



## Roger J. Koerner Sr.

August 12, 1933 - January 17, 2024

Roger J Koerner Sr. was born August 12, 1933 to Martin and Louise (Zimmerman) Koerner. He entered God's Kingdom on January 17th 2024. He was surrounded by his family and received the sacrament of Last Rites.

Roger graduated from St Patrick's High School and Lewis University. He married his high school sweetheart Maryann Dandurand in 1955 at St Patrick's Church in Kankakee. They were married 66 years until Maryann preceded him in death on July 14th, 2021. Together they had 4 children Roger Jr (Nina), Stephen (Kelly), Julie, and Todd (the late Annette). Also surviving are 9 grandchildren Timothy, Sarah, Christopher, Alex, Stephani, Renee, Christine, Mathew, and Andrew. AS well as 9 great grandchildren. Roger was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Martin Koerner Jr.

Roger Sr was the owner of Koerner Aviation in Kankakee that was started by His Father Martin Sr, and Uncle Delbert in 1927. Martin Sr was killed in a motorcycle accident in 1933. Later Delbert married Martin's widow Louise and adopted her two boys. Delbert was the only father Roger ever knew.

Delbert taught Roger to fly and Roger's flying career continued until only a few years ago. Roger was a flight instructor and taught hundred of people to fly.

He also flew as a corporate pilot for the Daily Journal for 20 years. Roger

taught his sons, and daughter as well as his grandsons to fly. Koerner Aviation continues to operate to this day.

Roger was a long-time member of the Experimental Aircraft Association, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, And the Midwest Antique Airplane Club. He enjoyed attending these events with his family. He enjoyed family camping vacation and traveling with his beloved wife Maryann.

Roger was a devote Catholic and was a member of St John Paul II Catholic Parish. Roger and his wife Maryann taught their children to know love and serve God. We their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren know it's only good bye for a little while.

Services will be at Clancy – Gernon Funeral Home in Kankakee, Illinois. Wake will be Tuesday from 4 to 8PM A funeral Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Tony Tacheta, Wednesday at 10 AM at St. John Paul II Catholic Church-East Campus. Interment will follow at Limestone Cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

## Limestone Cemetery

Route 113  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 932-1764

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JAN 23.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Kankakee - Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home  
1480 W. Court St.  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

## Funeral Mass

**JAN 24.** 10:00 AM (CT)

St. John Paul II- East Campus  
361 St Joseph Ave  
Kankakee, IL 60901

# Tribute Wall

TA

“ Sorry to hear of your loss. I have many fond memories with the Koerner family. Roger aided me in my commercial and instrument ratings. Delbert gave me my check ride. Terry Allison

Terry Allison - August 11, 2025 at 07:31 PM

LS

“ I remember Roger well. I was a classmate of his at St Pats HS.. Remember winter escapades in his 1935 Chevy, and later in the new 1950 Ford..Also, I had my first flying experience when he took me up in a Piper cub.. I declined the offer of the open cockpit plane . We lost contact after HS , as many do going in different ways . . He made a good choice in Mary Ann . . . My sympathy for your family loss . .Rest assured , he is now with the Lord.

Larry Skelly - January 23, 2024 at 09:38 PM

CD

“ Chris Denault lit a candle in memory of Roger J. Koerner Sr.



Chris Denault - January 23, 2024 at 10:23 AM

LA

“ Very sorry for your loss. Uncle Roger will be greatly missed. Sending prayers and love.

Lynda Alexander



Lynda Alexander - January 22, 2024 at 02:59 PM

SW

“ An absolute wonderful man who always had a smile on his face. I loved the conversations and his laugh. I thank the Lord for having him in our live. Rhonda and I are so very sorry , Julie, Steve and family for your loss. But how beautiful is it to know he's with your beautiful mother and Heavenly family. He will be with you always. May the Lord, Jesus Christ give you comfort and know your father is fine and smiling in Heaven. In Jesus name we pray 🙏



Steve Wagner - January 22, 2024 at 08:17 AM

AH

“ Where do I begin....Roger Koerner was not just a good friend, he was family. For the past several years we would get together weekly ( at home and in Florida) for Sunday morning breakfast and then Monday evenings I would cook dinner while we watched “Dancing With the Stars”... after his beloved MaryAnn passed we continued our weekly breakfasts and dinners, only watched movies (none of us could continue “Dancing..”) Although Roger and Ken pretended not to like “Dancing...” they both liked watching the costumes the women wore!!! Roger had a sense of humor that surpassed no other, always sharing airport adventures and chatting with friends. RIP my friend...you are already greatly missed.

Angie Heitz - January 20, 2024 at 08:41 PM

LB

“ Roger and I used to chat often during his Winter visits to the Florida campground where Kathy and I worked. Roger always had interesting flying stories to share and stories about his family airport and the many airplanes his family build. RIP my friend until we chat again. Condolences to the family, Larry and Kathy Benard

Lawrence BENARD - January 20, 2024 at 06:58 PM

DE

“ Roger was a huge man in my life! He taught me to fly privat thru commercial & multiengine ratting . Be cause of the skill I quoted from Roger I was able to get hired by the airlines. When I checked out as captain, I took Roger with me on every flight! I would look over at the right seat and see him sitting there smiling and saying, “ well, ya know, A guy ought a .....” I was able to teach my boys to fly with what Roger imparted to me and passed a lot of his wisdom to other pilots I trained at the airlines! I have to say, he was the best pilot I ever flew with! I miss him already but I know We will see him again! Till we meet again my friend! God bless! Dan Eckels



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**Dan Eckels** - January 20, 2024 at 06:50 PM

ML

“ This morning,a beautiful yellow butterfly flew by my window. It made me smile.I thought of Roger,remembering all the wonderful times we shared at the campground.He was a special person,a very precious friend. I like to think it was Roger,just dropping in to say”have a nice day” Thank you Roger,today was a sunny day...will miss you.Madeleine

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**Madeleine Lanctot** - January 20, 2024 at 06:15 PM

BR

“ Roger gave me a check out flight years ago. He was a very good instructor and kept you focused to the details. Rip

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**Bruce Rayman** - January 20, 2024 at 11:04 AM

KH

“ Not only was Roger a great pilot and flight instructor; he enjoyed the shooting sports. Many hours of pistol range time were spent practicing. Roger and I would shoot for an hour then go out to dinner with our wives. He was truly a multidimensional person with a great sense of humor.

ken Heitz - January 20, 2024 at 09:29 AM

TM

“ Theresa Mary Walker Martin lit a candle in memory of Roger J. Koerner Sr.



Theresa Mary Walker Martin - January 20, 2024 at 09:17 AM

MH

“ Michael Hanson lit a candle in memory of Roger J. Koerner Sr.



michael hanson - January 20, 2024 at 07:59 AM



“ Bob Schneider lit a candle in memory of Roger J. Koerner Sr.



Bob Schneider - January 19, 2024 at 08:08 PM