

ROMAN KOVARIK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

EST.
2025



The Roman Kovarik Memorial Scholarship Fund was created to honor the life of Roman Kovarik, a hardworking, loyal, and beloved member of the Spillville and South Winneshiek communities. Born and raised on a farm outside of Spillville, Roman was the oldest of three children: brother Wayne (2003) and sister Maria (2007). His parents, Ron and Nancy (Nienhaus) Kovarik, were dedicated farmers who instilled in their children the values of perseverance, responsibility, and service to others. These values shaped Roman's life and continue to inspire the purpose of this scholarship.

Roman graduated from South Winneshiek High School in 2001 and went on to study Diesel Mechanics at Northeast Iowa Community College. While pursuing his degree, he worked at Franzen Sales and Service, demonstrating the strong work ethic that defined him from an early age. Driven by a dream to specialize in motorcycle mechanics, Roman later attended MTII in Orlando, Florida, becoming a Certified Harley-Davidson Mechanic. He flourished in his career at Gator Harley in Leesburg, Florida, where he was admired by customers and coworkers alike for his genuine friendships, humor, and dedication.

Tragically, on Thanksgiving Day, November 23, 2006, Roman passed away in a motorcycle accident in Dahlonaga, Georgia. Though his life was far too short, he left the world doing what he loved: riding fast, working hard, and living fully. Roman was a true friend to all who knew him, and his memory continues to shine brightly in the stories and lives of those he touched.

The Roman Kovarik Memorial Scholarship was established by his aunt and uncle, Sue and Darron, along with his mother Nancy, brother Wayne, and sister Maria, to honor Roman's legacy of hard work, determination, and kindness. The scholarship supports students who demonstrate a strong work ethic, a desire to better themselves, and a commitment to giving back to their community, qualities Roman exemplified every day.

For the Kovarik family, creating this scholarship was a meaningful way to ensure that students can pursue their dreams just as Roman pursued his. They chose to partner with the Winneshiek County Community Foundation because it felt like the right fit and offered reassurance that Roman's legacy would be thoughtfully and responsibly stewarded for years to come.

Looking ahead, the family hopes this fund will continue to help students achieve their goals, create lifelong friendships, and embrace the same passion and determination Roman carried throughout his life. Through this scholarship, Roman's spirit lives on, encouraging others to chase their dreams and write their own meaningful stories.

ONLINE GIFTS CAN BE MADE TO THE ROMAN KOVARIK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND AT [CFNEIA.ORG/DONATIONS/KOVARIKSCHOLARSHIP](https://cfneia.org/donations/kovarikscholarship). FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS FUND, CONTACT THE WINNESHIEK COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AT 319-287-9106.