



Kenneth W. Koch Sr.

March 19, 1946 - September 20, 2025

Kenneth W. "Ken" Koch, Sr., age 79, of St. Louis, Missouri, passed away on Saturday, September 20, 2025. A man of sharp intellect and quick wit, Ken leaves behind a legacy of hard work, dedication, and loyalty.

Loving husband of 46 years to Marsha Koch (nee Wedberg); beloved son of the late Helen and Joseph Koch; devoted father of Kenneth (Amy) Koch, Jr. and Kathryn (Jeremy DiPaolo) Koch; cherished grandfather of Lena Koch, Anna Koch, Roman DiPaolo, and Delphine DiPaolo; dearest brother of Russell (Carolyn) Koch, Thomas (Janice) Koch, and the late Leonard Koch (surviving Sharon Koch); and dear uncle, cousin, and friend to many.

Born on March 19, 1946, Ken grew up in St. Louis with a deep love for history and learning. He was a lifelong student and was known for his encyclopedic knowledge. His passion for trivia made him a star player at any game night.

Ken attended Washington University, where he received his undergraduate and master's degrees. He was drafted into the Army and spent 18 months in service during the Vietnam War. He felt a strong sense of duty to his country and a high level of integrity that endured throughout his life as a veteran.

He spent 44 years as a research chemist before retiring—a career marked by curiosity, precision, and an unwavering commitment to innovation. Of those

years, 32 were spent at Petrolite, where his contributions helped shape the future of specialty chemicals and advanced technologies in oilfield and industrial applications.

Above all, Ken was a family man who dearly loved spending time with his family. Ken and Marsha traveled extensively, visiting all 50 states and exploring Europe together—England, France, Germany, Sweden—and celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary with family in Jamaica and their 25th in Hawaii. Road trips were a yearly tradition and often centered around historical sites and national parks, where he could indulge both his love of history and creating foundational memories with his family.

Ken lived a life of quiet impact, thoughtful routine, and deep love. He will be remembered for his sharp mind, generous heart, and the joy and humor he brought to those around him.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in honor of Ken to the Michael J. Fox Foundation (<https://tribute.michaeljfox.org/tribute-page.php?id=3338&np=true>) for Parkinson's Research.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT **5**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Chapel Hill Mortuary - Kirkwood
10301 Big Bend Road
Kirkwood, MO 63122
(314) 965-8228
info@stlfuneral.com
<https://www.stlfuneral.com>

Committal Service

OCT **6**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery
2900 Sheridan Road
St. Louis, MO 63125

Meet by 10:15 a.m. at Sylvan Springs Parking Lot, across from Jefferson Barracks Nat'l Cemetery, to process to cemetery.

Tribute Wall

DW

“ Steven and I were so sorry to hear of your loss. We're keeping you in our thoughts. Dan & Steven Watson

Dan Watson - September 28, 2025 at 11:31 AM

PS

“ On behalf of the Chaplain's department at Friendship Village, we offer our deepest condolences. I can't imagine the shock you have been going through. Please know the staff and residents are here to support you. And remember, "God is near to the brokenhearted." Psalm 34:18

Pastor Steve - September 28, 2025 at 08:13 AM

TE

“ Ken, I will miss you my friend.

My kids were 4yrs & 6mo when I survived a stroke. You offered to help me since I am unable to drive.

You drove us to Lillian's gymnastics classes. You cheered her on like family. You watched Blake when I was in therapy and took him on so many fun adventures. One adventure was Build-A-Bear to make a penguin. Amy was pregnant with Lena so you made Lena a bear too. You told me you were using Blake as practice for her.

Your kindness and love were part of my healing Ken. Thank you for loving me & my family. -Tovah Edwards

Tovah Edwards - September 26, 2025 at 12:27 AM