



Michael D. Koehler

May 9, 1938 - January 21, 2015

Michael D. Koehler, age 76, passed away on Wednesday, January 21, 2015 at his lake home in Minocqua. He was born on May 9, 1938.

Mike attended Mt. Carmel High School in Chicago and upon graduation he attended Marquette University on a football scholarship. He went on to play football and graduate from the University of Nebraska. Mike earned his Masters in Guidance Counseling from Northern Illinois University and his PhD in Educational Administration from the University of Utah. His professional career led him to Deerfield High School where he was a guidance counselor and football coach for 30 years. In Mike's spare time he taught educational administration courses at Northeastern University in Chicago and wrote 17 books on education and sports.

Mike was an accomplished photographer and enjoyed fishing, boating, crossword puzzles and writing poetry.

He was preceded in death by his son-in-law, Bruce Hanson. Mike is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Pat Koehler; daughters, Kathleen (Dwight) Elmendorf, Carrie Hanson and Peggy (Dave) Dietrich; grandchildren, Eric, Cassidy and Michael and brother, John Thorpe.

A Funeral Mass will be held at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at Holy Family Catholic Church in Woodruff. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to the American Heart Association or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Cemetery Details

St. Patrick Cemetery

Woodruff, WI

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

JAN **28**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Holy Family Catholic Church
8950 County J
Woodruff, WI 54568
(715) 356-6284
<http://www.holyfamilywoodruff.org>

Tribute Wall

TZ

“ I attended DHS from 91-95, and I am currently a HS teacher and coach. Doc was one of the biggest influences in my high school football career. I will never forget him. He took me into his office my junior year during a difficult transition period and discussed life and football. His deep voice passionately providing positive encouragement, really resonated with me. This conversation changed my life and high school career. I will forever remember him as a mentor and coach. May he rest in peace.. He deserves it.

Tom Zelski - January 29, 2015 at 09:41 PM

“ Pat, Kathleen, Carrie, and Peggy - You have my deepest sympathy. I want to record my thoughts about Mike - your husband and father.

I called him Mike or 'Mikey'. Whenever I referred to him as 'Mikey', he would call me 'Syl-ly'.

My sons, Rob, John, and Mark called him Mr. Koehler. They didn't refer to him as Mike or Dr. Koehler. My daughter-in-law Trudy and grandsons, Justin and Evan, thought he was a pretty cool guy.

We all knew and loved Mike in our own way. We knew that he wore many hats and played different roles in all of our lives. The most obvious and important ones were as Pat's husband and as Lino, Carrie, and Peggy's dad. Dwight, Dave, and Bruce's knew him as their father-in-law. Eric, Cassie, and Michael had a special name for him as their grandfather.

Mike was also a son, brother, nephew, grandson, brother-in-law, Bud & Edith's son-in-law, an athlete, Coach, academic, Doc, counselor, teacher, professor, author, fisherman, photographer, confidante, and dog lover - the list goes on.

Most of all for me – Mike was my friend and loving husband of my dearest friend. We all shared so many memories. I'm having a little trouble making sense out of life without Mike – all those conversations yet to have & all that AZ sun to soak up!

The mental image I choose going forward is see him with Bob in that little wooden fishing boat and humming 'Mr. Moon' as they reel in those Walleye for breakfast.

Michael Koehler - I have such appreciation and gratitude for the life you lived and the legacy you left.

*I love you Mike.
Sylvia Koberg Gaffney*

Sylvia Gaffney - January 28, 2015 at 06:05 PM

JB

“ *Dear Pat and Family,*

We are saddened by the news of Mike's passing. He was such a lovely man, and we feel very fortunate to have known him and to own several of his beautiful photos. I am sure he will find my dad in heaven, and they will resume sharing stories and good times with each other. He will be missed!

*Love,
Joanne and Michael Bellet*

joanne bellet - January 28, 2015 at 11:45 AM

BB

“ *Brian and Lara Barbour purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Michael D. Koehler.*



Brian and Lara Barbour - January 27, 2015 at 09:20 PM

FD

“ *Fred Doremus purchased the Vivid Recollections for the family of Michael D. Koehler.*



Fred Doremus - January 27, 2015 at 04:14 PM

SM

“ Mike was more than my guidance counselor; he was a mentor who shaped my future. One poignant day he told me to "shoot for the moon so that if I fall off I will land among the stars." As an impressionable 16 year old I thought those were his own words. And they changed my life! To this day I share that story with the students I am privileged to teach.

A few summers ago I got to see Mike in Minocqua where we vacation close to his home. I shared that story with him and wrote him a letter letting him know how many students he was still reaching. He was an extraordinary man, I am blessed to have known him.

Stevi Silverman Marks
Class of 1972

Stevi Marks - January 27, 2015 at 01:24 PM

KM

“ Saddens me to hear the news. I was always pleased to hear from people around the country (Boise, Idaho for example) who knew my coach and counselor from Deerfield High School.

Kerry McLachlan - January 27, 2015 at 08:46 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Michael D. Koehler.



January 26, 2015 at 03:28 PM

BO

“ Coach "K" was not only a great coach at Deerfield High School, he was a great role model. You could always count on Mr. Koehler for sound advice, on the football field, in the classroom or as a counselor. No better words could be said about a man than he shaped the lives of the thousands he touched and made them better people for having known Coach Koehler. Bob Levin, Class of '73.

bob - January 26, 2015 at 01:04 PM

BS

“ Betty S. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Michael D. Koehler.



Betty S. - January 26, 2015 at 10:22 AM

“ Doc was, is, and always will be one of my all time favorite people. As a counselor, a mentor, a friend- he lead by example and with both heart and head! He most certainly was one of the strongest emotional and intellectual influences in my life- kept me from falling off the edge , shining his light into the darkest corners of my life- and believing in me when I didn't feel like anyone did. He revealed to me my unique strengths and multiple facets of talent to offer the world in a time that when I thought I had none. He was always available when I reached out and always willing to reach back and beyond- not only seeing me, but seeing through me. Though I know he did this for so many throughout the years, it made me feel unique and special as he just had such a knack for "knowing" all of us! He taught me to seek the good in everyone,(including my self) and when I found it- to run with it! He ingrained in me.. the belief that deep and meaningful connections are the beginning and end to everything ...and to this day it is my life mantra. He was a fatherlike friend, a coach, a mentor, an inspiration- and forever has a place in my heart of hearts.

My deepest sympathies to his beloved Pat and the rest of his clan- who I never met, but had felt close to through him- a testimony of how influential the power of family love is when it is shared so proudly and liberally. When Doc shared these snippets of his happiness with me in our counseling sessions, and then later in his encouraging letters- it made me giddy for him- and appreciate the wonderful treasure of family. It is through his eyes that I learned how to truly appreciate life.

****God bless you Doc- for being such a powerfully positive influence in my life -May you continue to guide and influence in the hereafter dear man... I'm sure you will have your own flock of angels who will so greatly benefit from your love and kind wisdom. *****



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael D. Koehler.* ”



January 23, 2015 at 01:02 PM