



## Mr. Michael J. Koons

March 31, 1941 - October 6, 2013

Michael J. "Mike" Koons, 72, of Bluffton, passed away at 2:00 a.m., Sunday, October 06, 2013 at Bluffton Regional Medical Center.

He was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan on March 31, 1941. He was preceded in death by his parents, James Delton and Mary Llewellyn (Mettler) Koons. Mike married Pamela A. Eltzroth on May 15, 1982 in Bluffton and she survives.

Mike graduated from Noble High School in Wabash, Indiana in 1959. He graduated from Ball State Teacher's College in 1963. He served as an English Teacher at Northern Wells Community Schools for 33 years retiring in 1996.

Mike was very active in the Bluffton Optimist Club having served in many capacities including President, Vice-president, and Secretary. He was currently serving on the club's board of directors.

He also enjoyed fishing, bowling, mushroom hunting, and gardening. Mike loved playing cards with his grandchildren.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Angie (Ryan) Chasey of Fort Wayne, two sons, Chad (Brandy) Eltzroth of Bluffton, Jamie (Amber) Eltzroth of Bluffton, four grandchildren, McKenna Eltzroth, Jenna Eltzroth,

Eliza Eltzroth, Korbin Eltzroth, and by one brother, Eric Koons of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Calling hours are 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 8, 2013 and one hour prior to the service on Wednesday at Thoma/Rich, Chaney & Lemler Funeral Home. A service celebrating Mike's life will be held at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday at the funeral home with Dr. Allyn R. Hines officiating. Preferred memorials are to the Bluffton Optimist Club.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Michael J. Koons*



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**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home** - October 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ *He was a great teacher and had fun teaching.*

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**Karen Schuhmacher** - November 11, 2023 at 01:36 PM



“ *Mr. Michael J. Koons*

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September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM

JP

“ *I remember Mike from our days at Ball State and our fraternity Theta Xi, Mike was a good friend and a great guy. A person you could always count on.*

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**Jan Passmore** - February 21, 2014 at 01:02 PM

AC

“ *Angela Koons Chasey lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael J. Koons*



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**Angela Koons Chasey** - October 12, 2013 at 04:33 PM

SK

“ *Pam, Chad, Jamie & families. So sorry. Although I didn't know Mike as well as a lot of these people, I feel that we have all lost a good friend (Husband, Dad, Granddad) and person. By the posts I read and the things I saw, he was a friend to many. There will be a void in many lives. Take comfort in all those great memories.*

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**Steve Kunkel** - October 10, 2013 at 08:38 AM

CE

“ *Thank you to everyone for their kind words and support during this unexpected loss! It has been a tough four days but it was very comforting sharing stories with past teachers, students and friends of their memories of dad. We have so many great memories over the last 30 years. It was a very touching and heartfelt service by one of dad's closest friends. Something I will always remember!!!! Thank you from the bottom of my heart Dr. Allyn Hines. We lost a good friend, a great dad, and an awesome Grandpa. We love you always and will cherish you for ever.*

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**chad eltzroth** - October 09, 2013 at 08:48 PM

HH

“ *Harald Marsdal Hanssen lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael J. Koons*



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**Harald Marsdal Hanssen** - October 09, 2013 at 07:26 AM

HH

*Thank you for many fond memories from the year I lived with you and your family in Wabash. My thoughts and prayers are with your family.*

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**Harald Marsdal Hanssen** - October 09, 2013 at 07:36 AM

BD

“ *God puts people in your life that touch you in many ways, but sometimes the people He puts there--even briefly--make an impact that shapes your life forever. I truly believe Mike was one of those people for me. In 1994, I was fresh out of Ball State and looking for a job. Mike was one of the teachers who was part of my interview at NMS. I remember looking at him often during that interview because I was so nervous, and his smile and presence were very calming. I found out later from him and others, that he was very impressed with me and pushed for them to hire me. God intended for his path to cross mine, and I am so grateful because twenty years later--married with two kids--I am typing this from the same classroom that I started in. Mike, you will forever be a huge part of the path I took that led me to where I am today...thank you so very much....*

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**Bonnie Dickey** - October 09, 2013 at 06:22 AM

BG

“ *Bill Gerber lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael J. Koons*



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**Bill Gerber** - October 09, 2013 at 06:12 AM

TH

“ *Mr. Koons was one of my favorite teachers when I was at Ossian in junior high. He made us laugh, made us work and helped challenge me to learn as much as I could. Prayers of comfort to his family.*



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**Theresa Haneline** - October 08, 2013 at 11:13 PM



“ *Dean Abbott lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael J. Koons*



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**Dean Abbott** - October 08, 2013 at 09:14 PM

KB

“ *Kirsten Bristol lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael J. Koons*



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**Kirsten Bristol** - October 08, 2013 at 05:52 PM

RJ

“ Rick & Kelly Jennings lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael J. Koons



Rick & Kelly Jennings - October 08, 2013 at 07:48 AM

RT

“ Friendship is perpetual--I will miss you, ole' buddy! We shared classrooms for over 30 years at Norwell. We helped each other build our homes. Our families shared "snow-days" when school was closed. We made "do-it-yourself" western videos with our families in front of the fireplace when you were living on Mill Street, in Ossian. The rest of my memories remain within my heart--these are your memorial, Mike. --Ralph

ralph thiele - October 08, 2013 at 06:11 AM

SH

“ Steve Higgins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael J. Koons



Steve Higgins - October 07, 2013 at 09:31 PM

RD

“ Rhonda Painter Dalman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael J. Koons



