



John E. Kochenburger

February 14, 1931 - November 22, 2012

John E. Kochenburger Judge John E. "Koch" Kochenburger, 81, of Fort Collins passed away at Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins on November 22, 2012 after complications from a fall. A visitation will be Friday, November 30 from 4-7pm at Bohlender Funeral Chapel. And a memorial service will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church at 301 E. Stuart St in Fort Collins on Saturday, December 1 at 10:30am followed by a luncheon. He was born on February 14, 1931 in Greeley, Colorado to John and Josephine Maier Kochenburger. He married Jane J. Mehrer on August 8, 1953. He graduated from Greeley High School in 1949. In 1955, John graduated from CU with a law degree. After living in Longmont for 2 years and then serving in the Army in Virginia, they settled in Fort Collins in 1957. He was a lawyer in private practice in Fort Collins for 25 years until he was appointed District Court Magistrate in 1983. Judge Kochenburger was then appointed as a Larimer County Court Judge in 1984, serving for 13 years in Fort Collins then in Loveland until his retirement in 2003. He then served as a senior judge, filling in around the state. Earlier in his career he had also served as an assistant Fort Collins municipal judge, a deputy district attorney and an assistant county attorney. He had a true passion for his career and the people he served. He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Fort Collins Lions Club, Society of Inkwell Collectors and served on the Colorado Ethics Committee, Fort Collins Jaycees and various other boards and councils over the years. He will most be remembered for his humor and friendship. Survivors include his son, John R. Kochenburger of

Fort Collins, Colorado; daughter, Jean Kochenburger of Fort Worth, Texas; grandson, Joshua E. Kochenburger of Fort Collins; as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. He is preceded in death by his parents and beloved wife. Memorial gifts may be made to the Fort Collins Lions Club or Trinity Lutheran Church, Fort Collins in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive Street, Fort Collins, CO 80524.

Tribute Wall

JB

“ Jean, We will all miss Koch and his outstanding humor. I've had the pleasure of knowing him and your Mom for several years through the SOIC, and his expert knowledge about inkwells was always welcome. We all enjoyed his stories, and will miss Koch and Jane tremendously. Our hearts are broken, and we grieve with you and your family. He graced our lives, and will always be a part of us.
Jane

Jane Betrus - December 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ I took care of John for more 5 years for a diagnosis of advanced colon cancer. During this time he kept me laughing with his jokes, made me appreciate the little joys of life and helped me understand that all there is to life is the people who you surround yourself with. John listed Glenlivet daily on his medication list and puzzled my medical assistant who did not recongnize this as a drug. He told me who he was eating his greens - "I pick all the green M&Ms from the bag" I admired his hobby of collecting ink wells. Sadly he was not able to travel in the recent years. I hope his family will accept my condolences, John will be in my heart forever. Love, Diana Medgyesy, MD, FACP

Diana Medgyesy - December 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ My Mom, Evelyn Morey, was Koch's secretary for several years, until we moved to Somalia in 1965. While my parents were in Africa for nearly six years, my sister Linda and I returned to Colorado after a year or so. We relied on Koch and Jane many times for support while our folks were on the other side of the globe. We couldn't have done it without them. Bless them both.

Kay Morey - December 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ To the family - Judge Kochenburger was one of the main people who was helpful to me when I was going through an unplanned pregnancy in 1970. He helped me navigate the legal system to protect my son. I offer my condolences for your loss. Sincerely,

Debbie Dixon - December 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ My heart goes out to John R. & Jeannie Kochenburger. I love you two. I loved your folks as my own. Great people. A lot could be said here. Many will remember Dad Kochenburger for his wit and wisdom. I'll always remember him for calling me "son".

Brett Mills - December 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CO

“ Sorry for your loss. I remember the wild stories he told me as a Judge in his chambers in Loveland.

Carl O'Neill - December 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ My prayers are with you! Your dad was a great Santa when I was a kid and it brought back fond memories. Your dad was always so friendly and had such a bright smile on his face. He will be missed dearly.

