



## John Terry Koehler

January 16, 1947 - October 10, 2013

Koehler, John Terry, 66, January 16, 1947 to October 10, 2013, from Beverly Hills, MI, and Celebration, FL.

Beloved husband of Diane; loving father of Gwendolyn Koehler and Heather Darton Case; stepfather of Charlie Silvia and Jonathan Heather Tallinger; proud grandfather to Taryn, Delaney, Ava, Teddy, Cameron and Tommy; dear brother to Jeffry Kendra; brother-in-law to RoseAnne Michael Bigley and Paul Kosmal; uncle to Barry, Caroline, Sean, Jack, Jarek, and Brenna; and dear son of the late John and Marilyn. Terry Koehler was an adventurous man who loved life. Born in Elyria, Ohio, he was raised in Van Nuys, California, with his brother Jeff and parents John and Marilyn. He learned to speak French and German while in boarding school in Lausanne, Switzerland. He travelled extensively in Europe before returning to the U.S. to study math at Oakland University. He was a member of the first swim team at OU and held several school records. He began teaching mathematics at Lahser High School where he was an avid Class Sponsor, Chess Club sponsor, swim coach and intramural basketball coach. He was beloved by students and faculty. Terry was drafted into the Army in 1967, and was stationed in Germany. On his return home, he joined the Michigan National Guard becoming an Airborne Ranger, completing over 125 jumps. He became a Pathfinder and Jumpmaster, and was Commander of Company F, 425 Infantry, from 1985-1988, before retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1997. He will be buried with full-military honors at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly. Terry was a fun-

filled and adventurous man. Prior to a ski accident, he was an avid runner, biker and swimmer. He had a profound interest in genealogy and enjoyed computers. He was married to his wife, Diane, for over 21 years. They shared a deep, abiding love. Terry loved his family and especially enjoyed visits from his grandchildren. Visitation Monday October 14<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 p.m. until the time of service 3:00 p.m. at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 705 W 11 Mile Rd. 4 blks. E of Woodward, Royal Oak. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be gifted to The Michigan Spinal Cord Injury Association. [www.mispinalcord.org](http://www.mispinalcord.org).

# Tribute Wall

PK

“ *Mr. John Terry Koehler's life was enshrined in the U.S. Congressional Record (February 27, 1997 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE S1763) shortly after his accident by (then Republican Senator) Spence Abraham:*

*Mr. ABRAHAM: Mr. President, I rise today to extend my best wishes for a full and rapid recovery by Mr. Terry Koehler, a teacher at Lahser High School in Bloomfield Hills, MI. Involved in a very serious skiing accident in mid-February, Mr. Koehler is currently convalescing in Reno, NV.*

*In the meanwhile, the entire Bloomfield Hills community eagerly looks forward to Mr. Koehler's return. A quick glance at his extensive involvement throughout the school district and it is readily apparent why, at present, he is so sorely missed. In addition to his duties teaching math, Mr. Koehler is a coach with Lahser's championship winning boy's and girl's swim teams. He serves in the multiple roles of commissioner, coach, and player in the school's intramural basketball program. He runs the school chess club. And, as a major in the U.S. Army Reserves, Mr. Koehler's civic commitments are hardly limited to just Lahser High School.*

*Exceptional teachers are assets to any community, as are dedicated public servants. When someone exemplifies the finest qualities of both, their presence is all the more valued. Indeed, Terry Koehler is such an individual. I join his countless friends, colleagues, and students in wishing Terry, his wife Diane and the rest of his family strength and courage during this difficult time; and I look forward to the news of his return to good health, to the profession he so honorably serves and to the students whose lives he touches every day.*

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**Paul Kazanjian** - July 29, 2021 at 04:40 PM

KR

“ *Mr. Koehler always opened up the weight room for us at 6am sharp before swim practice. He was easy going and open and a great addition to the swim team. Also a great calculus teacher!*

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**Karen Rappaport** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ *I had the pleasure of serving with Terry in Co F 425th Inf. During one REFORGER exercise in Germany there was a terrible mix up with the unit that we were supposed to be attached to. Terry and several members of Co F took this opportunity to travel through Germany, France and Italy while waiting for our Security Clearances to be received. Terry and I would often laugh at the once-in-a-lifetime event where being in the military actually turned out to be "fun". I have many great memories of Terry, and knew from the very first day that I met him that he was an extraordinary individual. Terry influenced many throughout his teaching and military careers. The world is a better place because of his presence.*

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**Rober Lagana** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

D'

“ *My all time favorite teacher. A privilege to know him and I was fortunate to have him for three years in a row at Lahser. My condolences to the Koehlers. Take care, Dan*

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**Dan Page Lahser '83** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ *Dear Gwen . . . Know that our thoughts & prayers are w/ you & your family. We wish you serenity @ this difficult time. Affectionately, Diane & John*

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**Diane & John Clemente** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ My thoughts go out to the Koehler family. Mr. Koehler was my favorite teacher at Lahser. He knew exactly how to teach a concept while being kind, compassionate and patient and providing lots of laughs. He was a wonderful teacher and friend.

