



Norm Sodomka

May 1, 1943 - January 28, 2022

Norman L. Sodomka, 78 of Grand Island died Friday, January 28, 2022.

Services will be 10:30 AM Wednesday, February 2nd at the First Presbyterian Church. Reverend Kevin Geurink will officiate. Masonic Service will be provided by Ashlar Lodge #33 AF&AM. Burial will be in the Westlawn Memorial Park Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 5-7 PM Tuesday at All Faiths Funeral Home. Memorials are suggested to the family for future designations.

Norm was born on May 1, 1943 in Columbus, NE the son of Norman J. and Norma L. (Severa) Sodomka. He was raised in Clarkson and Fremont, NE graduating from Fremont High School class of 1961. He received his Bachelor of Music Education degree from Midland Lutheran College in 1965.

On August 1, 1965 he was united in marriage to the love of his life, Barbara Lovenburg. This union was blessed with children Rebecca Lynn and Norman "Daniel." They lived in Clarks, NE for 6 years where Norm taught K-12 vocal and instrumental music. In 1971, they made Grand Island their home where Norm was a band instructor for the Grand Island Public Schools for 30 years at Walnut. Following his retirement in 2001 he continued as a long-term substitute band instructor for Aurora Public Schools and then returned to Grand Island Public Schools as a fulltime band instructor for the southside elementary schools for another 6 years.

Throughout Norm's musical career he played with many bands including the Dick Wickman Orchestra, The Ambassadors, the Al Grebnick polka band, the Bobby Mills Orchestra, the Dobytown Dixieland Band, the Kenny Shuda Orchestra, and led his own bands Norm Louis and the New Ambassadors and the Sounds Unlimited dance band – not to mention subbing with many bands from across the state. Most recently, Norm was a member of the Hastings Symphony Orchestra and the Flatwater Jazz Orchestra.

When not playing, Norm founded and conducted the New Flock Jazz Band (a tri-city area

big band) and conducted the Grand Island Municipal Band for many years. He was inducted into the Sokol Hall Polka Hall of Fame in 1998. He was also selected as the Grand Marshal for the 2009 Harvest of Harmony Parade. In addition to having taught many generations of students, he owned and operated the Stormin' Norman Detasseling Company.

Norm loved sharing his musical knowledge and helping his son with his "good band" at Aurora, which is how Norm referred to them. He also really enjoyed spending time at Sherman Lake "working" at his beloved cabin. What he loved the most though, was his time with his family and attending his kids' and grandkids' many activities. His grandkids truly meant the world to him.

His memberships included First Presbyterian Church, a Master Mason, Tehama Shrine, 50-year member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Associate Guardian of Jobs Daughters Bethel #2, the Platt-Duetsche and the Grand Island Saddle Club.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife of 56 years, Barbara; daughter, Rebecca (Chris) Beck and son Dan (Laurie) Sodomka; grandchildren, Casey and Tony Beck and Kylee, Norman "Ryan," and Katelyn Sodomka, brother, Dean (Jan) Sodomka and his loving pets Molly and Fritz. He was preceded in death by his mother and father, Norma and Norman J. Sodomka and his in-laws, Lawrence and Lydia Lovenburg.

Cemetery Details

Westlawn Memorial Park

3826 West Stolley Park Road
Grand Island, NE 68803

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Service

FEB 2. 10:30 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
2103 W Anna St
Grand Island, NE 68803

Tribute Wall

JR

“ I loved Jr.High band class with Mr. Sodomka, where every concert included a polka piece!
He was a fun and patient teacher, whose sense of humor made class fun! Please accept our heartfelt sorrow at your family's loss. -Jed and Judy (Fielder) Rojewski (Walnut Jr. High 1978-81)

Judy Rojewski - February 04 at 11:00 PM

Becki Sodomka Beck

Thank you so much, it was quite a shock! He truly loved his job, and it shows by the amount of students who've reached out to us!

Becki Sodomka Beck - March 04 at 10:39 PM

DH

“ “Normie” was the best friend a guy could have....., no beating around the bush, you always knew how you stood with Norm. I as well other fellow greats played so many great gigs, to numerous to mention. Nothin but good times, fun, and lots of laughter. But when it became time to perform it got right down serious. Love ya Norm, we'll meet again, but how bout one more “Sugar Blues” for old time sake.

Dale A. Hopkins

Dale Hopkins - February 03 at 12:33 PM

Becki Sodomka Beck

He loved you too ❤️ I remember lots of stories of your guys' gigs!

Becki Sodomka Beck - March 04 at 10:40 PM

DK

“ I was a student of Norm's in Jr High playing trumpet very poorly. Somehow Norm gave me a Electric bass to jam around with, that interest in me changed and influenced me the rest of my life. I played in Norm's dance band starting in high school and continued to play with him in bands and orchestra all my life. I was so fortunate to have had amazing music teachers in GI, including Rol Stock and Larry Maupin. I have been one lucky guy having had Norm as my teacher, friend and hero. Thanks Norm

Dave Klein - February 02 at 10:16 AM

Becki Sodomka Beck

Thank you for the kind words! He thought the world of you also ~

Becki Sodomka Beck - March 04 at 10:41 PM

BR

“ *Barb, Becki, Dan and families~~~ the musical Patriarch of your family has left the building, but his legend lives and remains alive in all the seeds he planted during his journey on this earthly plain. Take a listen and his voice and music is still alive and resonating for all to hear. Prayers as you listen to his final forte!*

Beth Robinson - February 01 at 07:20 PM



Thank you for the kind words~ Love you!

Becki Sodomka Beck - March 04 at 10:42 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Norm Sodomka.*



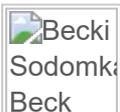
February 01 at 05:40 PM

RU

“ *Barbara and kids: So sorry to hear of Norm's passing. May Jesus give you comfort at this difficult time.. We lived across the street from you in Clarks. Cathy showed you how to balance your check book and we played cards in the evenings some times. .God bless.*

Russ and Cathy Gies

RussGies - February 01 at 12:50 PM



Mom says hi and thank you so much for the kind words ~

Becki Sodomka Beck - March 04 at 10:43 PM

PD

“ *Peggy Derickson lit a candle in memory of Norm Sodomka*



Peggy Derickson - February 01 at 10:30 AM

MB

“ Norm was the person who suggested I contact Craig Fuller about studying tuba. He single-handedly changed my life. Norm made a massive impact on a high school freshman during a 5 minute conversation that I’ll never forget. Thank you Norm. Rest well.

Matthew Bonham - February 01 at 10:09 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Norm Sodomka.



February 01 at 08:47 AM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Norm Sodomka.



January 31 at 05:29 PM

CN

“ The North Bend Area Community Band extends its sympathy to the family of Norm. We know Norm touched many lives through his love for music. He played with the North Bend Area Community Band (NBACB) every year the band played for the opening of the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island. He also brought other musicians with him. We are blessed and thankful our paths crossed and we had the opportunity to play together.

Carol Bohling, President NBACB - January 31 at 02:37 PM

TM

“ I’m so sorry to hear of Norm’s passing. I remember well playing in his band at Walnut - especially marching through the aisles at the grocery store as part of “Sire Sod’s Cavalcade” I think was our name. Play on, Mr. Sodomka!

Tom Munch - January 31 at 07:34 AM

TW

“ *I am so sorry Barb for your great loss. You and your family are in my prayers*



Tina Williams - January 31 at 01:00 AM



“ *Memorial Trees was purchased for the family of Norm Sodomka.*



January 30 at 02:45 PM