



George W. Korte, CMSgt USAF Retired

July 14, 1930 - August 8, 2017

George W. J. Korte, CMSgt USAF Retired, age 87 of Highland, IL, died Tuesday, August 08, 2017, at Saint Joseph's Hospital in Highland, IL.

He was born on Monday, July 14, 1930, in Pocahontas, IL, the son of Anton and Wilhelmina (nee Goesten Kors) Korte.

On Saturday, June 07, 1952, he married JoAnn E. Korte nee Brant at Pierron, Illinois by Fr. Kunsch, who survives.

He was a member of Saint Paul Catholic Church; St. Paul School Educational Foundation; Highland Knights of Columbus Council #1580 3rd and 4th Degree (Grand Knight and Faithful Navigator); American Legion Lee Iten Post #439-Past Commander; Five Year President of the Knights of Columbus Chapter of the Springfield Diocese; Senior Vice Commander for Bond/Madison American Legion; Board of Directors Relevant Pregnancy Options Center, Highland, IL, Highland Sharpshooters (lifetime member).

Mr. Korte was born in Pocahontas, IL and grew up on the family farm east of Pierron. He attended Immaculate Conception School in Pierron, IL for eight years, St. Henry's Seminary in Belleville for three years, and graduated from St. Paul High School in Highland in 1948. He worked for Highland Box Company and joined the US Air Force in 1950, where he served until June 1974. He retired as Chief Master Sergeant and Superintendent of Electronics at Bergstrom A.F.B. in Austin, Texas. In 1974, he joined Trionics as Manager of Customer Service for nine years and Manager of Material Control for nine years, retiring in 1992. He was very active with the Highland Knights of Columbus where he served as Grand Knight and Faithful Navigator of the 4th Degree. He was the 10th Chairman of the St. Paul Kirchenfest in 1980. He was an avid Euchre card game player. He enjoyed the St. Louis Cardinal Baseball team and traveling with family. Spending time with his family was very important.

Survivors include:

Wife - JoAnn E. Korte, nee Brant, Highland, IL
Son - Rick J. (Pam) Korte, Elgin, IL
Daughter - Cheryl A. (Donnie) Ross, Georgetown, TX
Daughter - Cindy S. (significant other - Terry Clayton) Miller, Highland, IL
Son - Darrin P. (Penny) Korte, Highland, IL
Grandchild - Eric (Carolyn) Korte
Grandchild - Dawn (Chris) Buford
Grandchild - Brandie (Mike) Remke
Grandchild - Scott (Julie) Ross
Grandchild - Damon (Joanne) Ross
Grandchild - Amanda Rice
Grandchild - Tiffany (Eric) Abert
Grandchild - Thomas Korte
Grandchild - Christopher Korte
Grandchild - Lexi Korte
Grandchild - Stephanie Korte
Great Grandchild - Ashley Ross
Great Grandchild - Taylor Ross
Great Grandchild - Dylan Ross
Great Grandchild - Austin Ross
Great Grandchild - Kyle Ross
Great Grandchild - Evan Korte
Great Grandchild - Graham Remke
Great Grandchild - Olin Abert
Great Grandchild - Violet Remke
Great Grandchild - Maddox Abert
Great Great Grandchild - Aubry Ross
Sister - Ann (Edwin) Plocher, Highland, IL
Sister - Millie Foederer Pender, Highland, IL
Brother - Ralph F. (Donna) Korte, Highland, IL
Brother - Larry J. (Ethel) Korte, Highland, IL
Brother - David S. (Ruth) Korte, Highland, IL
Brother - Robert F. (Edith) Korte, Highland, IL
Sister - Barbara (Dennis) Zobrist, Highland, IL
Brother - Daniel J. (Elizabeth "Bunny") Korte, Highland, IL
Sister In-law - Eileen Korte, Highland, IL.

He was preceded in death by:

Father - Anton G. Korte - Died 10/20/1982

Mother - Wilhelmina A. "Minnie" Korte, nee Goestenkors - Died 02/07/1981

Son-in-law - Don Miller - Died 7/18/1997

Brother - Vincent A. (Lynette) Korte - Died 2/27/1995

Sister - Margie (Paul) Rohling - Died 12/28/2010

Sister - Marie (Eddie) Huelsmann - Died 5/7/2013

Sister - Lorraine G. (Harvey) Jakel - Died 5/28/2014

Brother - Raymond F. Korte - Died 9/10/2010

Sister In-law - Betty (Rolland) Hoolihan.

Arrangements are being handled by Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Friday, August 11, 2017, at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL and from 8:00 AM to 10:30 AM on Saturday, August 12, 2017, at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Funeral Mass will be at 11:00 AM on Saturday, August 12, 2017, at Saint Paul Catholic Church in Highland, IL., with Rev. Father Pat G. Jakel, pastor, officiating.

