



## Theodore "Ted" Woodrow Kokochak Jr.

January 25, 1945 - May 10, 2025

Theodore Woodrow Kokochak, Jr, a father, grandfather, brother, and Christian gentleman, passed away on May 10, 2025. Theodore was the eldest son of Theodore W. Kokochak, Sr. and Lois Wylie Kokochak, born on January 25, 1945 in Weirton, WV. He is survived by two children, William Kokochak of Detroit and Dianna Meekins of Preston Maryland, three grandchildren (Timmeka, Dani, Rob), his sister Frances Hostert of Colorado, and his friend and the mother of his children, Metta Kokochak of Preston. In passing, he rejoins his beloved wife Terry Wright Kokochak, his younger siblings Eloise Tavares and Warren Kokochak, and his great-granddaughter Devyn Lynnzie Perkins.

Ted grew up on a bucolic farm in the West Virginia northern panhandle in a house without running water and attended a one-room schoolhouse through 4th grade. Throughout his life, he enjoyed recalling the days of his childhood on the farm, baling and stacking hay, tending animals, 4-H livestock club, high school band (Macy's Thanksgiving Parade'60, Rose Bowl Parade '61), and ballroom dancing. His happy demeanor is remembered by those who knew him then and throughout his life.

Ted's father and uncles were steelworkers, so Ted got a job at Weirton Steel during college, tending the blast furnace, to earn some extra money. His work ethic was foundational and demonstrated throughout his career and life.

Graduating from WVU in 1966 with a degree in Agriculture, he moved his young wife Metta and baby son to the Eastern Shore of Maryland to work for Purdue Farms as a field service representative. Soon the young family added a baby girl. There were tough economic times in the 70's and Ted moved through several jobs, sometimes working two jobs to make ends meet. Throughout these times, and through divorce, he set an example for keeping a positive outlook, remaining honest, never complaining and always persevering.

Eventually joining Chickmaster Incubator Company as a service technician, he traveled the country and the world for 25 years installing large, automated chicken incubators in hatcheries. For the first 20 or so years, he travelled the US, eventually putting over 500k miles on two different company Astro vans that he had customized to carry his tools and his travel kit. On many trips, which he fondly recalled, Terry would travel with him. He would stay for 1-4 months at an installation site. He enjoyed visiting state parks and attending local churches. When he and Terry travelled together they became regulars at church, joining the choir and making local acquaintances and friends.

During the latter years of his career, the work in the US waned and his incubator installations moved overseas. Ted worked in Africa (Mali, Yemen, Suriname, South Africa), Central America (Mexico, Honduras, Panama, Nicaragua), South America (Brazil, Columbia, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina), Israel, and Puerto Rico.

Wanting to stay in the US and needing to attend more closely as a companion and caregiver to his wife Terry, Ted retired in the early 2000's. During retirement Terry and Ted did more traveling and enjoyed living simply in their Easton apartment. Ted enjoyed collecting Terry Redlin prints, photography, investigating genealogy, and playing games on his computer. During this period, Terry's health declined and Ted was her devoted care giver. This

devotion was returned to him in kind by his daughter Dianna who became his caregiver during the last several years, as his own health declined.

Ted asked that there be no memorial service. A few family members will gather to return his ashes to a favored spot on a hill on the old family farm in West Virginia where he will rest in peace, knowing he was loved and honored.

# Tribute Wall

JP

“ Ted was a faithful member of the Unity-Washington UMC Choir - Hurlock, MD. He always attended practices and Sunday services regularly. He also participated in Annual Conference as well. Both Ted and Terry contributed their talents to the church. My sympathy to the Kokochak/Wright families. Janice Plutschak



Janice Plutschak - July 19, 2025 at 12:49 PM

DC

“ Bill and family, always hard to lose a parent especially one like your dad. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Debbie Schmidt Clendaniel

Debbie Clendaniel - July 13, 2025 at 02:54 PM

J(

“ I have such fond memories of Uncle Ted from my childhood, that stuck with me all of my life. He was the only adult that I can remember who would take it upon themselves to happily join me in watching Saturday morning cartoons. As that young child, I was oh so intrigued by how he shaved his head. We had this little “game” where I would run my hand over the stubble, and he would make a razor noise. It really made six year old me giggle a lot. Simple fun times I will never forget. He was a special Uncle in my eyes. I last saw him at Warren’s funeral, and then got to chat with him on the phone more recently while visiting at my Mother’s. Both before his health hit the major decline. I’m grateful to have had these opportunities. He will always have a place in my heart.

Jennifer Miranda (Hostert) - June 02, 2025 at 07:40 PM

DT

“ *Bill, Dianna and Families.  
I am sorry for your loss. You are in my  
thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.*



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**Dan Towers** - May 28, 2025 at 05:06 PM

BK

*Thank you, Dan.*

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**Bill Kokochak** - July 12, 2025 at 10:58 PM

GB

“ *Gloria Berry lit a candle in memory of  
Theodore "Ted" Woodrow Kokochak Jr.*



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**Gloria Berry** - May 17, 2025 at 10:47 AM

KF

“ *Our hearts are saddened by your loss and our  
thoughts and prayers are with you. Ted's  
journey to the Stairway to the Stars is now  
done. May he forever rest in peace. Members  
of the Weir High School Varsity Band 1955-  
1966.*



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**Karen Barber Falbo** - May 13, 2025 at 05:25 PM

GB

*My condolences to the he family Mr.Ted was indeed a very kind gentleman who I had the pleasure to care for he was as always kind never complain about anything always was so thankful I'm gonna miss being one of you're care givers Sleep on Mr.Ted I'll always remember you & you're kind & caring family Gloria Berry*

Gloria Berry - May 14, 2025 at 07:22 PM

TB

*Ted's daughter Diana is my sister-in-law and I knew of Ted and had seem him on many occasions over the yrs ....but I really got to know him well over the past 2 yrs. I cleaned his apt. for him every other week, and he was a very pleasant gentleman. Not many people use the word gentleman today, in fact our younger generation of people today, would have to look it up to get its true meaning. Being born in the 40s and 50's there was a way of life that could only be written in books or shown in movies today to help this generation get the sense of what it means to be a gentleman.... It wasn't only about men opening car doors and pulling out chairs for a lady to sit down...it goes much deeper than that. It's meant thoughtfulness...deep respect, kindness, .....a sense of humor with boundaries.....being proud of who you were and much more. What Ted did these last couple of years of his life not slighting anyone else, was to make "Ted" happy . Being happy with the simple things in life, talking about his trips around the world, the churches Terry and he joined as they traveled, his precious rug on the floor and who gave it to him, the beautiful hurricane lamp on that antique table that annoying shook everytime you walked by, and let's not forget his nativity scene display and where it came from.....Now that I'm thinking about it, that could also have been the Gentleman's way of saying "please be careful with those precious things"..... He would cut the TV off when I showed up everytime.....so one day I asked him why he did that and he said "so we could talk"...also a Gentleman's way of doing things. Being able to make a difficult decision about his life that would effect the lives of everyone who loved him, he was a gentlemen In that sense as well.....An old Africa proverb says: "When an old person dies it's a library burned". It means that when an old person dies.... a wealth of knowledge wisdom, life's personal experiences, cultural heritage, unique insight on life ect.ect. is lost forever...much like a library going up in flames..... What nice memories 🤔 I have of someone I call " a Gentleman "*

Twilla

Twilla Brice - June 27, 2025 at 12:25 PM