



Roman Cisek

January 1, 1948 - November 23, 2023

CEDAR FALLS – Roman Cisek, 75, died on Thursday, November 23, 2023, at Allen Hospital in Waterloo.

He was born on January 1st, 1948, in Poland, the son of Stanislaw and Katarzyna (Zietek) Cisek. In 1971 Roman married Anna Szlek, and the following year he graduated from the Technical University in Cracow, Poland with an MS in Mechanical Engineering.

For the next twenty years Roman worked for Huta Stalowa Wola (HSW) in Poland, where in addition to gear design, with his language skills in English, German and Russian, he was involved in the transfer of technical know-how. He was integral to HSW's work with the International Harvester Company (IHC) and Clark Equipment Company and travelled extensively for training workshops to Chicago, IL and Rochester, NY.

In the summer of 1993 Roman and his family moved to Chicago, where he worked as a gear engineer for Gearex Fulton and Chicago Gear until he joined the John Deere Product Engineering Center in Waterloo, IA, in July 1995 as a design engineer, responsible for parallel axis gears until his retirement in January, 2020. His research into gear surface durability resulted in several patents and collaborations with the Gear Research Institute at Penn State University, Ohio State University Gear Lab and FZG, in Aachen and

Munich, in Germany.

His faith was central to his life and he was a longtime member of St. Patrick's Parish in Cedar Falls. He had lifelong interests in 20th century history, languages, politics, opera music and was an avid reader.

Roman is survived by his wife Anna and children, Andrew Cisek of Libertyville, IL, Lukasz and Agnieszka (Stec) Cisek of Waukesha, WI, Katryna Cisek of Dublin, Ireland, Julia Cisek granddaughter, and sister Elzbieta in Poland. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Danuta.

A Funeral Mass and burial will be held in Stalowa Wola, Poland at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to St. Patrick's Church, Cedar Falls, IA, Cedar Valley Hospice or the Cedar Falls Historical Society.

Tribute Wall

AK

“ I met Roman Cisek for the first time at the 2002 AGMA Fall Technical Meeting. Later, we encountered many times at AGMA FTMs and International Gear Conferences in Munich, Germany. Roman and I had a similar background. Both of us are from Eastern Europe (Roman is from Poland, and I am from Russia), where we have got our mechanical engineering education. Both moved to the US in the early 1990s. Roman expressed his interest in asymmetric gears, seeing the potential benefits for tractor transmissions, and invited me to John Deere for a presentation on this subject. Later, Roman and I worked together to develop the asymmetric planetary gear stage for the tractor transmission. Roman Cisek was well known to the US and international gearing community for his expertise and deep passion for gearing. Friends and colleagues will remember Roman as a kind person and eminent gear expert.

Alex Kapelevich, AKGears, LLC

Alex Kapelevich - December 16, 2023 at 11:24 AM

AK

“ Adam K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Roman Cisek.

Adam K. - December 13, 2023 at 03:29 PM

JB

“ I had the honor of first meeting Roman in my first role at John Deere nearly a decade ago. I still remember vividly a time that Roman came to my desk with a hand sketch of a solution to a problem we had discussed the previous day and asked if I had thought of trying his solution. Continue forward a few months and the solution suggested by Roman led to a patent that Roman was a co-inventor on. I will be forever thankful for the years I was able to work with Roman and both the technical knowledge and life wisdom shared in our many discussions.

Joel Brummer - December 12, 2023 at 10:40 AM

LD

“ Roman’s enthusiasm for continuous learning and development was contagious, and the admiration and pride he had in his family was clear. He helped so many of us engineers to solve tough problems and always had insightful comments that would make you smile. “Sometimes the darkest place is under the lamp”. Thanks Roman, you’ll be greatly missed.

Luke Davis - December 11, 2023 at 07:47 AM

RR

“ Roman and I worked in the same Drivetrain Department for many years. While traveling to a gear seminar one time, I asked Roman “why do you take a stack of technical papers for your bedtime reading? Don’t you know everything there is to know about gears?” “Oh no”, he said There is so much more to learn.” Well he never succeeded in teaching me much about gears, but he taught this old farm boy a tremendous amount about the rest of the world. How people live and think so different around the world but also are all a lot the same.
Roman is another friend that left this world far to early

Reno Rodeghiero - December 08, 2023 at 06:02 PM

RB

“ Roger B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Roman Cisek.

