ss. Mary & Paul Catholic Church
224 Davis Street
Mineral Point, WI 53565

Tribute Wall



“ We are so sorry to hear about Steve. We had his auctions. He was always a pleasure to work with. He attended many of our sales over the years. Lots of good phone call visits also. Tom & Deb Bidlingmaier

Deb Bidlingmaier - March 07, 2025 at 10:40 AM

FR

“ I am so sorry for the Lawinger Family. I had a very special friendship and a brotherhood with Steve. May my dear friend rest in peace as Eternal Light shines upon him. 🙏🏻✝️💙

Fred Rideout - March 03, 2025 at 12:57 PM

BJ

“ I loved having Steve in my classroom. He had the most wry sense of humor and he was a treat to be around. Our condolences to the whole Lawinger family.

Bob Johnson - March 02, 2025 at 07:56 AM

RK

“ Sorry to hear the sad news about the loss of Steve . My deepest condolences to the family. My prayers and thoughts are with you all.

Russ Kitsemble - February 28, 2025 at 05:14 AM

JH

“ Good team mate, good friend. There are a ton of weight loss stories. Steve was one tough SOB

James Hanson - February 27, 2025 at 07:53 PM

LC

“ We are so very sorry for the loss of your brother Steve! My husband Jim and I were good friends a long time, a lot of great memories. He will be missed!

Lynne Cox - February 27, 2025 at 02:08 PM

GV

“ Sorry to hear about the loss of Steve! My thoughts and prays are with the family. .A old UW teammate.

Glenn Vissers - February 25, 2025 at 04:21 PM

RM

“ My sympathy in your loss. Rosalie May

Rosalie May - February 25, 2025 at 08:40 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Steven J. Lawinger.



February 24, 2025 at 05:04 PM

LE

“ Lane eggers purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Steven J. Lawinger.



Lane eggers - February 24, 2025 at 12:16 PM

LE

“ Lane eggers planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven J. Lawinger.

Lane eggers - February 24, 2025 at 12:16 PM

KS

“ So sorry to hear. My fondest memories were from our high school years. RIP my friend!

Kim salmon - February 23, 2025 at 08:25 PM