

Obituary

George W. Koelsch, born April 5, 1950, in Paola, Kansas, passed away on August 1, 2026, at the University of Kansas Health Olathe Hospice House in Olathe, Kansas. His life spanned 76 years filled with rich experiences, steadfast love for his family and friends, and a dedication to hard work and service.

George grew up in Paola, graduating from Paola High School as part of the class of 1968. Soon after, he answered the call to serve his country by joining the United States Navy, where he served honorably until his discharge in 1973. The discipline and camaraderie he found during these years remained influential throughout his life.

After his military service, George began a career working for Allied Signal/Bendix King Radio. His commitment to excellence and reliability became well-known among his colleagues, and later, he continued his career with Garmin International, retiring in 2020. Over the decades, George developed enduring relationships with those he worked alongside, never hesitating to offer a helping hand or share in the success of a job well done.

George's personal life reflected deep connections and meaningful relationships. He married Susan, and together they had two children, Heather and Daniel. They later divorced. In November of 1989, he married Lucille Pierce, and together they blended their families, with George welcoming step-daughter Tina Gonzales, and step-sons Phillip Gonzales and Jessie Gonzales into his heart and home.

His family mourns his passing, remembering him for his unique character—stubborn and ornery at times, yet always ready to help those in need. George was a man who valued sincerity and practicality. His stubbornness was matched only by his willingness to assist others, never turning away from someone needing support.

George found joy in several hobbies and pastimes. Woodworking, hunting, and fishing occupied many of his peaceful hours, allowing him moments of reflection and satisfaction. Equally important were the times he spent with friends, gathering to play cards and enjoying one another's company. These gatherings brought lightness and laughter to his days, as George relished sharing stories and making memories with those he cared about.

He is survived by his daughter, Heather Koelsch-Vinson, son, Daniel Koelsch, step-daughter, Tina Gonzales; step-sons, Phillip Gonzales and Jessie Gonzales; 17 grandchildren, and 19 great grandchildren. George was preceded in death by his beloved wife Lucille, his father Reinard Koelsch, mother Nettie Koelsch, and brothers John Koelsch and Billy Koelsch. His legacy endures in the lives of his family and in the stories shared by friends who knew him well.

George will be fondly remembered for his steadfastness, his humor, and his willingness to lend a hand. His memory will live on in the hearts of those who loved him, and in the quiet echoes of the woods and waters where he found so much peace.

Services In Care Of



In Memory Of

George Willard Koelsch

April 5, 1950 ~ August 1, 2026



I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free.
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took his hand when I heard him call.
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day.
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way.
I found that peace at close of day.
If my parting has left a void,
then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
ah yes these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow.
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life has been full, I've savored much.
Good friends, good times, a loved ones touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief
don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your hearts and share with me.
God wanted me now; He set me free.



In Memory Of

George Willard Koelsch

Date of Birth

April 5, 1950

Entered Into Rest

August 1, 2026

Visitation

6:00 PM, Thursday, August 6, 2026

Dengel & Son Mortuary

Paola, Kansas



Life is a journey...
Surrounded by Love