



Pero Novak

June 28, 1935 - April 21, 2025

Pero Novak, 89, of Mentor, passed from this world to begin his heavenly life on April 21, 2025. Born on June 28, 1935 in Nedelišće, Croatia, he embraced life with boundless energy and an adventurous spirit.

A devoted husband and the rock of his family, Pero is survived by his wife, Lauren Novak. As a father of six, Rose (Raymond) Hanzlik, Anne Novak, Kelly (Darin) Dureiko, Peter Novak, Vida (Laura) Novak and Jessica (Michael) Bjel – he guided and supported each of them with pride.

His greatest joy was being a doting grandfather to Lyndsey (Jackson) Thomas, James Hanzlik, Amanda Dureiko, Taylor Hanzlik, Adam Dureiko, Andrew Dureiko, Austin Dureiko, Bianca Bjel, Caspian Novak, Aurelian Novak and Bennett Bjel, delighting in every milestone and family gathering.

A gifted entrepreneur and inventor, Pero owned and operated many enterprises, most notably founding Air Technical Industries in 1964, designing and manufacturing heavy duty lifting equipment and establishing an enduring legacy in his industry.

Pero was an American patriot and Army veteran with a deep love for both his adopted country and his homeland. He proudly flew the American flag at both his residence and company and visited friends and family in Croatia regularly.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Pero was an avid golfer, a skilled pilot, and a world traveler who sought sunshine and new horizons. He tended his garden with care, nurtured lifelong friendships, and treasured every moment spent with family around the table or on vacation together.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Vida and Rozalija Novak and is survived by sisters, Katarina and Marica; his niece, Mary (Zlatko) Laush; and many nieces and nephews in Croatia.

Family and friends are invited to honor Pero's memory from 4-8 p.m. Thursday, April 24, 2025 at the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060.

A funeral mass in his honor will be held at 9:30 a.m. Friday, April 25, 2025 at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, 8560 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060 (please meet at the church).

Entombment will follow at All Souls Cemetery, Chardon.

Please consider making a donation to Pero's favorite charity - the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA). Flowers are also welcome.

Pero Novak's warmth, generosity, and pioneering spirit will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Please offer condolences at www.brunners.com.

Cemetery Details

All Souls Cemetery

10366 Chardon Rd.
Chardon, OH 44024
(800) 582-6850

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 24. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center
8466 Mentor Avenue
Mentor, OH 44060
(440) 255-3401
ajs@brunners.com
<https://www.brunners.com/>

Funeral Mass

APR 25. 9:30 AM (ET)

St. Mary Of The Assumption Church
8560 Mentor Avenue
Mentor, OH 44060
(440) 255-3404
<https://stmarysmentor.org/>

Tribute Wall

EŠ

“ Our condolences to wife Lauren and the entire family. I met Pero twenty years ago when I was a journalist for the weekly Nacional in Cleveland and interviewed him, and then hosted him in Međimurje, Croatia, on one occasion when he was on business in Croatia. Pero made a strong impression on me. He was an amazing man who accomplished more than most people.

Eduard Šoštaric - August 08, 2025 at 06:50 AM

LN

Thank you for sharing your memory Eduard. Yes, he truly was an amazing man! I am so proud of him!

Lauren Novak - February 16 at 01:20 PM

CK

“ Our condolences to Lauren and the entire family. Even though we only knew Pete briefly from a trip to Kenya last year we could see how he was an amazing man who accomplished more than most. He and Lauren were a special pair and lived for each other. His passing will leave a hole but may good memories and knowing he is in heaven now bring comfort. Carolyn and Mike Kintz

carolyn kintz - April 24, 2025 at 04:24 PM

TK

Our condolences to wife Lauren and children.
Bozo and Stoja Kosir

Ted Kosir - April 24, 2025 at 06:22 PM

LN

Thank you Ted. I am experiencing a tremendous loss.

Lauren Novak - February 16 at 01:26 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Pero Novak.*



April 24, 2025 at 03:10 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Pero Novak.

April 24, 2025 at 03:10 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Pero Novak.*



April 24, 2025 at 02:06 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Pero Novak.

April 24, 2025 at 02:06 PM

LR

“ Love, Michael and Sharon Redenshek purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Pero Novak.



Love, Michael and Sharon Redenshek - April 24, 2025 at 11:51 AM

LR

“ Love, Michael and Sharon Redenshek planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Pero Novak.

Love, Michael and Sharon Redenshek - April 24, 2025 at 11:51 AM

MS

“ Miro and Biserka Sankovic purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Pero Novak.



Miro and Biserka Sankovic - April 24, 2025 at 11:29 AM

MS

“ Miro and Biserka Sankovic planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Pero Novak.

Miro and Biserka Sankovic - April 24, 2025 at 11:29 AM

MS

“ *Deepest sympathy to Lauren and Family. Sending prayers and Love.*

Marie Stephens

Marie Stephens - April 24, 2025 at 11:11 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Pero Novak.*



April 24, 2025 at 11:08 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Pero Novak.*

April 24, 2025 at 11:08 AM

TF

“ *The Skalicki and Schoen Families purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Pero Novak.*



The Skalicki and Schoen Families - April 24, 2025 at 10:29 AM

TF

“ The Skalicki and Schoen Families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Pero Novak.

The Skalicki and Schoen Families - April 24, 2025 at 10:29 AM

JB

“ I don't even know where to begin expressing our profound sadness and extending our sympathies to the entire Novak family. Easter Sunday was a joyous occasion with Pero and the family. He was very excited about their "surprise" trip to Florida and shared stories about past joyful events. His heart was full of joy as were his years here on earth. May he rest in eternal peace and may all who loved him find peace and carry on his sincere love of family and friends.

Joyce K. Blue - April 24, 2025 at 10:25 AM

MT

“ Mike and Kim Thomas purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Pero Novak.



Mike and Kim Thomas - April 23, 2025 at 09:19 PM

MF

“ Michelle & Rob Velotta and Family purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Pero Novak.



Michelle & Rob Velotta and Family - April 23, 2025 at 08:20 PM

MF

“ Michelle & Rob Velotta and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Pero Novak.

Michelle & Rob Velotta and Family - April 23, 2025 at 08:20 PM

DI

“ DiPaola-Fields-Guex-Spears purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Pero Novak.



DiPaola-Fields-Guex-Spears - April 23, 2025 at 07:48 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Pero Novak.



April 23, 2025 at 02:25 PM

MB

“ Mate Brkic purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Pero Novak.



Mate Brkic - April 23, 2025 at 01:39 PM

BL

“ Bob & Carolyn Lingenfelter purchased the Bountiful Rose Basket for the family of Pero Novak.



Bob & Carolyn Lingenfelter - April 23, 2025 at 01:13 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Pero Novak.



April 23, 2025 at 11:51 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Pero Novak.

April 23, 2025 at 11:51 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Pero Novak.



April 23, 2025 at 11:51 AM

TG

“ *Ted and Robin Gould purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Pero Novak.*



Ted and Robin Gould - April 23, 2025 at 11:32 AM

CJ

“ *Cheryl, Don, Cara and Justin purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Pero Novak.*



Cheryl, Don, Cara and Justin - April 23, 2025 at 10:24 AM