



Steven Ray Kochheiser

March 27, 1984 - March 6, 2025

Steven R. Kochheiser (Major on active status, Ohio Air National Guard), 40, passed away from a heart attack on March 6, 2025, in Columbus, Ohio.

Born on March 27, 1984, Steven built a distinguished legal career culminating in his most recent role as Senior Associate General Counsel at The Ohio State University where he advised university officials and employees on research-related matters. Prior to this, he worked for the Defense Logistics Agency, Land and Maritime, focusing on government contracts and litigation. He began his legal career at the Ohio Attorney General's Office and the Ohio State Dental Board.

He also served in the Ohio Air National Guard as a Judge Advocate General (JAG) at both the 179th Cyberspace Wing (former Airlift Wing) in Mansfield, Ohio, and most recently at the 121st Refueling Wing at Columbus, Ohio. Enlisting right out of high school, Steven had a military career that spanned over 23 years of service; he was recognized with many achievements, including the Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, and Distinguished Graduate from Commissioned Officer Training. Steve deployed in several Temporary Duty assignments over the years with the 179th.

Steven graduated from Lexington High School (2002) in Lexington, Ohio, and

went on to attend Ohio Northern University. He earned his bachelor's degree in Political Science (2006) and later graduated from the Pettit College of Law (2013). He served as the manuscript editor for the ONU Law Review, and he published law review articles covering intellectual property law and international law of war.

Beyond his career and academics, Steven found great joy in his family; he was the family historian who could remember all the dates and details and was the family technology "guru" and consultant. He also looked forward to organizing a fantasy football draft each year with friends. As a wonderful father, he had a way of making his daughters laugh and find joy in everyday moments. He was quiet but always had a witty and insightful response ready to share. His passions included spicy food and sauces, ice cream, history, and discovering the best "foodie" restaurants. He and his family also attended Grace Powell Church.

Steven is survived by his wife, Suzanne, and daughters, Annalise and Julia of Columbus, Ohio; his parents, Ray and Sharon Kochheiser of Lexington, Ohio; his grandfather Darl Kline of Mansfield, Ohio; his brother, Nathan (Laura) Kochheiser; his sister, Katelyn (Matthew) George; and six nieces, Lydia, Emily, Isla, Zoe, Madison, and Eliana.

Calling hours will be held at Rutherford Funeral Home in Powell, Ohio from 4-8pm Thursday, March 13. A military funeral service will be held on Friday, March 14, at 11am, with burial following at Kingwood Memorial Park in Lewis Center, Ohio.

In lieu of flowers, the family wishes donations to be made to support his daughters future education, extracurriculars, and anticipated needs. Donations can be made through Zelle. The account is findable through the email Kochheiser.suzanne@gmail.com.

Online condolences may be shared at <https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/>

Cemetery Details

Kingwood Memorial Park

8230 Columbus Pike
Lewis Center, OH 43035
(740) 548-5509

Previous Events

Calling Hour

MAR 13. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford Funeral Home at Powell
450 West Olentangy Street
Powell, OH 43065
(614) 792-1471
info@rutherfordfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/>

Funeral Service

MAR 14. 11:00 AM (ET)

Rutherford Funeral Home at Powell
450 West Olentangy Street
Powell, OH 43065
(614) 792-1471
info@rutherfordfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/>

Tribute Wall

DT

“ I have many fond memories of our dear neighbor Steve. It was very evident that he loved his girls. We would see him pushing both girls on the swings when they were little and he had such a tender way with them. We are always here for you Suzanne. Just holler out your back door if you need us. With deepest sympathy, Darlene, Taylor and Adam

Darlene Targonski - March 13, 2025 at 11:09 PM

GS

Sorry

Gail Schrage - March 15, 2025 at 11:44 PM

SW

“ You are in our thoughts and prayers during this time of loss. Your family is such a special gift as our neighbor and we send our deepest condolences. Please know your neighbors are here for you any day and time, always. Scott and Shannon Winfield

Scott and Shannon Winfield - March 13, 2025 at 04:46 PM

HK

“ Heartfelt condolences to the Kochheiser family on the untimely passing of Steve. May God provide comfort and guidance at this time of sorrow.