Andrea Wigger-Barksdale - December 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ So many memories... And nothing but great love and friendship. Because our parents were such great friends, you and I are lifetime friends. Praying that you and Johnny keep the faith and carry on the Kochenburger legacy. We love you. Chris , Lisa and Alexandria

Lisa Brown Wenske - December 01, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ I WAS SO SADDENED WHEN I HEARD THAT JOHN HAD DIED. KOTCH AND I WERE PERSONAL FRIENDS FOR MANY YEARS, AND HE AND JANE AND I WERE MEMBERS OF A SMALL GROUP WHICH MET AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH AT SOMEONE'S HOME FOR DINNER AND NIGHT OF FUN, MUSIC, LAUGHS, ETC. LATER MY WIFE, BEV, JOINED US. KOTCH ALSO REPRESENTED THE VERY BEST OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT. HE WAS ALWAYS FAIR TO THE ACCUSED IN ALL TRIALS AND WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO MAKE SURE THEY RECEIVED FAIR REPRESENTATION AND OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THEIR SIDE. HE HELPED ONE OF MY SONS IN MORE THAN ONE OCCASION, AND ALSO GAVE HIM ADVICE. ALL OF US WILL MISS HIM GREATLY, AND SEND OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS TO HIS FAMILY. TOM AND BEV

TOM CAPPS - November 30, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ What a dry sense of humor Judge "Koch" had! I'll never forget him. He was one of a kind. Great judge! Great human being! RIP

Kent N. Campbell - November 30, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ John, Jean and Family; I always enjoyed visiting with your dad be it a legal matter, or him telling me about the neighbor dog pooping in his yard. Jean, I was so happy to have been able to help you and your dad into Moby Gym for high school graduation this spring. It was great to see him again. He will be missed! Denny Pink

Denny Pink - November 30, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ Judge Koch always had a smile and a wonderful story to share every time I went before his Court. He was a classic! He will be missed. I am so glad to have known during his Loveland years. He truly made the community a better place! My prayers will be with the family and friends.

Kathy Weimeister - November 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ My sincere condolences.....Judge Koch was a good friend of mine and he did a lot for Larimer County. God Bless you....he will be missed!

Cpl. Julie M. Berney - November 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KR

“ John and Jean, we were neighbors on Robertson Street and, as an attorney,I tried cases before your father. He brought the human side to the bench and the practice of law. My thoughts are with you in your loss.

Kathie Troutd Riley - November 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ Our prayers are with you. I remember your dad as my Santa way back when I was a kid. I never even knew it was him until I was much older and could "take the news" from my parents. I also remember visiting your Mom & Dad when we went over to my Nana & Papa Wigger's house since they were right around the corner. He will be missed.

Sonee Kumro - November 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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Sonee Kumro - November 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ Both a pleasure and an honor to have appeared before many times. Always fair and did the human/right thing. An inspiration to many.

Bill Combs - November 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ Your Dad was a wonderful man. We enjoy the dinners with him and the great talks and jokes we all had. Thank you for sharing his life with us all.

Charlotte & Terry Willert - November 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ My husband Don and I met John and Jane in 1959 when we first moved to Ft. Collins and we have been good friends ever since. John was always there if you needed a friend, someone to talk with, someone to discuss world affairs with, someone to laugh with, someone to cry with. Our kids grew up together, we played bridge together, hiked and had picnics & b-b-ques together. John was our attorney as well as our friend. We loved him and he will be missed!

Diane Weixelman - November 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ John helped my husband and I write our first will back in 1982. As young new parents, we appreciated his wisdom.

Donna Dauner - November 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ We sat in front of John and Jean at basketball games for many years in the late 70's and early 80's. We always brought our three kids and John loved to ask our toddler daughter Alison... "don't you have to go to the bathroom." Of course once that was mentioned...she did. He made those games much more fun for all of us and has always had a special place in our hearts.

Mike & Kristi Bertolette - November 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ He was a Great man, And it was an honor to have known him... My sister Leslee Garcia Bujack and I, Lenore Elliott Bujack send you our Blessings and we are so sorry for your loss...

lenore Elliott Bujack - November 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ I will always remember John for his sense of humor, caring for others. I had many trips with John and Jane to basketball games to watch the girls play. What a great memory. Love to the family. He and his wisdom will truly be missed.

Joann - November 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ John will be missed by all who knew him and our Thursday morning Bible Class will not be the same without him. His quiet ways and subtle humor brought much to our time together with him. My heartfelt sympathy to all his family.

