



JOHN KOVACS

September 14, 1932 - October 4, 2025

GRAVESIDE FUNERAL SERVICES: THURSDAY 10/9/2025, 11:00 AM at OAKVIEW CEMETERY.

John Kovacs, age 93, of Bloomfield Township, lived a remarkable life that began in Nyíregyháza, Hungary, in 1932. He was born to Livia (Vermes) and Geza Kovacs. He had one brother, Istvan Reiner.

During the Second World War, he and his family were imprisoned in Hungarian work camps and Nazi German concentration camps. As a 12-year-old boy, with the help of Bela Reiner, he escaped while being transported by train from one camp to another. His brother Istvan, grandparents, and other family members perished in Auschwitz. After the war, he was reunited with his mother, who had survived Auschwitz.

He immigrated to New York in 1947 as a refugee with his mother and stepfather Oscar Russ. They settled in Brooklyn, and he attended Lafayette High School from 1948 to 1950, where he played for the school's soccer team and made lifelong friends.

After high school, John attended New York University (NYU). During summer vacations, he worked as a busboy and later a waiter in Monticello, NY. He graduated from NYU in 1954.

From 1954 to 1956, John served in the U.S. Army, first in the 26th Infantry in Bamberg, and then transferred to the Loudspeaker and Leaflet Company in

Stuttgart. He was assigned to the United States Escapee Program (USEP) in Nürnberg, Germany.

John worked for General Motors for 41 years, from 1956 to 1997. His job took him, his wife, and two sons all over the world. His favorite assignment was in Belgium from 1962 to 1973. During his career, he earned an MBA from NYU and a master's degree in English from Wayne State University in Detroit, MI. After he retired, John spent a lot of time researching his family's genealogy. He is survived by his wife, Suzanne, with whom he shared a union of 60 years. He has two sons, George and Henry; daughter-in-law, Tanya; and grandson, Nico.

INTERMENT:

Oakview Cemetery
1032 North Main Street
Royal Oak, Michigan 48067

SHIVA:

Will be held privately

CONTRIBUTIONS:

If you would like to further honor the memory of
John Kovacs
you may do so by making a contribution to:
A charity of your choice

Cemetery Details

Oakview Cemetery

1032 Main Street
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Previous Events

GRAVESIDE FUNERAL SERVICE

OCT **9**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Oakview Cemetery
1032 Main Street
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Tribute Wall

AR

“ *John Kovacs & His Half Brother Istvan Reiner are Finally Now Reunited Back Together In Heaven For The First Time in 81Years*

Arlo - October 30, 2025 at 04:03 PM

RM

“ *Our sincere condolences Suzanne, George and Henry, prayers and thoughts are with you and family during this difficult time. Reid and Sandy Miles*

Reid, Sandy Miles - October 08, 2025 at 03:36 PM

CS

“ *I had the privilege of doing Torah Study with John a number of years ago. I will always remember his smile and how intelligent he was. So sorry for the loss*

Cindy Silverman - October 08, 2025 at 01:46 PM

MG

“ *My first cousin, Janos and I only met for the first time, ever, as adults. We knew of each other from family news and I felt an immediate connection from our first meeting in London where Lawrence (my husband) and I lived. I loved him straight away. He was urbane, with a great sense of humour and had unlimited stories about our family to share. He travelled to both our children's weddings, the first one with Zsuzsi. When my father died, we postponed the funeral so Janos could be present. We connected a number of times. In Melbourne, Sydney, Detroit and New York. We shared emails and spoke on the phone. He will live in our memory forever. Marika (Kovacs) Goodstone.*

Maria Goodstone - October 07, 2025 at 09:08 PM

MH

“ We loved our many times w Janos, he was smart, very sweet, hope he is resting in peace. Sending Zsuzsa, and the family our deepest love. Holzers

Marika & John Holzer - October 06, 2025 at 06:44 PM

AG

Baruch Dayan Emet! My sincere condolences to the family. Alexandra Goldberg, former programming director at JGSMI.

Alexandra Goldberg - October 09, 2025 at 02:09 PM