



Andrew Charles Novara

June 18, 1939 - October 24, 2025

IN MEMORY OF:

Andrew Charles Novara

Serving Location:

CRAIN PLEASANT GROVE-MURDALE FUNERAL HOME

31 Memorial Drive, Murphysboro, Illinois

Andrew Charles Novara, age 86, husband of Alice Jane Novara (both formerly of Murphysboro), passed away October 24, 2025, at their Lake of Egypt home following a battle with cancer.

Andy was born June 18, 1939, to Leonard and Carmelita Novara, in Murphysboro, Illinois.

On April 25, 1959, Andy married his high school sweetheart and the love of his life, Alice Jane Arbeiter. She survives.

As a young man, Andy worked for his father at Western Auto, subsequently taking over the business in 1973 as owner and operator until closing the store in 1993. He then worked at Lake Murphysboro for a year before going to work

for Central Management Services at the Illinois Department of Transportation offices in Carbondale until his retirement in 2002.

Andy was active in the community of Murphysboro. He followed in his father's footsteps and served the community as a Police & Fire Commissioner for several decades. He was also an active member of the Murphysboro Elks Lodge 572, the Murphysboro Chamber of Commerce, Murphysboro Merchants Association, B.A.S.S. Masters Club and the Murphysboro Athletic Boosters Association.

After retirement Andy and Jane moved from their Murphysboro home to their family vacation home at the Lake of Egypt where they were blessed to have the best neighbors. They also enjoyed traveling to Orlando, Panama City Beach, the Bahamas, Branson and Hawaii.

A former Red Devil Football and Track Athlete, Andy remained a lifelong Red Devil Supporter. He enjoyed all Red Devil events, but especially enjoyed watching his children and grandchildren wearing the Crimson & Corn.

Andy was proud to be an American of Sicilian heritage. He loved his family history and American History. His happiest moments were those spent with his family and those spent on the water fishing. He was blessed with so many special friends and fishing buddies. Fish fries were a constant, whether in Murphysboro or at the Lake of Egypt, and frequently included a competitive game of bocce. Holidays were reserved for true Italian celebrations complete with the family recipes of homemade meatballs and sauce.

In addition to his wife, other survivors include daughter, Amy Novara Murphy (husband Jim Murphy) of Murphysboro; son, Leonard Edwin Novara (wife Cindy Streuter); grandson, Drew Novara (wife Katie); granddaughter, Emily Newton (husband Brett) and great-grandson, Levi; as well as two brothers and two sisters-in-law, Gene and Jeri Novara and Chuck and Connie Novara

(Chuck's step-daughters Christina & Beth); brother-in-law & wife Bill and Joyce Arbeiter and their children, Karen, Brian ,and Brad, grandchildren, Ryan and Kelsey; children of the late Al & Nan Novara, Andy (son John) and Nell (daughter Evie); and Tony Arbeiter, son of the late Don Arbeiter.

Andy was preceded in death by his parents, Leonard and Carmelita Novara; Jane's parents, Eddie and Alice Arbeiter, brother, Albert "Butch" Novara; sister-in-law, Nan Novara; brother-in-law, Don Arbeiter; niece, Rebecca Jane Novara; and nephew, Thomas John Novara.

Visitation will be from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM on Saturday, November 1 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1915 Pine Street in Murphysboro. Funeral services will follow with Pastor Mark Surburg & Pastor Matthew Christian officiating at 11:00 AM. Interment will follow at Pleasant Grove Memorial Park.

The family would like to thank Andy's entire healthcare team (including all nurses, doctors and other healthcare professionals). Jane would like to especially thank Donna for her time and care provided.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to the Murphysboro Education Foundation. Checks may be made payable to Murphysboro Education Foundation, and mailed to: Murphysboro Community Unit School District #186, District Office, 593 Ava Road, Murphysboro, IL 62966. Memorials may also be made through PayPal. (Search: Murphysboro Education Foundation.)

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Pleasant Grove Memorial Park

31 Memorial Dr.
Murphysboro, IL 62966
(618) 687-1145
crain@crainsonline.com

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 1. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (cst)

Immanuel Lutheran Church
1915 Pine St
Murphysboro, IL 62966
(618) 684-3012

Funeral Service

NOV 1. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (cst)

Immanuel Lutheran Church
1915 Pine St
Murphysboro, IL 62966
(618) 684-3012

Interment

NOV 1. 12:15 PM - 12:45 PM (cst)

Pleasant Grove Memorial Park
31 Memorial Dr.
Murphysboro, IL 62966
(618) 687-1145
crain@crainsonline.com

Tribute Wall

DK

“ My family and I extend our deepest sympathy and condolences for Jane and family. Andy was always considerate, helpful and kind. He was a respected businessman and carried on the tradition of the Western Auto store for years after taking over the business from his father Leonard. He was stalwart in our community and will be greatly missed. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

Dr Thomas Kupferer - November 11, 2025 at 10:20 AM

JD

“ Sympathy to Alice and Andy's family and friends. Some of our best retirement days were spent at JA Logan with the Novara brothers. RIP Andy.



joe and Becky Dewees - October 30, 2025 at 01:55 PM

JR

“ I'm sorry to hear of your loss, Amy. Glory that his pain is now gone. I pray for comfort in your grief. One of my best childhood memories is looking at bikes at Western Auto! Judy Rose

Judy Rose - October 29, 2025 at 07:56 AM

JW

“ Great man, great family, and sending much love and comfort to you all. HE WILL BE GREATLY MISSED!!!!

Jane Williams - October 28, 2025 at 08:38 AM

ES

he was a great parts man at State Garage !

ed stearns - October 30, 2025 at 10:12 AM

DA

To the family of Mr. Andy Napier. My condolences and sympathy to this great man, his wife Jane, Jim and Amy, Len and Cindy and families. It was a pleasure to be able to meet this wonderful family. I will never forget the kindness you have shown to me. He is away-----, but always in your hearts. I will never forget him. Thank you Jane for all your kindness. Donna Austin 🙏🕊

Donna Austin - October 30, 2025 at 09:48 PM