Interment will be at Saint Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Highland, IL.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul School Educational Foundation; St. Paul Catholic Church or Relevant Pregnancy Options Center.

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home - August 11, 2017 at 11:57 AM



“ Dad's Life Through Darrin Korte's Eyes. Thanks for writing this. For the record, this was read at Dad's funeral.

Dad grew up in the time of the depression, so wasting money was a big issue with him. He was never big on buying gifts. If mom wanted something for Christmas, she would have to buy it herself and then tell dad what he bought her.

He thought that the swimming pool was just a big hole in the ground that collected money, but he knew that mom loved it, so he would do whatever it took to please her.

Every night, Dad and Mom would hold hands and pray together before they kissed each other goodnight. He often told me how much he prayed for Penny and I and for our kids. He would worry about them and what kind of world they would grow up in.

He was proud of his service to our country and he told me how proud he was that Thomas had joined the Air Force as well. I would venture to say that one of his proudest days was when we took the honor flight to Washington DC. He kept repeating all day long "This is great, this is just great". It also happened to fall on his 64th anniversary and of course he was worried about mom all day until he saw her at the airport and he couldn't stop crying.

We used to call dad "Old Softy", because he would cry at everything that touched his heart. Which, by the way, was almost everything.

He would tell stories about his youth and about how hard they had it as a family. He would say "I don't know how they can call it the good old days, The good old days are now".

He loved technology and was always trying to keep up with things on the computer. We even talked him into getting a smart phone, however he was constantly butt dialing me and I would have long messages in my voicemail of conversations between mom and dad and they didn't know they were on the phone. I told Dad that if he needed help on the computer, all he would have to do is press the F1 key and it would tell him what to do. He would then proceed to call me at work and say "Hello, I need help on the computer and you are my F1 key".

He loved Cardinal baseball and especially Whitey Ball. He wasn't crazy about Tony La Russa, but he liked the fact that they were winning. He used to say, "You know I had a chance to play for the Cardinals back in 1949, I was available that summer, but they never called me".

Dad was a conservative through and through and he knew his politics. Well at least one side of them. If the TV was on at Dad's house, it was either on the Cardinal's or Blue's game or else it was on Fox News. I'm sure his political views were forged during his time in the Air Force. He always felt that you should work for anything that was given to you.

Dad would always correct our grammar if we spoke incorrectly and us kids hated it.

Now I correct my kids grammar all the time and they hate it. Like father, like son. I am only passing down my father's legacy. I tell my kids to blame Grandpa for that.

I loved Dad's sense of humor and again I am just like him. He used to start a joke and then half way through he would say "Jo Ann, finish this joke so I don't mess it up". In his latter years, he always finished the joke himself. I had many people tell me that If George wasn't going to be at the KC meeting to tell his joke that night, then they didn't want to go either.

He spent many years going to cardiac rehab and the ladies there just adored him. His nickname was "King George". We spent many of days and nights at St. Joseph's hospital in the last few years and everyone knew dad there and they all fell in love with him and his sense of humor. It was surprising how sharp his mind was in the hospital. He would know every nurse and doctor that came in and he would know all the meds he was taking and what they were for. He was up on current events in the world and at the same time, he would know the names of people in Highland and how they were related. He had an amazing memory.

I would say that Dad lived through quite a few changes in sorry his lifetime and he embraced them all with a zest for life. Without a doubt, he loved our mother and God put them together for a reason. They are a match made in Heaven for sure. Dad believed in doing a job right, or don't do it at all. He was a man of honor and integrity in a time when that quality in a man is slowing fading away. He loved his family and he wasn't afraid to show it. He had an awesome sense of humor and enjoyed sharing it with people around him. He was extremely strong in his faith and he raised his children to believe in Jesus Christ as our lord and savior. On the day he passed away, he said that he was going to meet Jesus tonight. He knew where he was headed that night and I truly believe that he is in heaven celebrating his homecoming with those who passed before him. He is without pain and suffering and he will have no more sorrow. What an awesome time it is for "King George".

Cindy - August 22, 2017 at 01:28 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of George W. Korte, CMSgt USAF Retired.



August 11, 2017 at 01:24 PM



“ 72 files added to the album LifeTributes



Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home - August 11, 2017 at 10:34 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of George W. Korte, CMSgt USAF Retired.



August 10, 2017 at 11:44 PM



“ Florida Brothers Stephen, John, and David Pinch purchased the Garden of Serenity Bouquet for the family of George W. Korte, CMSgt USAF Retired.



Florida Brothers Stephen, John, and David Pinch - August 10, 2017 at 10:42 PM



“ Our sincere sympathy to JoAnn and the entire Korte Family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Our memory of George are mainly concerning the Knights of Columbus. We attended many, many functions with George & JoAnn.....Always a great time ! May he rest in peace.....