Rhonda Painter Dalman - October 07, 2013 at 09:13 PM

JE

“ *Jamie Eltzroth lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael J. Koons*



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**Jamie Eltzroth** - October 07, 2013 at 08:50 PM

JO

“ *Jill Oswalt lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael J. Koons*



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**Jill Oswalt** - October 07, 2013 at 03:09 PM

KY

“ *A great teacher. I never will forget the time he made me hold hands for the rest of a class period with the girl whom I kept talking to in the middle of class - classic way of getting control of a situation without losing his cool!*

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**Kevin Yaney** - October 07, 2013 at 02:12 PM

MS

“ *Mr. Koons was a very good teacher and a kind man. His smile made you smile if you were having a bad day. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. May he R.I.P.*

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**Monica Smeenk** - October 07, 2013 at 01:56 PM

CH

“ Miss you and will always Love You Grandpa!  
McKenna, Jenna, Eliza, and Korbin



chad - October 07, 2013 at 11:57 AM

AW

“ Mr. Koons was one of my favorite teachers! I  
loved his class, I remember him reading  
Edgar Allen Poe to us. He was a very caring  
teacher and will be missed. Arlene Wilson



Arlene Wilson - October 07, 2013 at 11:23 AM

 Renee  
Gracia

“ Mr.Koons was a great teacher and he always  
went out of his way. There aren't many  
teachers like him out there. He will be missed.



Renee Gracia - October 07, 2013 at 10:27 AM

 Chelle  
Lowe

“ Mr. Moons always made us smile when he  
would see that we were having a bad day. He  
will be missed.



Chelle Lowe - October 07, 2013 at 08:10 AM

Mandy  
Schaan

“ He told me I was a great public speaker and should do something in public speaking when I grew up. I laughed at him but I appreciate him believing in me.



Mandy Schaan - October 07, 2013 at 07:34 AM

DM

“ I can still remember, over 40 years ago, Mr. Koons taking his Junior High class out for a walk with the assignment to write a poem on something we saw. He was a good teacher.

Dan McAfee - October 07, 2013 at 07:22 AM

AA

“ Alicia Arnold lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael J. Koons



alicia arnold - October 07, 2013 at 07:06 AM



“ Lighting a candle for you today... You were such a wonderful teacher. R.I.P

Kinzie Cummins - October 07, 2013 at 06:28 AM

BH

“ *Becky Haynes lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael J. Koons*



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**becky haynes** - October 07, 2013 at 02:56 AM

RH

“ *Rebecca Holderman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael J. Koons*



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**Rebecca Holderman** - October 07, 2013 at 12:48 AM

DB

“ *Dana Boester lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael J. Koons*



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**Dana Boester** - October 06, 2013 at 11:17 PM

DB

*I am so sad to hear such a wonderful teacher has left us. You will be missed, Mr. Koons!*

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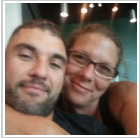
**Dana Boester** - October 06, 2013 at 11:18 PM

AE

“ Amber Eltzroth lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael J. Koons



Amber Eltzroth - October 06, 2013 at 10:40 PM



“ A wonderful teacher. I never had the honor of knowing him beyond my 6th grade english teacher. However....i will never forget his kindness or ability to earn ones respect and trust. He will be greatly missed.

Jamie Elzey - October 06, 2013 at 10:21 PM

SR

“ Many fond memories of a great teacher...so sorry to hear he is gone...



Sheri Oliver Raver - October 06, 2013 at 09:12 PM

KD

“ Ken Sizemore & Deb lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael J. Koons



ken sizemore & deb - October 06, 2013 at 08:34 PM

RC

“ *Ron Captain lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael J. Koons*



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**Ron Captain** - October 06, 2013 at 08:01 PM

SK

“ *I am so sorry to hear the passing of Mr Koons. For me, he was a teacher that made an impression and influence in my life. I thank him for the honor of being taught by him.*

*Sara Kneuss FNP  
Pheonix Arizona*

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**sara kneuss** - October 06, 2013 at 07:01 PM

MS

“ *Meredith Byrd Strickler lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael J. Koons*



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**Meredith Byrd Strickler** - October 06, 2013 at 06:39 PM

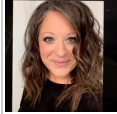
FD

“ *Fawn Duncan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Michael J. Koons*



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**Fawn Duncan** - October 06, 2013 at 03:26 PM



*One of my all time favorite teachers!*

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**Christina Affolder** - October 07, 2013 at 10:50 AM

SL

*I worked next door to Mike at the MIDDLE SCHOOL, what a great educator and co-worker to be next to through the opening years at the Norwell Middle School. I will miss his always miss his fellowship and since of humor. He will be missed by all who knew him.*

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**Steve Lowden** - October 07, 2013 at 12:59 PM

SC

*Mr. Koons was an awesome teacher and great guy. Always had my respect. Very kind man. So sorry for the family's loss.*

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**Shelly (Dyson) Coss** - October 22, 2013 at 06:35 PM