



## Wayne Thomas Saltzman

December 3, 1941 - December 12, 2025

Wayne Thomas Saltzman

Wayne Saltzman, age 84, of Braidwood, IL, passed away peacefully on Friday, December 12, 2025, at Morris Hospital.

Wayne was born on December 3, 1941, in Custer Park, IL, to Thomas and Audrey (née Williams) Saltzman Sr. On February 11, 1961, he married Geraldine Mae Bergera at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Braidwood.

Wayne had a strong work ethic and steady leadership throughout his life. He worked as a meat cutter for Jewel food stores for 35 years, and later at Testa's IGA, where he also served as Manager of the meat department for 10 years. Wayne was a devoted public servant and a true pillar for the Braidwood community. He served as President of the Braidwood Park District for 30 years, Mayor of Braidwood for four years from 2003 to 2007, and Braidwood Finance Commissioner for two years. He was also the chairman of the Lions Club Summerfest beginning in 1981 at its conception, continuing on for many years. During his time as Mayor, Wayne founded the Braidwood Food Pantry, an effort that earned him a Hometown Pride Award. He was also recognized as Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year in 2017. Wayne was a Charter Member of the Braidwood Lions Club for 54 years and was also a member of the Knights of Columbus as well as the Braidwood Historical Society. Wayne was a longtime parishioner of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and served as an usher.

Wayne enjoyed time spent golfing at Braidwood Rec with his son and longtime friends, Charlie Votta and Glen Fabian. He also enjoyed bowling and never missed a trip down to Kentucky with his friends and family. Every February, he looked forward to attending his carnival conventions in Riverside, FL. Wayne never met a stranger, and his friendly, welcoming nature left a lasting impression on everyone he met.

He is survived by his wife; his children, Jeffrey (Shelly) Saltzman of Braidwood and Rita (Peter) Blackwell of Bloomingdale; his brothers, Richard (Barbara) Saltzman of Braidwood and Thomas (Kim) Saltzman Jr. of Dwight; his grandchildren, Alysha (Drew) Vickers, Samantha (Steve Tortorella) Blackwell, and Joseph Saltzman; his great-grandchildren, Sophia and Alice; and his special uncle and aunt, Curtis (Helen) Saltzman of Braidwood. Other survivors include his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Randy and Celeste Clark; many nieces, nephews; and many special friends, especially Pat Keenan and Josh Bolatto.

Wayne was preceded in death by his parents and his son, Joseph Brian Saltzman, in infancy.

Visitation will be held at R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory in Braidwood, IL on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will take place on Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Braidwood.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Wayne's name may be made to the Braidwood Lions Club or Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, in recognition of his longstanding dedication to the Braidwood community.

To share memories or offer condolences, please visit Wayne's online guestbook at [www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com) or find us on Facebook.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory  
401 E. Main St., Braidwood, 815-458-2336  
[www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com)



# Cemetery Details

## Mt. Olivet Cemetery-Braidwood

Cemetery Road  
Braidwood, IL 60408

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 17. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home  
401 East Main St.  
Braidwood, IL 60408  
(815) 458-2336  
[info@rwpattersonfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@rwpattersonfuneralhome.com)  
<https://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com>

## Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 18. 10:00 AM (CT)

Immaculate Conception Church  
110 South School Street  
Braidwood, IL 60408

## Inturment

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DEC 18. 11:00 AM (CT)