Ralph & Ruth Ann Langhauser, Breese, IL

Ralph Langhauser - August 10, 2017 at 10:28 AM



“ The Scott & Julie Ross Family & Sally Hutchinson purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of George W. Korte, CMSgt USAF Retired.



The Scott & Julie Ross Family & Sally Hutchinson - August 10, 2017 at 10:18 AM



“ Sentimental Dreams was purchased for the family of George W. Korte, CMSgt USAF Retired.



August 10, 2017 at 10:09 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of George W. Korte, CMSgt USAF Retired.



August 10, 2017 at 01:11 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of George W. Korte, CMSgt USAF Retired.



August 09, 2017 at 09:39 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers for the Korte family on the loss of George. I'll always remember the times we'd meet at the USAF Scott AFB Hospital, the Korte Rec Center, and bowling. Many great conversations. I know he'll be missed by family and friends. RIP George.



Pam & Aimee Lecerf - August 09, 2017 at 09:27 PM



“ Jane Mannion lit a candle in memory of George W. Korte, CMSgt USAF Retired



Jane Mannion - August 09, 2017 at 09:18 PM



“ Sending my deepest sympathy JoAnn and family.
I will miss George. He was a great guy.

Jane Bircher - August 10, 2017 at 10:44 AM



“ Heartfelt Memories was purchased for the family of George W. Korte, CMSgt USAF Retired.



August 09, 2017 at 09:12 PM



“ Dear Jo Ann and family. Sending all my love and prayers to you. George always had a special place in my heart. Always got a big hug from him anytime I was in town, God's blessings on you, and on him. Love love love you.
Jane(Durbin)McDonald

jane mcdonald - August 09, 2017 at 09:06 PM



“ Dan O'Brien lit a candle in memory of George W. Korte, CMSgt USAF Retired



Dan O'Brien - August 09, 2017 at 08:29 PM



“ We are saddened by the loss of a dear friend. Our prayers for George also to JoAnn and their lovely family!!! God be with you!

Morris and Linda Zobrist - August 09, 2017 at 08:23 PM



“ Jeanne Heuberger lit a candle in memory of George W. Korte, CMSgt USAF Retired



Jeanne Heuberger - August 09, 2017 at 07:14 PM



“ George was always such an inspiration at Cardiopulmonary therapy! He was cheerful, always had a good word to share and I admire his persistence. So very sorry for your loss. He was quite a guy!!

Jeanne Heuberger - August 09, 2017 at 07:16 PM



“ EULOGY OF GEORGE KORTE

George was born on July 14th, 1930, northeast of Pierron, IL. He was the 6th child of Anton & Minnie (Goestenkor) Korte. They would later have 8 more kids. So growing up we were a housefull. I remember one summer when he and his brother Ray worked on the baler tying wires for John Ammann. They would get home late at night and were really dirty. That is probably, I'm sure, the dirtiest and hardest work he ever did.

I only remember George when he went to St. Henry's Seminary. He would be home in the summertime and I believe Dad thought George could do no wrong so there was an occasional squabble between my brother Ray and George as Ray always thought that and probably rightfully so that George got the better team of horses and the best hay mower. But Ray being 2 yrs older I guess Dad thought that was the right way.

Ann's comments of him when he was young, he would put baby ducklings in his pockets, when he sat down of course the duckling died. I guess that is why none of the rest of us remember Dad raising ducks.

Ann played a trick on him while enjoying a dance at Lindendale Park with Vince and George and the gang. I believe she put something in his pipe, anyhow it upset George so he took Ann across his lap and tried to spank her and ended up he actually cracked a few of her ribs. I'm sure; knowing all of them, there was surely no alcohol involved. They enjoyed going to dances at the Park, KC Hall, or Albers, where they would meet their Clinton County cousins.

George attended St. Henry's Seminary for three years. He then spent his senior year here at St. Paul's. He discovered early that he loved the ladies and lost his "calling" to become a priest. George was always a flirt with the ladies. JoAnn tolerated his flirting and always said, "Shout, look and listen, but don't touch!" After 65 years of marriage their agreement obviously worked.

When JoAnn was a freshman in High School, she was a pitcher for the Lebanon softball team. George was a catcher for the Highland/Pierron baseball team. The coach wanted JoAnn to pitch and she said she didn't have anyone to warm her up. George volunteered to

warm her up. He had been warming her up ever since.

George told his cousin, "I'm going to marry that girl." And he did. After the game was over, JoAnn was in the stands with George and informed him that she was cold. Instead of offering a warm arm around her or a jacket, being the romantic devil that George was, he sat on her feet.

JoAnn hung out at Teen Town in Lebanon and George would meet her there. JoAnn wasn't allowed to ride in a vehicle with any boys, so George's cousin would drive George's car so that he could walk JoAnn home. George always drove his dad's car, but he bought a new car for himself and JoAnn finally rode home with him, with the understanding that he had to meet her father. It turned out that JoAnn's father fell in love with George. George said that the only reason JoAnn agreed to date him was because of his new car and not him.

