

Obituary

John "Jack" Gessler—loving & dedicated Son, Brother, beloved Husband, devoted Father, cherished & fun-loving Grandfather—passed away after a courageous battle with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Gentle-hearted, joyful, and rooted deeply in his Catholic faith, Jack lived a life marked by love, service, and quiet strength.

Born in Wichita, Kansas, Jack grew up in a close-knit family where faith, curiosity, and hard work shaped his early years. Drawn to science and inspired by a desire to help others, he followed in his father's footsteps and became a pharmacist. After earning his Doctor of Pharmacy from UMKC, he married the love of his life, Dorothy Jo Foote, beginning a partnership that lasted 61 years.

Jack built a distinguished 50-year career serving families in Wichita and later in Kansas City, where he became a beloved neighborhood pharmacist. Known for his professionalism, kindness, and ability to put people at ease, Jack treated every person with dignity and compassion.

A man of many passions, Jack loved cooking, gardening, wine, travel, reading theology, and singing. For 26 years he was a devoted parishioner at Church of the Ascension and a proud member of the Ascension Choir. He especially treasured Christmas and the joy of gathering with family. He also loved time spent at Dorothy's family farm in Bucyrus, working in the fields and shop alongside his brothers-in-law.

Above all, Jack cherished his family. He taught his children to work hard, keep the faith, serve others, and place family just below God. His legacy endures in the lives he touched and the love he shared so generously.

Jack is survived by his wife Dorothy; children John (Michelle), Chris, Kala Parks, and Carrie; grandchildren Haley, Patrick, Charles, Kristina, and Katie; and great-granddaughter Raelynn. He is also survived by siblings James (Pam), William (Susan), Robert, and Geraldine Krumsick-Stodghill (Rob), and sister-in-law Jan Gessler.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Nicholas and Renee Alice Gessler, and siblings Donald Gessler, Mary Gessler, Christine Ann "Tina" Gessler, Kevin Krumsick, and Beverly Gessler.

Jack's gentle presence, warm smile, and steadfast faith will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Services In Care Of


Dengel & Son
Mortuary - Crematory



In Memory Of



John "Jack" Gessler

September 6, 1939 ~ July 5, 2026

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument
of your peace.

Where there is hatred,
let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned
and it is in dying
that we are born to eternal life.

Mass of Christian Burial

11:00 AM, Thursday, July 9, 2026

Queen of the Holy Rosary Wea Catholic Church
Bucyrus, Kansas

Celebrants

Fr. Jerry Arano-Ponce ~ Fr. Gary Pennings

Music Selections

Dr. Dorothy Brandwein ~ Sarah McEnerney
Ave Maria ~ Amazing Grace ~ Prayer of St. Francis
Panis Angelicus ~ On Eagle's Wings

Pallbearers

John R. Gessler ~ William Gessler ~ Robert Gessler
Patrick Gessler ~ Charles Gessler ~ Paul Guetterman
Nick Guetterman ~ Rob Stodghill

Interment

Queen of the Holy Rosary Cemetery
Bucyrus, Kansas

Memorial Contributions

Lymphoma Research Foundation
88 Pine St., Suite 2400
New York, NY 10005