Mt. Olivet Cemetery-Braidwood  
Cemetery Road  
Braidwood, IL 60408

# Tribute Wall

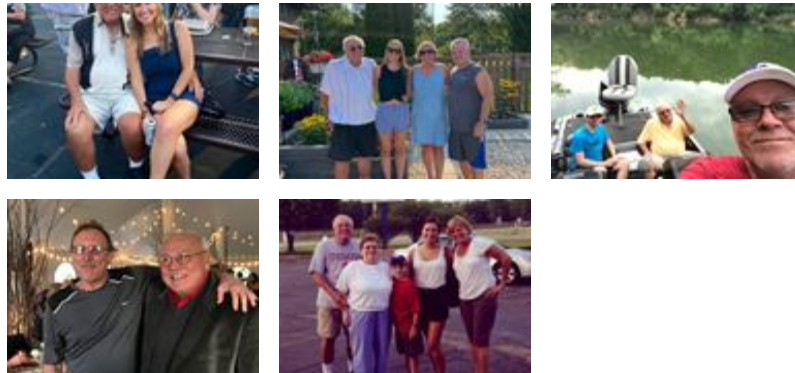
MB

“ As Kim and I live in England we never got to see Wayne often but when we did he was always cheerful and hospitable. My first memory of meeting Wayne was spending time playing cards with him and Earle in the drinking den whilst downing a few beers. He was always interested in anything you had to say and just a real good guy. Even though we didn't share as much time with him as others he made a lasting memory on us and we will miss him.

Martin & Kim Bond - December 17, 2025 at 04:41 AM



“ 122 files added to the album LifeTributes



R W Patterson Funeral Homes, Ltd. - December 16, 2025 at 11:09 AM

TE

“ Tim and Connie Eaker lit a candle in memory of Wayne Saltzman



Tim and Connie Eaker - December 15, 2025 at 05:52 PM

KD

“ *Kim Dean lit a candle in memory of Wayne Saltzman*



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**Kim Dean** - December 15, 2025 at 10:52 AM

SK

“ *Sue kelleher lit a candle in memory of Wayne Saltzman*



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**Sue kelleher** - December 13, 2025 at 12:34 PM

CC

“ *Wayne was more like a brother to me than a brother-in-law. I was 10 years old when he and Gerry got married. We were always close. Through the years I watched him as a devoted husband and father. He was always thinking more about others needs than his own. I was so proud of all the work he did for Braidwood as Mayor and all the fun we had electing him as a write-in candidate. His never ending work for the Braidwood Park District, Lions Club, Food Pantry, and many other projects to which he gave his time is immeasurable and always with a smile.*

*He touched so many lives in ways that will never be forgotten. His legacy will live on in the countless memories we all share and in the ways he made us all better for knowing him.*

*Celeste Clark*

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**Celeste Clark** - December 13, 2025 at 10:45 AM

LR

*Living here in England , we never often had contact with Wayne , but whenever we did he was so warm and welcoming with a great big hug . We kept in touch with his events through Sam , Rita and Pete and were so impressed with his determination and his love for Braidwood and all who lived there . He will be greatly missed there for his on going work and generosity of spirit . We feel so blessed we knew him , thank you Wayne for those lovely memories . Be at peace .*  
*Lyn and Bill Robertson*

**Lyn Robertson** - December 16, 2025 at 06:58 AM

LS

*I lost a friend. Few people have devoted their lives to their beloved community. Thanks Wayne for all you have done with your life. I will miss our visits together RIP my friend*

**Lee Springer** - December 17, 2025 at 04:07 PM

RB

*Lee, I'm sure he enjoyed every visit he ever had with you!*

**Rita Blackwell** - December 26, 2025 at 02:39 PM

MC

“ *Awe ! Glad I got chat with him at this last summerfest one more time. Sending condolences to the family.*



**Meri Cunning** - December 13, 2025 at 10:11 AM

LR

“ *Sending many prayers to the family. My sincere condolences. Peace be with you all.*

**Lyn Reese-Allott** - December 13, 2025 at 08:53 AM

KH

“ Wayne worked as a butcher for my mom and dad when they owned Chaney’s Food Mart in Wilmington. I remember as a very sweet and caring man, he will definitely be missed by everyone who was blessed to have known him

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**Kathy (Grazis) Horwath** - December 13, 2025 at 06:41 AM

CM

“ Wayne, you've left a mark on everyone's heart including ours that will always be here. You'll be sadly missed our fellow "Kentucky friend".

Jeff, Rita & family, please know we're thinking about you all. We're praying you'll find peace, comfort & strength in knowing Wayne is dearly loved by many, many people. May God Bless you all.



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**Cliff & Jodi Mounts** - December 12, 2025 at 06:05 PM

RA

“ I will always cherish Wayne’s friendship and help when I was learning how to be a meat cutter and his lasting friendship thru the lions club

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**Robert Ayers** - December 12, 2025 at 04:52 PM