George was in the US Air Force for 24 years and was very proud to reach the rank of CMsgt. This was a new rank for the Air Force and he made rank on his first try. His eyes always lit up when someone called him "Chief."

He retired in 1974 and moved back to Highland where he worked for Trionics. His brothers and sisters were glad when he retired from the Air Force, as we all had to rest up when they would go back after a leave. He retired from Trionics in 1992.

George attended college courses during his military career. He finished college in 1985 at SIUE and attained a bachelor's degree in Business Management. He was working full-time and going to school part-time. He actually shared some classes with his youngest son, Darrin. George was either teaching or going to school most of his life.

In 1975 George joined the Knights of Columbus, Council 1580 in Highland. He thought every Catholic Man should be a Knight. He was Grand Knight, Faithful Navigator and District Deputy. He was inducted into the Springfield Diocesan Chapter of the Bishop's Hall of Fame in 1994. George and JoAnn were selected as the Illinois State family of the year at the Illinois State Convention in St. Louis in 1997.

In 2016, George and I attended a Cursill movement in Quincy. At the closing ceremony on Sunday night he told my son that, that was the best weekend of his life, then with a twinkle in his eye, he said don't tell Aunt JoAnn I said that.

In 2005 George was elected as the Commander of Lee Iten Post 439 in Highland. He served as treasurer and president of the Post 439 Corporation board. He also served as Commander for the Madison-Bond County Legion.

He was on the board of the Relevant Pregnancy Center. There he was known as the "enforcer" as he always wanted to make a motion and keep the meetings rolling and get things done. He had no time for procrastination but he loved meetings.

George had a sarcastic sense of humor. His knick-name was "Pesty Korte." He mastered the delivery of the One-Liner. Because of this, he was appointed lecturer to always close Knights of Columbus meetings with a joke or story. He probably could have made a career out of story-telling and jokes. Of course there was a couple of time he let me censor his

jokes.

George was very competitive and especially playing Euchre. He would always get mad when the “girls” beat the “boys.” He also would get upset every time he got euchred.

George loved to travel. George and JoAnn visited all 50 states and 8 countries in Europe. He was also stationed in Wake Island, Turkey and Japan. He was a member of the “February Club” which was created by his daughters and their friends who would plan a trip usually south to get out of the cold of Illinois. He was always the life of the party. Somewhere along the line, the term OMG got changed from Oh My God to Oh My George.

Cruising was another passion for George. When it got harder for him to navigate around a ship he discovered that he could order a motorized scooter to be delivered to his cabin for the duration of his cruise. He loved these scooters. He was free to go wherever he wanted, whenever he wanted. One evening after George and JoAnn had stayed out late partying; they were both a little tipsy. Since George had his scooter he could get back to his cabin without any problems, however JoAnn had to walk. So instead of JoAnn walking, he told her to “hop on.” She rode on his lap all the way to the cabin laughing and giggling.

Since George rode his scooter everywhere on the ship, he would always put his silverware wrapped in a linen napkin in his coat pocket. On one cruise, when disembarking, he felt a place setting in his pocket. He didn’t know what to do with it and didn’t want to go through security at the airport with it in his pocket so he snuck the silverware into Cindy’s purse. When Cindy went through security at the airport she got stopped and had to explain why she was carrying silverware in her purse. Cindy said, “I have no idea how that got in there.” George responded, “I didn’t know where to put it.”

George was an avid St. Louis Cardinal fan. When he was younger he loved to attend every game possible. Recently he loved to watch the games from his chair on TV. The evening that he passed away, he was watching the game and the Cards brought home a win. As usual he shouted, “That’s A Winner!”

Heaven has now gained another “Winner.” That would be George!

Cindy - August 22, 2017 at 01:29 PM



“ Mary Beth Broughton lit a candle in memory of George W. Korte, CMSgt USAF Retired



mary beth broughton - August 09, 2017 at 07:08 PM



“ My thoughts prayers and love to the family.

mary beth broughton - August 09, 2017 at 07:09 PM



“ George found his home in the USAF. He loved serving his country and achieved the highest enlisted rank (Chief Master Sgt). The Air Force is a better place today because of his hard work and leadership. This world will surely miss a great patriot. He touched a lot of lives, and influenced the outcome of many of those lives. George is one of those who will be hard to replace.

Val Buchmiller

Val Buchmiller - August 10, 2017 at 10:58 AM



“ A great hardworking soft spoken man that never met an enemy and was a friend to all! We will miss you George! Condolences, prayers and hugs to Joann and the family!

Kevin and Ellen Limestall - August 09, 2017 at 06:24 PM