Harry Kamdar - March 13, 2025 at 04:41 PM

LF

“ *Larry Zimmerman/Steve Boggs Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Steven Ray Kochheiser.*



Larry Zimmerman/Steve Boggs Family - March 13, 2025 at 12:32 PM

LK

“ *Love Rick and Pam Kline purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Steven Ray Kochheiser.*



Love Rick and Pam Kline - March 13, 2025 at 02:50 AM

LK

“ *Love Rick and Pam Kline planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven Ray Kochheiser.*

Love Rick and Pam Kline - March 13, 2025 at 02:50 AM

SU

“ *2 files added to the album Steven Memories*



Suzanne - March 12, 2025 at 10:48 PM

MG

“ I had the privilege of serving with Steve at DLA — he was a brilliant attorney and a wonderful person to have on our legal team. I will pray that God will comfort you and your family during this time of loss.

Mike Gordon - March 12, 2025 at 12:55 PM

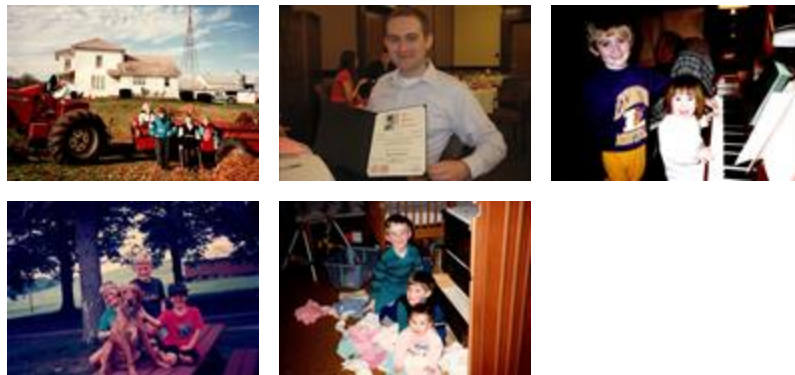
BP

“ Just heard of your tragic loss.....our hearts go out to you and your dear family.....thinking of you!

Barbara Patterson - March 12, 2025 at 11:50 AM

SU

“ 62 files added to the album Steven Memories



Suzanne - March 11, 2025 at 11:21 PM

A(

“ So sorry to read of Steve's passing. I was in band with him. May he rest in peace.



Ashley Ellis (Culler) - March 11, 2025 at 10:54 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Steven Ray Kochheiser.*



March 11, 2025 at 10:10 PM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss, Kochheiser family. Maj Kochheiser was a valued member of the Air Force JAG family and will be missed.*

Lt Col Grethe Hahn - March 11, 2025 at 05:19 PM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. Your family is in my prayers.*

A.C. LaDriere - March 11, 2025 at 04:30 PM



“ *121st ARW Airmen purchased the Sacred Duty S pray for the family of Steven Ray Kochheiser.*



121st ARW Airmen - March 11, 2025 at 03:55 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Steven Ray Kochheiser.*

March 11, 2025 at 03:37 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Steven Ray Kochheiser.*



March 11, 2025 at 03:37 PM



“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,*

May your memories of Steven Ray Kochheiser, give you peace, comfort and strength...

Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete. I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten...

*My thoughts
and prayers to the family of*

US Air Force Veteran, Steven Ray Kochheiser, is “A True American Hero” God Bless†

† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †

Cheryl J Skinner Tri-State Military Muse - March 11, 2025 at 08:47 AM



“ *Ray and Sharon,
So very sorry for your loss. Will keep you and your family in my prayers. Barbara Etwiler*

Barbara Etwiler - March 11, 2025 at 08:35 AM

RH

“ Randy and Cindy Heidlebaugh purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Steven Ray Kochheiser.



