



Francis "Frank" Walter Kohler

February 9, 1955 - January 29, 2025

Francis "Frank" Walter Kohler passed away on January 29, 2025 at Unity Point Iowa Methodist Hospital unexpectedly. Frank was born on February 9, 1955 in Saint Paul, Minnesota to Walter and Mary Ann Kohler. He grew up in White Bear Lake, Minnesota.

Growing up, Frank loved to fish, golf, and go snowmobiling and he had a paper route as well as working at Kohler Mix. In 1973, when he graduated high school Frank enlisted in the United States Air Force. He was able to travel to Germany, France, Vienna, and Switzerland. After his Honorable discharge in 1977, Frank enrolled in Lakewood Community College where he met his wife, Debra. They were married in October of 1978. Frank transferred to St. Cloud State and graduated with a degree in Psychology. He then went on to earn his master's and doctorate at Kansas University in elementary and special education. Frank stayed a fan of the Kansas Jayhawks for the rest of his life. His daughter Jessica was born in Lawrence, Kansas in December of 1983. Frank then moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1986 where he completed autism and elementary education research. A second daughter, Aimee was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in August of 1989. The family then moved to Cedar Falls Iowa in 1999 where Frank took a job as a Professor at the University of Northern Iowa.

Frank enjoyed golfing, spending time with his family and grandkids, (which

included plenty of joking around and playful teasing.) He loved playing piano, watching sports, especially the Minnesota Vikings, Twins, and The Little League World Series. Frank liked learning about history and other cultures and enjoyed going to the casino, reading, being active, and woodworking.

Frank is preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Mary Ann Kohler and a daughter, Jessica Lorenz. Frank is survived by his wife, Debra Kohler; daughter, Aimee (Jaron) Balvanz; sisters, Karen Garrod, Doris Kohler, and Sue (Dan) Smith; brother, Gary (Mary) Kohler; five grandchildren, MacKenzie, Lorenz, Carter Lorenz, Greyson Lorenz, Inara Balvanz, and Leon Balvanz.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held 10:30 AM, Thursday, February 6, 2025, visitation will be one hour prior to services, at Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Catholic Church 510 E 1st St, Ankeny, IA 50021. Burial with Military Honors to follow at the Oralabor Cemetery in Ankeny, Iowa.

Memorial contributions can be made to the family. Money will be spent on a charitable contribution in Frank's honor.

Cemetery Details

Oralabor Cemetery

Oralabor Road
Ankeny, IA

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 6. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Catholic Church
510 East First Street
Ankeny, IA

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 6. 10:30 AM (CT)

Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Catholic Church
510 East First Street
Ankeny, IA

Tribute Wall

MD

“ *Mary D. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Francis "Frank" Walter Kohler.*



Mary D. - February 12, 2025 at 02:41 PM

TR

“ *We will miss you, Frank, you were always so helpful and kind. I trust the students you taught will continue to carry that candle of kindness to others. - Tony Reid*

Tony Reid - February 06, 2025 at 02:15 PM

DK

“ *David and JoEllen Kohler purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Francis "Frank" Walter Kohler.*



David and JoEllen Kohler - February 04, 2025 at 06:06 PM

GF

“ *Goyette Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Francis "Frank" Walter Kohler.*



Goyette Family - February 04, 2025 at 01:33 PM

PF

“ Putz family, Sandberg & Gasser FAMILIES purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Francis "Frank" Walter Kohler.



Putz family, Sandberg & Gasser FAMILIES - February 04, 2025 at 11:46 AM

CM

“ Chuck, Christa, Weston and Mason Marx purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Francis "Frank" Walter Kohler.



Chuck, Christa, Weston and Mason Marx - February 03, 2025 at 11:58 AM

CM

“ Chuck, Christa, Weston and Mason Marx planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Francis "Frank" Walter Kohler.

Chuck, Christa, Weston and Mason Marx - February 03, 2025 at 11:58 AM

JF

“ Jim Kohler family purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Francis "Frank" Walter Kohler.



Jim Kohler family - February 02, 2025 at 02:43 PM

JF

“ Jim Kohler family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Francis "Frank" Walter Kohler.

Jim Kohler family - February 02, 2025 at 02:43 PM

RA

“ Frank was a dear colleague and a reliable support, especially when he and I served as chairs of our respective departments. I respected his high sense of integrity, hard work ethic, and his sound judgment.

On the personal level, I appreciated Frank's subtle sense of humor and his heartfelt laughter that often came when circumstances seemed unsurmountable. His laughter shed bright rays on the issue at hand and turned the issue into a problem-solving opportunity.

I know Frank has touched many lives and mentored many students. He and I served on several doctoral students, most of whom were international students. Today, they are heart broken by the news of his passing. But, they know he is passing to something better. He made his mark on this world, and surely made a difference in the lives of many people.

Rest in peace, my dear friend!

Radhi H. Al-Mabuk - February 02, 2025 at 09:26 AM

KM

“ Karen Garrod and Mike McGuire purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Francis "Frank" Walter Kohler.



Karen Garrod and Mike McGuire - February 01, 2025 at 05:01 PM

KM

“ Karen Garrod and Mike McGuire planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Francis "Frank" Walter Kohler.

Karen Garrod and Mike McGuire - February 01, 2025 at 05:01 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Dyamond Memorial - *Burials *Cremations *Monuments - January 31, 2025 at 10:11 PM

DK

Wow, what a touching video!!

Doris Kohler-Reinoso - February 01, 2025 at 12:58 PM

DR

Loved the video. It captured Frank's spirit.

Donna Raschke - February 02, 2025 at 07:53 PM

JS

beautiful video

Jeanette Sandberg - February 06, 2025 at 08:41 PM

SP

loved the video, reminder of how much fun Frank always had

sophia Putz - February 20, 2025 at 08:10 PM