Chris Fendler - November 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KA

“ I met Koch in 1980, a recent graduate from paralegal school I was working for the Dept. of Social Services. Koch was the Asst. County Attorney. The years we worked together were the best years of my life, filled with laughter and law. Koch was more than a friend, mentor and teacher, he was a surrogate father. John and Jean, my thoughts are with you, may you find comfort in the knowledge that your father was a gem. He loved you very much and was so proud of you. Koch, I have no doubt a larger audience is now enjoying your sense of humor, I envy them. Thank you, Koch, for your support and kindness. It has been an honor to have known you.

Kathy Anderson - November 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ Jean, I am sorry for your loss. Holding you in my heart - my thoughts are with you.

Sandy Gonzalez - November 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PG

“ JeanAnn and Johnny....I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your father. We were neighbors way back in the 60's on Robertson St. Your mom and dad were very special people. I'm sure you will truly miss them.

Paula L. Greenwalt - November 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Sorry to hear of the loss of your father. Judge Kochenburger was on the bench when I first came to Colorado in 1997. I enjoyed working with him.

Sherlyn Sampson - November 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CE

“ Jeannie - I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Connie Meyer Evans - November 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ I was frequently in Judge Kochenberger's Court from the time he took the bench, until his retirement. Though we probation were sometimes the object of his displeasure, I also heard him defend "my probation officers" and I got to enjoy his keen sense of humor. It was an honor and a distinct pleasure to serve in his Courtroom.

Chris Gastelle - November 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Koch brought great common sense and compassion to the Larimer County Court. He was always ready with a quip and a smile and I will miss him.

Mark Hanson - November 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ I was a probation officer in Larimer County and often visited his court in the performance of my duties. He ruled fair and just with a foundation in public safety, but most of all, he simply did the right thing when he handed down his rulings. I adored him and it is a community loss with his passing. Thank you for sharing this wonderful man with our community.

Deana Moore - November 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ My brother Brad and I have over 50 years of great memories of John and Jane. He was a close family friend and we saw him weekly in court for our business cases. With a sharp wit and great memory, he told many stories that would have us laughing so much. He played Santa Claus for our children and performed my backyard wedding ceremony. He always made us laugh and smile. He and Jane will stay in our hearts and minds forever. Our thoughts are with you...

Brian Wiggen - November 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ So sorry for your loss. A great man and a great loss for Larimer County Justice System. I was privileged to get to know him through transporting inmates to his court room for several years. Great humor and you never knew what what might happen next.

Deputy Gene Ratzlaff - November 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Jeannie and I knew Judge John through attendance at RAMs Basketball games. We looked forward to having a discussion with him and missed not seeing him. He was a pleasant man and just what I would desire in a judge and a man: nice, a voice of reason, and gentle. Our best to John's family and friends.

Del and Jeannie Benson - November 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ So very sorry to hear about the loss of your Dad. I regret that I am out of state so can't offer my condolences personally. John will be so missed! I'm also afraid that his being gone will mean that Jeanie, you won't be in FC as often and I'll miss seeing you here. Hopefully, we'll have some future opportunities. May God comfort you both and hold you in His grace. Love, Marilyn Hartig

Marilyn Hartig - November 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Your Father was a great man. He was like family to me and my brothers and sister. My heart goes out to you at this time. My prayers are with you.

Linda Weixelman - November 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ We'll all miss you John, but we'll see you again.

Rick Walberg - November 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ John was a wonderful man and a good friend. Everyone enjoyed his wit and sense of humor. He will be missed. May God be with you all at this difficult time. Love, Patty

Patty - November 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KO

“ Jean - I am so sorry for the loss of your father. I know how much he meant to you and how much you must be missing him. Please know that you are in my prayers and the prayers of my family.

Kelly Owens - November 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ Jean, may the special memories of your father keep you and your family strong through this difficult time. I am so sorry for your loss.

Sandra Pilatzke - November 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KR

“ I'm so sorry for the loss of your dad, and my uncle. I have wonderful memories of the times we visited. Keeping you and your family in my prayers.

Karen Remson - November 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ Jean, We are so sorry for the loss of your father. He had a heart of gold and was well respected. He will be missed. Please know that you, John and Josh are in our prayers. See you later this month.
Brad and Sandy Wiggen

Sandy & Brad Wiggen - November 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ On behalf of the Tobin family - we share a true love of Johns humor and his deep respect for justice-sometimes these 2 things don't go together - however according to dad and John they do. The John Tobin family

bob tobins - November 26, 2012 at 12:00 AM