Randy and Cindy Heidlebaugh - March 11, 2025 at 08:32 AM

1W

“ 179th Cyberspace Wing planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven Ray Kochheiser.

179th Cyberspace Wing - March 11, 2025 at 07:59 AM

1W

“ 179th Cyberspace Wing purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Steven Ray Kochheiser.



179th Cyberspace Wing - March 11, 2025 at 07:59 AM

JH

“ I worked with Steve at DLA. Steve did whatever was asked of him, he did it well, and he did it joyfully. I know he did the same in all the varied positions he held and for all the organizations he served. A true talent taken too soon. My deepest condolences for your loss.

John Hart - March 11, 2025 at 06:27 AM

ML

“ I had Steve in many classes at ONU, and I remember him well for his sterling presence, his seriousness, his competence in all that he did, and his Air Force ROTC uniform. Steve was soft-spoken, level-headed, and thoughtful. He was a treasure to have in the classroom. Since graduation I communicated with him several times, so I am genuinely shocked to hear about his passing. I have no doubt that this loss will deeply touch those who knew him. I did not realize how much he had already accomplished in his all-too brief life. My sincere condolences to his family and friends. Michael B. Loughlin, ONU 1988-2023

Michael B. Loughlin - March 10, 2025 at 07:21 PM

NM

“ Ray and Sharon, sending our sincere condolences. Words can't express the sudden loss of Steven. Our thoughts and prayers for you guys and Steven's family. Steven, brother in arms, peace be with you and may the Men at Work calendar forever live! The Miller Family from Virginia

Nathan Miller - March 10, 2025 at 07:03 PM

DF

“ Dan and Cindy Strader & Family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Steven Ray Kochheiser.



Dan and Cindy Strader & Family - March 10, 2025 at 06:39 PM

JW

“ Ray, Sharon & Families! We are so heartbroken to hear of the sudden passing of Steven. We will keep you all in our thoughts & Prayers for comfort & healing. Jill Wentz & Family

Jill Wentz - March 10, 2025 at 05:49 PM

VS

“ Oh Sharon and Ray, we are so very sorry to hear of Steven's passing. Our condolences and prayers to all the family. We just lost our nephew to a heart attack.



Virgil & Teresa Snavely - March 10, 2025 at 05:03 PM

LW

“ It was a pleasure and honor to work with Steve at OSU. Thank you for your leadership, warm smile, and willingness to help in all research-related legal matters. All of OSU mourns along with Steve's family on the loss of a special soul way too soon.

Loren E Wold - March 10, 2025 at 04:14 PM

TS

“ Tara S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven Ray Kochheiser.

Tara S. - March 10, 2025 at 04:06 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Steven Ray Kochheiser.



March 10, 2025 at 03:16 PM



“ I'm so sorry to hear about Steve. Your family is in our prayers.

Kristen (Bolles) Maynard - March 10, 2025 at 03:03 PM



“ Karen Boyce and Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Steven Ray Kochheiser.



Karen Boyce and Family - March 10, 2025 at 01:46 PM



“ The Bey Family purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Steven Ray Kochheiser.



The Bey Family - March 10, 2025 at 12:56 PM



“ The Bey Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven Ray Kochheiser.

The Bey Family - March 10, 2025 at 12:56 PM



“ *Heavenly Light was purchased for the family of Steven Ray Kochheiser.*



March 10, 2025 at 11:03 AM



“ *We have lost a special person. We pray for the healing of everyone who is mourning this tremendous man. Jeri and I will hold our memories of you in our hearts always. Ken & Jeri Zurhorst*

Ken Zurhorst - March 10, 2025 at 10:54 AM



“ *Williams High performance Flooring purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Steven Ray Kochheiser.*



Williams High performance Flooring - March 10, 2025 at 09:35 AM



“ *America the Beautiful was purchased for the family of Steven Ray Kochheiser.*



March 09, 2025 at 08:47 PM