Chopyak-Scheider Funeral Home, Inc.

470 Chenango Street, Binghamton, NY 13901 • (607) 722-4023 • chopyak-scheider.com

Michael P. "Pokey" Panko Jr.

June 1, 1943 – January 10, 2026



Michael P. Panko, Jr, 82, passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his loving family on January 10, 2026

He was predeceased by his parents, Michael and Helen (Mitchell) Panko; and his infant brother, Peter, of Binghamton, NY.

He is survived by his wife (the love of his life for 62 years), Barbara Jean (Gowe); his daughter, Teri (Todd) Vasina; his daughter, Tina (Jon) Tyler; his son, Michael “Monk” (Kelly) Panko; and five incredible grandchildren, TommiLynn Vasina, Michael Panko, Gabrielle Panko, Dominick Panko, and Briana Panko; one brother, Joseph (Sandy) Panko; also several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He worked at Binghamton Psychiatric Center in the electrical and maintenance department and retired as supervisor in 1986, then branched out on his own and along with Barbara, they built and operated Panko Electrical & Maintenance for 40+ years.

Mike’s nickname was “Pokey”; however, anyone who knew him knows he was anything but. He was a man full of energy who loved people; he lived and led by example with a kind and giving heart, a positive attitude, a quick wit and sense of humor, a hard work ethic and commitment to going above and beyond were all some of his best attributes. Mike lived life to the fullest and is now enjoying a new everlasting peace. He enjoyed hunting, golf, and nonstop putzing; but he absolutely LOVED spending his weekends/free time at his cottage in Goose Bay, which he named “The Living Years”. A place where the hummingbirds were always fed, the family boat rides to see the bridge and castle always led him to dropping anchor with his very good friends, and then he would close out his day with the most magnificent sunsets that he had ever seen.

Events

Visitation

When:

Saturday, January 24, 2026

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Where:

St. James Church

147 Main Street

Johnson City, NY 13790

Service

When:

Saturday, January 24, 2026

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Where:

St. James Church

147 Main Street

Johnson City, NY 13790

Final Resting Place

Calvary Cemetery

501 Fairview Avenue

Johnson City, NY 13790