Roger B. - December 08, 2023 at 09:00 AM

BW

“ My favorite Roman story is about returning home from either an AGMA or OSU conference. We flew into Minneapolis and had a comfortable hour or more layover before catching the flight to Waterloo, enough time to casually make the trek across the airport and maybe catch a sandwich. But he knew that there was another flight to Waterloo that left at about the same time we were getting off the plane. He figured that if that plane was delayed by, say, 10 minutes, and it had room, we could get on. That meant we had to run, that is, sprint, across the Minneapolis airport. I didn't know a guy that old could run so fast for so long. I was intent to keep up but thought that the odds of making the flight were nil. By golly, we arrived just as they were about to close the door to the jetway, and we made the flight. I had the good fortune to travel with Roman quite a lot and he always led deep intellectual conversations. I cherish the time we spent together.

At these conferences, after a presenter introduced a novel concept in gearing, everyone wanted to know Roman's opinion. They knew he lived in the real world, not in the world "easily seduced by subscripsts."

Bob White - December 07, 2023 at 10:21 PM

BS

Mr. Cisek was a very good man and will be missed. May God bless his soul and his family. Many thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.
Ben Sempek

Ben Sempek - December 09, 2023 at 06:51 AM

JP

“*Julian P. purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Roman Cisek.*”



Julian P. - December 07, 2023 at 03:50 PM

JW

“*Roman sat across the aisle from me for many years, and I so enjoyed the numerous discussions we had on topics ranging from gears to philosophy to history to finances and beyond. You could always tell when the conversation was getting serious because he would hold his hand up with his index finger pointing upward (see the picture I added from Roman’s retirement). My favorite Roman quote came during a discussion we were having on an unusual test result I saw during my PhD work. It was a deep discussion, as many were with Roman, and at the end he left me with this thought: “The deeper you are in the forest, the more trees you see.”*”



Jeremy Wagner - December 06, 2023 at 07:24 PM

DB

“ I worked with Roman at John Deere. He was the most dedicated employee and worked hard to do the right thing -and brought it to our attention if he didn't think we were. I always enjoyed talking to him about life. I would find him peering out the window from time to time and I'd stop and we'd talk. It was always a great conversation, and always a different topic. I've missed Roman since he retired. I am quite sure he will be missed by all.

Dennis Bowman - December 06, 2023 at 06:57 PM

PK

It was very pleasurable to work with Roman over the years. I always enjoyed visiting with him on a number of topics. I continued to enjoy seeing him at HyVees and seeing his friendly smile. I also enjoyed our emails during retirement. May God Bless and You and your family. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Pete Kosmicki - December 07, 2023 at 08:35 AM

DD

Roman was kind of legend and role model for our generation of engineers. We constantly discussed about his dedication, expertise and excellent contributions over many years. I was fortunate to listen to him in some meetings which reinforced the belief that Roman was very kind and down to earth person. I wish my condolences to his family.
Deepak Dagde

Deepak Dagde - December 07, 2023 at 10:32 AM

JL

Roman was my mentor when I first joined Deere in Jan 2001. He introduced me into the gear design system used in Deere and showed me around the factory floor for gear manufacturing. We traveled together to AGMA and OSU gear conferences. I was amazed on his knowledge and work ethic. He was fun to work with as we often discussed our experience and life outside of work. I'll always cherish his teaching and caring. May God bless him and his family.
Jacob Lin

Jacob Lin - December 07, 2023 at 10:41 AM

BR

Roman was a great guy to work with. He would give time to me when I was just starting out and had no idea what I was doing, and have patience with me when I had been working for awhile and still had little idea what I was doing (compared to him). I'll miss seeing his smiling face at Saint Patrick.

Bill Rhomberg - December 07, 2023 at 10:43 AM

CK

Roman was a brilliant and hard-working engineer who became a highly regarded expert in the field of gear design at John Deere. He seemed to know things that were not in the textbooks. Many people sought his opinions, and he was always happy to help. He had a way of communicating that was direct and easy to understand. If I had a problem with gears, my first step was to go talk to Roman. I got to know him a little better after he retired. We would sometimes talk after Sunday Mass at St. Patrick Church or on the bike path along 12th Street. He was a devout Catholic who enjoyed life.

Charlie Kluck - December 08, 2023 at 11:36 AM