



Ralph F. Korte

November 10, 1934 - August 26, 2025

Ralph Korte

November 10, 1934 ~ August 26, 2025

Ralph Korte, 90, of Highland, Illinois, passed away on August 26, 2025, surrounded by family.

Above all, Ralph was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend. He is survived by his beloved wife, Donna; his children Susan (Rob) Bowman – Highland, IL, Greg (Nicole) Korte – Las Vegas, NV, Todd (Julie) Korte – Highland, IL, and Vicki (Brian) Solheim – Valrico, FL.

Grandchildren include Marissa Bowman, Alex Bowman, Ryan Bowman, Gavin Korte, Rachel Korte, Grant Korte, Tess Korte, Gabe Korte, Austin Solheim, Logan Solheim, and Garrett Solheim. Great-Grandchildren include Melia Bowman, Quinn Bowman, and Rosie Bowman.

Ralph's influence reached far beyond his professional achievements. He believed deeply in community and philanthropy, giving generously to organizations such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, and numerous local initiatives. His vision and leadership helped shape the Highland community, including efforts to attract

industry and support civic growth.

Visitation & Funeral Services

Formal visitation will be held on Friday, August 29, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland. Visitation will resume on Saturday, August 30, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. at the funeral home, followed by the funeral mass at 10:00 a.m. at St. Paul Catholic Church in Highland.

Memorial Contributions

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the SIUE School of Engineering Construction Management Fund or to the Highland Area Community Foundation – Korte Recreation Center Operations Fund.

Ralph's life was defined by hard work, integrity, and generosity. His legacy will live on in every community he touched and in the values instilled in his family, his company, and all who had the privilege to know him.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **29**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home - Highland
1501 9th Street
P.O. Box 187
Highland, IL 62249
(618) 654-2133
info@spengel-boulanger.com

Visitation

AUG **30**. 8:00 AM - 9:45 AM (CT)

Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home - Highland
1501 9th Street
P.O. Box 187
Highland, IL 62249
(618) 654-2133
info@spengel-boulanger.com

Funeral Mass

AUG **30**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul Catholic Church
1412 9th St
Highland, IL 62249
(618) 654-2339

Tribute Wall

CT

“ My husband, Ted Christner, worked with Ralph Korte professionally over many years and came to deeply value the friendship that developed between them. Ted respected Ralph for his values and his integrity in addition to the quality of work he and his company always delivered. Ted will be meeting up with Ralph again in the very near future and I know they will have a wonderful time sharing their memories and experiences together.

Claudia Trautmann - September 05, 2025 at 02:47 PM

BF

“ Ralph was a dear friend. We counseled each other and served together on many boards. He will be missed . Thanks for the memories. Byron Farrell

Byron Farrell - August 29, 2025 at 04:28 PM

RR

“ Rita Rinderer lit a candle in memory of Ralph Korte



Rita Rinderer - August 29, 2025 at 04:07 PM

JF

“ Ralph came over to my Belleville office in 1985 and told me how impactful YPO was to him. He sponsored me and I have also enjoyed the experience. Ralph was a great man and I will miss him!!
Jim Forsyth

Jom Forsyth - August 29, 2025 at 02:54 PM

TM

“ The IL Mullaney's planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ralph F. Korte.

The IL Mullaney's - August 29, 2025 at 01:57 PM

TM

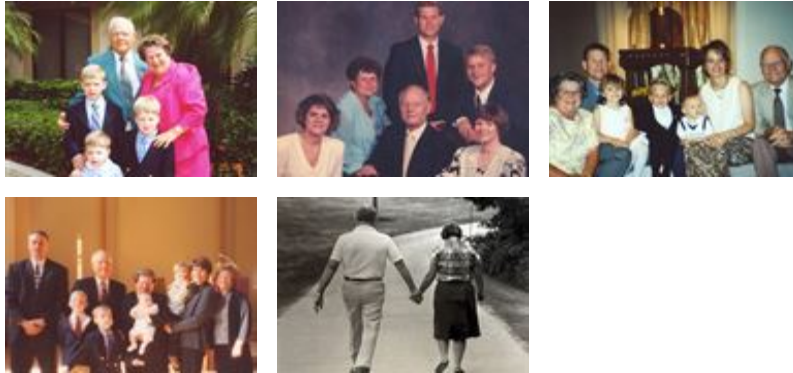
“ The IL Mullaney's purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ralph F. Korte.



The IL Mullaney's - August 29, 2025 at 01:57 PM



“ 49 files added to the album Life Tributes



Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home - August 29, 2025 at 11:05 AM

JM

“ I lived in Highland 23 years. I always admired Ralph Korte for becoming a pillar of the community. He did not have a well-to-do beginning, but he became very successful due to his hard work and love for his town. His church and his family. May he rest in eternal peace

Jeanette Matlock - August 29, 2025 at 09:42 AM

BC

“ Ralph was a pillar of strength, generosity and business decorm in the Highland community. He & I had several meetings where he shared his experience, knowledge & expertise on growing & running a major company. Ralph was always mentoring & supporting young business leaders of our community. His generosity will be missed. Rest in peace Ralph

Bill Corray - August 28, 2025 at 07:05 PM

JM

“ Ralph was a mentor to me. Even though we were close to the same age he guided me through the transition of being a subcontractor to being a general contractor. With his guidance we started the first Korte expansion into St Louis and a few years later to Austin Texas. I will be forever grateful to him for helping me in my journey in the construction business. My best wishes go out to Donna and the family. Rest in peace Ralph.
Jim McComb

Jim McComb - August 28, 2025 at 06:29 PM

GC

“ Glenn and Stacy Cook purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Ralph F. Korte.



Glenn and Stacy Cook - August 28, 2025 at 06:03 PM

AR

“ Donna & family, very sorry to hear of Ralph’s passing. I worked for him many years. He will be missed by many people & fond & great memories of him. I will be unable to attend visitation & funeral but will remember him & you & family in my prayers. Art Reames

Art Reames - August 28, 2025 at 05:21 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ralph F. Korte.

August 28, 2025 at 04:01 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ralph F. Korte.



August 28, 2025 at 04:01 PM

GS

“ Grace Sugg lit a candle in memory of Ralph Korte



Grace Sugg - August 28, 2025 at 03:49 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Ralph F. Korte.*



August 28, 2025 at 02:05 PM



“ *Allen & Debbie Corbin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ralph F. Korte.*

Allen & Debbie Corbin - August 28, 2025 at 01:59 PM



“ *Allen & Debbie Corbin purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Ralph F. Korte.*



Allen & Debbie Corbin - August 28, 2025 at 01:59 PM



“ *Ralph was a mentor of mine for many years. We would meet in Highland. After Korte HQ was moved to Union Station he loved Lombardo's. Ralph made a huge impact on Highland, SIU-E and more. His legacy continues. I am grateful to have him guide me for many years. I learned a lot from him. More important is the friendship we developed. Thanks Ralph Bill Ziercher*

Bill Ziercher - August 28, 2025 at 01:33 PM

BC

“ I am saddened to hear the loss of beloved Ralph and my deepest sympathies to Donna, Todd and Ralph's many many loved ones. First connected with him 40 years ago before our many years in YPO together and asked him to sponsor an event for St. Louis Ambassadors. Absolutely he said--such a giver. Blessed to have time with him in Naples as well as 2 phone calls in the last 3 months. he will be missed and certainly in the Lord's Hands. God Bless you Ralph. RIP

Barry T Cervantes - August 28, 2025 at 01:26 PM

PG

“ Plain and simple, Mr. Ralph Korte made an indelible positive mark on my life. 30 years ago, he sponsored me into the Young Presidents Organization (YPO). I was on the fence with joining, due to the time commitment. Among many other words of wisdom, Mr. Korte said to me, “Paul, do not miss this opportunity, YPO will change your life”. Boy oh boy was he right! I've learned so much and made so many wonderful and dear friends (including his son Todd). I am so thankful for Mr. Korte's energy, wisdom and friendship over the years. His contributions to our shared Alma Mater SIU-E will continue on for generations. Rest in peace, sir, heaven just got even better. With a heavy heart. Paul Galeski

Paul Galeski - August 28, 2025 at 01:20 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ralph F. Korte.



August 28, 2025 at 12:54 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ralph F. Korte.

August 28, 2025 at 12:06 PM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ralph F. Korte.



August 28, 2025 at 12:06 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ralph F. Korte.

August 28, 2025 at 11:43 AM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ralph F. Korte.



August 28, 2025 at 11:43 AM



“ From-The RubinBrown Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ralph F. Korte.

From-The RubinBrown Team - August 28, 2025 at 11:31 AM

FT

“ *From-The RubinBrown Team purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ralph F. Korte.*



From-The RubinBrown Team - August 28, 2025 at 11:31 AM

TF

“ *The Seibert Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Ralph F. Korte.*



The Seibert Family - August 28, 2025 at 10:25 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ralph F. Korte.*

August 28, 2025 at 10:18 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Ralph F. Korte.*



August 28, 2025 at 10:18 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ralph F. Korte.*

August 28, 2025 at 10:08 AM



“ *Heavenly Light was purchased for the family of Ralph F. Korte.*



August 28, 2025 at 10:08 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ralph F. Korte.

August 27, 2025 at 11:47 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ralph F. Korte.*



August 27, 2025 at 11:47 PM



“ *What an amazing man he was, personally and professionally. He never compromised his or the Company's integrity and was just a good man. It is an honor that I got to know him and share in the legacy that he created.*
Susie Brigman

Susie Brigman - August 27, 2025 at 11:10 PM



“ *Rita Rinderer lit a candle in memory of Ralph Korte*



Rita Rinderer - August 27, 2025 at 10:27 PM