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**Cara Salciccioli Penozza** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ I am so sad to hear of Mr. Koehler's passing. He had a true gift for teaching and I was humbled by his intelligence and enjoyed his class, though it was a huge struggle for me. I was in his Algebra II class for the 1982-1983 school year. I always remember him talking about Gauss and other mathematicians like he was personally acquainted with them! There was a lot of laughs injected into the learning atmosphere. What a great guy who is gone too soon from this world. I was not aware of the spinal cord injury, but glad to see that he knew his grandchildren. I'm sorry I will not be able to attend his visitation or funeral but I send my best wishes for his family. - Karen Konno Walkowiak

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**Karen Walkowiak** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Mr Koehler delivered a smile and some words of encouragement every time I saw him in the hallways at Lahser, whether I needed those words or not. I wasn't "advanced" enough in my Math skills to have him as a teacher but I did put a solid team on the court each year for intramural hoops. It was our goal to beat the Teacher team and take home the championship. Mr Koehler was a great man who loved to teach lessons which is why my team The Zooquinees never beat them. He was no push over, but we played them tough. Our condolences to the Koehler family, may his life live on through you. - Brad Boivin

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**Brad Boivin** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BJ

“ Dear Diane Your husband was such an intelligent, kind, loving man. Your marriage exemplified "true love". You were lovingly always by Terry's side, and you both adored each other. I know you will greatly miss this amazing man. You will be supported through this very difficult time through prayer, and your wonderful network of family and friends. Love, Bonnie Jermo

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**Bonnie Jermo** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ On behalf of the entire Oakland Athletics family, I extend condolences and prayer to Diane and Terry's loved ones. As a member of the first intercollegiate athletics program in the history of Oakland University Men's Swimming & Diving, Terry was truly a Pioneer. We now honor and celebrate Terry's life; and, give thanks for all the students, friends and family that he positively touched.

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**Tracy Huth** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ Mr. Koehler was one of my favorite teachers at Lahser. His quick wit and love for helping his students succeed was always present. I was lucky enough to get to know his daughter as well - we were neighbors just a block away...but it was at a euchre game where I made the connection that she was Mr. Koehler's daughter! Small world. My condolences go out to his family and friends.

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**Alison Omand Shefferly** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Diane, Our deepest condolences to you and your family. We enjoyed our time spent with you and Terry with John and Kay in Celebration. He was so much fun to be around. We will miss him this winter. Our prayers are with you. Jan and Greg Scharnott

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**Jan and Greg Scharnott** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ My condolences and prayers to Diane, children and family of Terry and for God to be with you, giving you strength and peace during this difficult time.

David Green LTC, Ret - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ my family and I send our deepest condolences to you and your family.

Barnhart Family - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ Dear Diane, I think of you and Terry every time I drive down Lincoln Road. I had so much respect for Terry and for the love you two shared. Many blessings to his soul and your heart. Fond Regards, Cindy Boughner MacLeod

Cindy MacLeod - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Dear Diane, We're thinking of you with sympathy, and praying His peace will see you through this difficult time. Love, Jim and Teri Grantz

Jim and Teri Grantz - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DJ

“ Dear Diane, His star is shining brilliantly! Your family is proof of Ter's love, of the strength you have as one. May it tenderly move you through this sorrow and into gentle memories that make you smile. Love, Donna

DJ - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Dear Koehler family, I am remorseful about your loss and like to extend my deepest sympathy for your loved one John Koehler. From personal experience I know that the death of a love one causes pain and grief and sometimes it seems unbearable. The Scriptures contain comfort that can assist us during times of distress. The ransom of Jesus and the hope of seeing my loved one again in the resurrection brought me comfort. I would like to share these three scriptures with you to give you comfort John 5:28, 29, Acts 24:15 and Romans 15:4. May the God of comfort give you peace and rest. Mrs. Higgins

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**Mrs Higgins** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ Terry's Celebration, Florida family is celebrating the life of an amazing neighbor and friend. He will be missed by so many. Love to Diane and to their wonderful family.

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**Lawrie Lehmann** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ Heather, So sorry for your loss. Wish we could be there to give you a hug. Carol & Kenny

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**Blue lake neighbors Ken&Carol** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Such a sad loss. I enjoyed our visit last winter in FL. What a strong constitution he had to endure the pain he had for so long. To have his loving wife, Diane, by his side through it all made his journey possible. Diane- I am there with you in my heart, thoughts & prayers. Love, Jan

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**Jan Robson** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ND

“ Terry Koehler, was one of my favorite teachers & a true friend. I loved his intelligence, passion & his wonderful sense of humor. I had the honor of working with him as our class student council sponsor & was his student assistant. He helped me cram for a Mr. Maki test in the 11th hour on more than one occasion & was always there for me when I needed adult advice. My thoughts & prayers go out to Mr. K's family. What a great man!Lahser, Class of 1982

Nancy Kopmeyer Duerst - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ I wish I could come to Michigan to pay my respects. Although I haven't seen Terry in 30-some odd years, he will forever be one of my favorite people/mentor/teachers I've ever known. Always inspiring, willing to listen, and understood the condition of being a teenager, even when he wasn't one! An incredible talent and soul, I'm a better person for having known him.

Rick Miller, Lahser/1976 - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Maker of brain matter!

jim mckin - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Mr. Koehler was one of my favorite teachers and the reason I got my act together enough to graduate back in 1982. His faith in me when I had no faith in myself pushed me to become a better student and person. If I can be half the inspirational teacher he was, I will consider my career a success. Thank you Mr. Koehler

Shannon Main-Petelka - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ *My deepest sympathies on your loss. I had Mr. Koehler for A.P. Calculus in 1988. He was one of the best teachers I ever had.*

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**Brainwrap** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ *A big loss for any and all who got to know Terry. He made a positive difference in the lives of many. Rest in peace, Terry.*

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**Donald Hillman** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ *Dear Diane and family. My heart goes out to all of you. My deepest condolences.*Linda Schwartz

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**Linda Schwartz** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ *Diane: The first and only time I saw you and Terry together was at one of the CHS reunions about 20 years ago. You two looked really happy together on the dance floor. I am so sorry that I didn't have the honor to know him better. My prayers to the both of you.* Paul Spoutz

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**Paul Spoutz** - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM