



## Daniel Fredrick Holje

February 12, 1942 - November 26, 2021

Daniel Fredrick Holje, 79, Dassel, died Nov. 26, 2021, at the Glencoe Regional Hospital in Glencoe, Minnesota. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. at the Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Dassel with Rev. Janine Olson officiating. Interment of the urn will be held at the Dassel Community Cemetery.

There will be a time to gather with the family one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday, May 21, 2022.

Daniel Fredrick Holje was born Feb. 12, 1942, in Thief River Falls, Minnesota, a son of Chester and Margaret (Dahl) Holje.

He was a 1960 graduate of Ogilvie High School and a 1964 graduate of Hamline University where he played baseball and basketball for the Pipers. A Dassel resident since 1964, he was an English teacher at Dassel and Dassel-Cokato High School for 33 years, retiring in 1997. He also coached football, baseball and basketball for the Vikings and Chargers and had served as athletic director.

He played many years of town team baseball for Braham and the Dassel-Cokato Saints. Braham and the Saints both won state championships when he was team member. The Saints won the championship in 1968, and he was

named to the all-state team.

He was married to Carolyn Johnson on Aug. 3, 1968, at First Lutheran Church in Dassel.

They purchased the Dassel Dispatch newspaper from Carolyn's parents in 1976. Dan continued to teach, but also took publishing and newspaper ownership responsibilities. In 1985 they purchased the Cokato Enterprise. They operated the two newspapers separately for approximately two years and then merged them into one, the Dassel-Cokato Enterprise Dispatch, in 1987.

In the mid-90s, the Holjes partnered to bring the first internet service to Dassel, Cokato, and Howard Lake when internet wasn't available in the communities. They formed a company, Central Minnesota Gateway, and generated 1,000 customers before selling the company a few years later. They sold the Enterprise Dispatch in 2000 and continued employment there, retiring in 2003.

A community volunteer, Dan served as chairman/co-chairman of the Red Rooster Days festivities for 11 years and has been a volunteer at the Dassel History Center for approximately 20 years. An active member of Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Dassel for more than 57 years, he had served on the church council, as a youth advisor, and was a member of the choir.

He also enjoyed cooking/entertaining and sharing his love of literature with others.

A loving and devoted family man, he was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Byron, a niece and a nephew.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Carolyn, two sons, Craig (Sara) and Derek, four grandchildren, Nathan, Matthew, Jacob and Peyton, a sister Gerry (Ray) Graber of Hinkley, and five nieces.

A private family service will take place around Christmas. A public graveside service and a celebration of life are being planned for spring when the weather permits.

Memories of Dan are very healing for the family and are welcomed at any time.

# Cemetery Details

## Dassel Community Cemetery

23526-23574 County Rd 4,  
Dassel, MN 55325

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAY **21**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
221 Atlantic Ave E  
Dassel, MN 55325  
office@glcdassel.com  
<http://www.glcdassel.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kindness and respect ruled in his classroom.*

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**Sharon Barberg** - May 13, 2022 at 04:52 PM

RB

“ *Carolyn, I'm so sorry to hear of Dan's passing. I wondered if he wasn't worse since I hadn't heard from you for some time, I have had several health issues but do try to work at the museum when I can, I still don't have much help but do what I can, sorry sorry to hear of your loss. How are you doing? are you still at the Museum? What do you have in there right now? will be praying for you,*

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**rosemary black** - December 06, 2021 at 03:29 PM

SS

“ *Dan was a wonderful, kind man and a dear friend to our family. Praying for God's comfort and love to surround you and your family, Carolyn.*

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**Stephanie Sandstede Smith** - December 06, 2021 at 12:27 PM

CV

“ *Danny was a Classmate of 1960, the growing years! He reached out and answered questions I had about Trigonometry and I was glad to reciprocate when he asked questions about English. How surprised I was, at our 25th Class reunion, when he told me he was an English teacher! He too was surprised when I shared my daily tasks involved trigonometry (USGS Seismological and Geomagnetic Observatory), it was always good to see him smile! Condolences to the family. Carol Ann (Carlson) Varner*

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**Carol Ann (Carlson) Varner** - December 06, 2021 at 05:03 AM

ED

“ He was such a great and caring neighbor to Mom (along with Carolyn). One memory I was told about was how they watched out for her as she grew older. One instance was when Mom was out washing the big picture on a ladder, and Dan came running over and asked what she was doing. We are so thankful for them being such loving neighbors. To Carolyn and family, our prayers and love to you all.

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**Eileen & Charly Dye** - December 04, 2021 at 05:16 PM

GN

“ Rest in peace Dan. Gary Nelson

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**Gary Nelson** - December 04, 2021 at 05:55 AM

CS

“ We were so sorry to hear about your loss. We send our deepest sympathy to you and your family.

*Cloe & Thom Swanson*

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**Cloe & Thom Swanson** - December 02, 2021 at 04:11 PM

LT

“ Such sad news to have heard. Remembering times with the dance group and of many gatherings that we were at. Both our oldest kids were best friends during school and their group were always at our house or at Holje's. Fun and glorious times were had singing in the Gethsemane choir for several years. He will be missed. Love to all his family.

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**Louise & John Tjernagel** - December 02, 2021 at 01:59 PM

MW

“ Carolyn  
So sorry to hear of Dan's passing.  
Deepest sympathy to you and your family.  
Marlys Olson Waldron

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**Marlys Waldron** - December 01, 2021 at 11:42 AM

GK

“ Deepest sympathies Carolyn and family.  
Gloria Kotila

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**Gloria Kotila** - December 01, 2021 at 08:39 AM

DF

“ Carolyn and family, we send our deepest sympathies to all of you as  
you try to find your way forward without Dan by your side.

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**Doug and Julie Fett** - November 30, 2021 at 11:50 PM

JS

“ Carolyn, Craig, Derek and families,  
We are so sorry to get the news of Dan's passing. We have many  
great memories of your family from our years in Dassel and after.  
Know that you are in our prayers during this difficult time.

*Joel and Marylou Swedberg*

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**Joel and Marylou Swedberg** - November 30, 2021 at 09:31 PM

IB

*Mercy, grace and peace as you face the days ahead. Dan was a real  
gentleman.*

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**Irene Bender** - December 01, 2021 at 10:22 AM

IB

*Mercy, grace and peace for the days ahead. Dan was a real gentleman.*

**Irene Bender** - December 01, 2021 at 10:24 AM

VB

“*Carolyn, my deepest sympathies to you and your family. May he Rest In Peace.*”

**Vicki Beaudry** - November 30, 2021 at 01:09 PM

ST

*Carolyn we are keeping you and your family close in prayer.*

**sandi toft** - November 30, 2021 at 04:07 PM

NL

*Carolyn, there are no words to express my sympathy about Dan's passing. Just know that Merle and I are thinking of you and your family and sending love and prayers at this difficult time. God bless.*

**Nancy Larson** - December 02, 2021 at 11:26 PM

BS

*So sorry to hear about Dan's passing. I remember him in English classes. He was a new teacher at Dassel and he was always very helpful. I'm sure he was a big help as you took over the day to day running of the Dassel Dispatch. Blessings on you and your family. Betty Power Sultvedt*

**Betty Power Sultvedt** - December 07, 2021 at 11:54 AM