

Michael Kohut

89, a resident of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, passed away Saturday, March 14, 2026 in Fayetteville, Arkansas. He was born September 23, 1936 in Novostto Buchach, Ukraine, the son of Petro and Yaryna (Iwasiw) Kohut.

He is preceded in death by his parents, grandmother, Maria Caetskaja Kohut and two brothers, Dmytro Kohut and Ivan Kohut.

He is survived by his wife Helen Anderson Kohut; three daughters, Teresa Kohut of Prairie Grove, AR, Vera Kohut of Gresham, OR, and Lisa Stites of Ephrata, WA; five grandchildren, Sara, Eva, Oliver, Isaac, and Arielle; and two great-grandchildren, Ira and Ezra.

Michael was born in Ukraine and often recounted stories of his homeland. He remembered how, as a child, he would walk in the snow without shoes and how neighbors would gather for dinners filled with music and singing. He cherished memories of their old milk cow and marveled at the beauty of the mountains and wildflowers, leaving his heart forever tied to that place. During World War II, his village took turns hiding Jewish people in their barns. However, his family was eventually placed in a Nazi labor camp, where he formed a close bond with a priest who educated him both spiritually and academically. His father learned to read English from newspapers, and in 1950, his family immigrated to the United States, eventually settling in Rochester, NY, where Michael graduated from Edison Technical High School.

In 1957, Michael started his career at R.T. French/Reckitt & Colman in Rochester, NY. He served honorably as an E-4 Specialist in the U.S. Army from 1960 to 1962. In 1966, he married Helen Anderson, and together they raised three daughters. In the early 1970s, they relocated to Springfield, Missouri, due to his job at R.T. French/Reckitt & Coleman. Known for his dedication and work ethic, Michael proudly retired in 1998 without ever taking a sick day.

A passionate soccer enthusiast, Michael helped found the Ukrainian-American Soccer Club and played on their 1956-1957 USSFA Amateur Cup Finalists team. He continued to play soccer well into his 50s and coached his daughter's team for eight years, as well as several high school and adult teams, leading them to championships in Springfield, MO, and Rochester, NY. His teams not only had numerous undefeated seasons but he also fostered camaraderie, sportsmanship, and a deep appreciation for the game.

A dedicated member and trustee of the Ukrainian Catholic Church of Epiphany in Rochester, Michael contributed in various capacities—from mowing the grass and painting to securing funds for essential repairs. He maintained strong ties to the church even after moving away.

Michael will be fondly remembered for his love of gardening, bird watching, swimming, and barbecuing the best chicken on grills he built himself. Most importantly, he taught those around him valuable lessons: to let go of grudges, for they only hurt oneself; that love and faith are paramount; and to work hard while also savoring life's simple pleasures. Above all, he was devoted to his family and friends, and his home was a haven of warmth and hospitality—where no one ever left hungry. We will cherish him every time we enjoy an apple turnover or slice of apple pie.

APPRECIATION

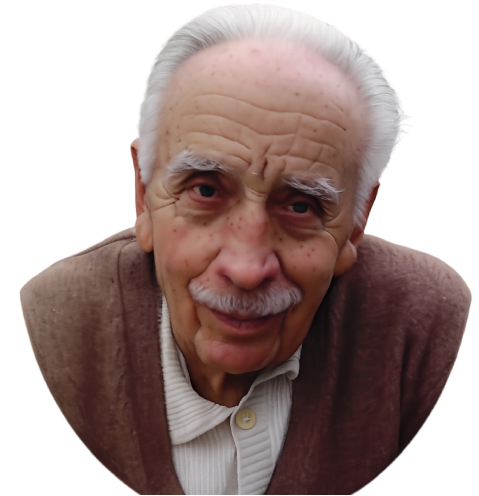
On behalf of the family, we wish to express their gratitude for your many acts of kindness, and for your attendance at the funeral service.

Luginbuel Funeral Home
Prairie Grove, Arkansas

online guest book, visit www.luginbuel.com

Remembering

THE LIFE OF



Michael Kohut

September 23, 1936 - March 14, 2026



Love leaves a memory no one can steal.

SUNFLOWER SUNSHINE

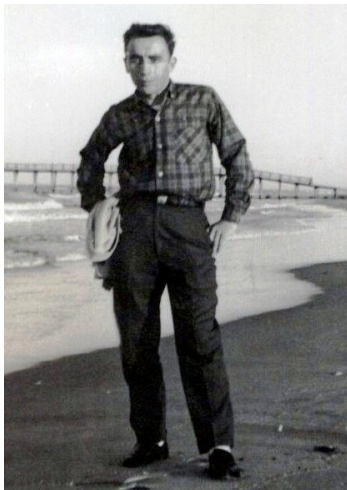
Sunflowers weep under the
morning sunshine yet they hold
happiness,
Under their mother's
patient blue sky,
they gather in a place where
silence feels heavier than words,

Sunflowers turn their longing
face upward,
Golden and united,
following light under the darkest
of greys

Because the greys connect us,
as our quiet empty leaves are
pushed together to honor what is
no longer ours,

So we stand beneath this endless
blue,
With hearts that ache,
Hearts that remember,
We choose, together, to move
forward.

By Arielle Morris



REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF

Michael Kohut

Monday, March 23, 2026
10:00 A.M.
Luginbuel Chapel
Prairie Grove, Arkansas

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude	Family Memories Video Bandura music by Marko Farion
Opening Song	“Dearest Mother of Mine” Kvitka Cisyk
Welcome	
Blessing	Father John Wehling of St. John of Chicago Orthodox Church
Eulogy	Peter Iwasiw
Closing Song	“Youth Does Not Return” Kvitka Cisyk

MILITARY HONORS WILL FOLLOW AT FAYETTEVILLE
NATIONAL CEMETERY - 700 GOVERNMENT AVENUE -
FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS - 11:30 a.m.

FINAL RESTING PLACE
National Cemetery - Fayetteville, Arkansas



“Therefore you now have sorrow;
but I will see you again and your
heart will rejoice, and your joy no
one will take from you.”

John 16:22

