



## Nolan William Henke

March 24, 2006 - August 24, 2025

The world feels a little dimmer without the light of Nolan William Henke, who passed away tragically on August 24, 2025 at the young age of 19. Though his time here was far too short, he lived in a way that touched every life around him.

Nolan came into this world as the firstborn of twins on March 24, 2006 in Hutchinson, Minnesota, arriving with the cord around his neck. Though his start was difficult, he survived and from that moment on he lived his life to the fullest.

Anyone who knew Nolan would tell you that his smile was unforgettable. It had a way of putting people at ease and spreading joy wherever he went. His laugh was just as contagious — full of life, full of warmth, and impossible not to join in. He had a gift for making others feel comfortable, whether you had known him for years or were meeting him for the very first time.

Nolan had a heart for helping others and never hesitated to lend a hand. He was happiest when he had tools in his hands, fixing something, building something, or making life easier for someone else. Being a mechanic wasn't just his work — it was his passion. When he was 15, he got his first job at Zeuli's Race Engines and Machine Shop cleaning motors and parts. He worked at Big Time Collision finetuning his craft and moved on to St. Michael

Auto Body where he defined his craft and did excellent work. He worked during the day and then would come home to work some more in his shed. He started his own business, Henke Repair, when he was only 15, where he proudly used his skills to help others, fixing snowblowers, chainsaws and other small engines.

He was a young man of many talents and interests. At an early age, he learned to play the guitar and he loved working on puzzles, enjoying the quiet challenge of piecing things together. He had a soft spot for the family pets, Dolly, Emmett and Cheeto — and loved them “even more than they loved him.”

Nolan enjoyed the outdoors and took advantage of being outside often. He was part of a fishing league, and he cherished the memories made on the water. He also had a passion for snowmobiling and recently took a trip to Michigan this past February with his uncle, an adventure he spoke of often. Sports and activities were always a part of his life. From his early years in Cub Scouts, to wrestling in elementary school, and later playing football, he embraced being part of a team and pushing himself to grow.

But more than what he did, it was who he was that mattered most. He was generous without ever expecting anything in return. He was loyal, kind, and had a way of making people feel like they mattered. He loved his family deeply, and his friends knew they could always count on him — not just for a repair, but for a listening ear, a good laugh, or steady support in hard times.

Even in his passing, Nolan continued his legacy of giving through the gift of organ donation. His selflessness has given others a second chance at life, a final reflection of the generosity he showed every day.

Nolan leaves behind his parents, Chad Henke and Missy Posusta and twin brother, Spencer, Grandparents, Rita Nelson, Judy and Orlin (Butch) Henke.

He also leaves behind many aunts, uncles, cousins and countless friends who will forever remember the moments shared, the laughter echoed, and the quiet ways he showed his love.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Leroy Posusta, Uncles, Corey and Neil Posusta, Papa George, Gigi Vogt, Uncles Gary and Tom Vogt and Uncle Lee and Aunt Helen Henke.

Though it hurts to say goodbye, we hold onto the comfort of knowing that his spirit will always be with us — in the sound of laughter, in the hum of an engine, in the strum of a guitar, and in the memory of his smile. His life was a reminder to live generously, love deeply, and never take a single day for granted.

A celebration of Nolan's life will be held on Saturday, September 6, 2:00 p.m. at the Dassel-Cokato Performing Arts Center where family and friends will gather to honor the beautiful person he was and the impact he made in his short time with us. A visitation will be held on Friday, September 5 at the Evangelical Covenant Church in Dassel from 4-7 p.m.

We encourage everyone to come just as they are, in a way that reminds you of him best. Jeans, cowboy boots, and whatever shirt brings him to mind are welcome—whether it's VW, Ford, Snap-on, Harley, his memorial shirt, or anything you know he would have loved.

The Johnson Family Funeral Home in Dassel is in charge of the memorial arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Time to gather with family

SEP 5. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Evangelical Covenant Church  
251 Lake St.  
Dassel, MN 55325  
office@dasselcov.com  
<http://www.dasselcovenant.org/>

## Memorial Service

SEP 6. 2:00 PM (CT)

Dassel-Cokato High School Performance Arts Center  
4852 Reardon Ave SW  
Cokato, MN 55321

# Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Nolan William Henke.



September 03, 2025 at 06:17 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish* was purchased for the family of Nolan William Henke.



September 03, 2025 at 12:54 PM

NB

“ *Nick and Brittany* purchased the *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* for the family of Nolan William Henke.



**Nick and Brittany** - September 03, 2025 at 09:49 AM

NB

“ *Nick and Brittany* planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nolan William Henke.

**Nick and Brittany** - September 03, 2025 at 09:49 AM

JH

“ Josh and Chris Henke purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Nolan William Henke.



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**Josh and Chris Henke** - September 03, 2025 at 08:52 AM

JH

“ Josh and Chris Henke planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nolan William Henke.

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**Josh and Chris Henke** - September 03, 2025 at 08:52 AM

GC

“ Grandma Paulette and Aunt Cherise purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Nolan William Henke.



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**Grandma Paulette and Aunt Cherise** - September 02, 2025 at 11:33 AM

NJ

“ Neal & Jodi purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Nolan William Henke.



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**Neal & Jodi** - September 02, 2025 at 02:37 AM

PF

“ PAPA NANA AND FAMILY purchased the Rose Garden Heart for the family of Nolan William Henke.



PAPA NANA AND FAMILY - September 01, 2025 at 06:10 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Nolan William Henke.



September 01, 2025 at 11:43 AM



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

September 01, 2025 at 11:43 AM

WR

“ With love and remembrance purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Nolan William Henke.



With love and remembrance - August 31, 2025 at 09:30 PM

WR

“ With love and remembrance planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nolan William Henke.

With love and remembrance - August 31, 2025 at 09:30 PM

SV

“ Svoboda/Carr's purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Nolan William Henke.



Svoboda/Carr's - August 31, 2025 at 10:27 AM



“ I wrestled with Nolan & Spence when DCL came together and had nothing but good experiences with them and their fam! Much love and respect, you will never be forgotten❤️❤️



Hawken Juarez - August 31, 2025 at 12:15 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Nolan William Henke.



August 30, 2025 at 08:35 PM

BH

“ I had Nolan and his brother in driver's training class. Although I only knew him for a short time, he left quite the impression. I am so sorry for your loss. Thoughts and prayers for you and your family. RIP Nolan.



Bonnie Hahn - August 28, 2025 at 04:34 PM

BK

We are so very sorry for your loss. Another life gone too soon. May God provide peace, acceptance and clarity to you all ❤️

Brian and Lori Kaping - August 28, 2025 at 06:08 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Nolan William Henke.



August 28, 2025 at 04:25 PM



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

August 28, 2025 at 04:25 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Nolan William Henke.



August 28, 2025 at 03:33 PM

CK

“ With sincere sympathy to all the Henke family! Our thoughts and many prayers are with you as you journey through this time of grief. May you find some comfort in all the beautiful memories you did share. Cindy and Todd Karg



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**cindy Karg** - August 28, 2025 at 01:20 PM

DS

“ My heart is so saddened to hear of your loss of your young son in such a tragic way. Praying for you all. May the good Lord carry to all through the many hard days ahead.

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**Donna Shepersky** - August 28, 2025 at 09:47 AM

TF

“ The VanHecke Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Nolan William Henke.



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**The VanHecke Family** - August 27, 2025 at 08:56 PM