



## Mark "Koz" Koziol

April 9, 1968 - April 8, 2024

Mark "Koz" was born on April 9, 1968, in Hudson, NY, to his loving mother Amalia Koziol. He moved to Lorain, Ohio and attended Admiral King High School. He enjoyed playing sports, especially football, and met his lifelong friends, his "Inner Circle". He graduated in 1986, and went on to attend Illinois Valley Community College for two years on a football scholarship before transferring to Youngstown State University, where he played football under Coach Jim Tressel. He graduated in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science in Applied Science. Mark earned his teaching license became an educator in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, where he met the love of his life, Rebecca. After receiving his Master of Education in Educational Administration from Cleveland State University in 2010, he went on to become an Instructional Coach.

Mark married his precious love on July 17, 2009 at Nativity BVM in Lorain, Ohio. Their

life together was filled with nothing short of adventure, laughter, and loved ones. While Lorain always had Mark's heart, he easily made himself at home in Cleveland, where his circle continued to grow larger with each passing year.

In 2014, Mark was diagnosed with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis and was put on the lung transplant list. Determined as ever not to let his diagnosis slow him down, Mark continued living his life, improving his overall health, and shared his story with others going through similar experiences. In the summer of 2015, he and Rebecca loaded the bed of his truck with oxygen tanks and took a road trip, just one example of how a few roadblocks were nothing compared to Mark's will and love of life.

On December 4, 2015, Mark received a single lung transplant at the Cleveland Clinic. He immediately became involved in organizations supporting transplant awareness, such as The Lung Transplant Foundation, Donate Life Ohio, and Pulmonary Fibrosis News, where he wrote a column called "Gonna Live My Life". He became a well-loved mentor to patients awaiting their own transplants, and kept in touch with them afterwards and spoke on patient panels for doctors at the Cleveland Clinic, sharing his remarkable story alongside his transplant doctor, Dr. Budev. In 2016, Mark and his KozStrong Team participated in the

Gift of Life Walk &

Run with Donate Life Lifebank. To this day, his blue KozStrong t-shirts can be seen around town.

Mark "Koz" truly lived his life to the fullest. Everyone says their family member lit up a room and was so well known, but it meant something different when applied to Mark. He knew everyone. He had a one of a kind, big personality and an even bigger heart. He impacted the lives of so many people. Known for his summer barbecues, Mark would proudly present his favorite dishes, like his perfectly cooked steak, ribs, and his famous Kozagna. He was the center of his circle of friends, the one to plan Browns game outings, tailgating menus, and the annual Browns away game trip. Mark was a die hard Browns fan. He shared his thoughts, wit, positivity, and genuine heart with everyone, no matter if he knew you for years or had just met you that day, and if you asked for his opinion, you better be prepared to hear it because Mark never held back. He had a way with words, and if you knew him then you know exactly what words were his favorites.

His gift of life blessed him, Rebecca, and their beloved dogs, Chloe and Jackson, with many great travels, adventures, and memories. They especially loved their

trips to Hawaii,  
seeing their favorite bands in concert, cooking together, going on road trips  
and spending time  
on the back patio together listening to his music. He loved Rebecca with all  
his heart. They are  
truly a match made in Heaven.

Mark passed away on April 8, 2024, surrounded in love following a sudden  
onset of  
PTLD Lymphoma, common in transplant patients. He will be missed beyond  
measure.

Mark is survived by his loving wife, Rebecca Ann Koziol (Hill), of Cleveland,  
his sisters Agata

Wieladek (Marian), Krystyna Siwierka, and Alina Bobinski, his brother  
Zygmunt Koziol (Helen),

stepdaughter Angela Carmela Bodenstein (Joseph), his grandchildren Isla  
and Greyson

Bodenstein, who lovingly called him Papa Koz. He is the uncle to fourteen  
nieces and

nephews, fifteen great nieces and nephews, and one great-great nephew.

Son-in-law to

Patricia Hill, and brother-in-law Eric Hill (Elizabeth). He was preceded into  
death by his beloved

mother, Amalia Jozefa Koziol, his brother Zbigniew Koziol, and his dogs Lucy  
and Carlo.

We imagine Mark might say something meaningful, which brings to mind this  
quote: "Death

leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal."

In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations can be made to [lifebanc.org](http://lifebanc.org) or  
Safe Harbor

Animal Rescue in Vermillion, Ohio, [www.safeharboranimalrescue.org](http://www.safeharboranimalrescue.org).



# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Cemetery

555 N Ridge Rd  
Lorain, OH 44053  
<https://clecem.org/Cemeteries/CalvaryLorain.aspx>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 16. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gluvna-Shimo-Hromada Funeral Chapel  
3224 Broadway  
Lorain, OH 44055  
(440) 246-2118  
[gluvnashimohromada@gmail.com](mailto:gluvnashimohromada@gmail.com)  
<http://www.gluvnashimohromada.com>

## Funeral Mass

APR 17. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Nativity BVM Catholic Church  
1454 Lexington Avenue  
Lorain, OH 44052

# Tribute Wall

TA

“ Timothy A. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mark "Koz" Koziol.

Timothy A. - April 19, 2024 at 09:44 AM

DI

“ Koz, your friends and family will truly miss you. You continually beat the odds with your grit and determination. We '86 grads always took pride in doing that! May God have grace on all who are grieving.

Sincerely,  
DJ Izworski

DJ Izworski - April 17, 2024 at 07:51 PM

AT

“ Koz you will be sorely missed for all the good in the world you did and being a great teacher and your sense of humor and never sugarcoating things. Fly high with the angels and talk to Brad and Petie for me ok! Hugs always and prayers for your family always too! xoxoxox

Arlene Traxler - April 17, 2024 at 08:40 AM

SL

“ Susan L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mark "Koz" Koziol.

Susan L. - April 17, 2024 at 08:28 AM

CC

“ Rest In Peace Mark. You gave us great Memories watching you play football with my Brother Dave and all your other good friends on the 1986 Admiral King football team. You all had a special bond. Never forget Yala's at the Carney house after the games. Lotta good times. Say hi to Butch for us. God Love ya! CGC.

Ch. Gregg Carney - April 16, 2024 at 07:14 PM

GE

“ Ooooh, I am so disturbed to find this out. I so remember our laughs and meals we shared as Instructional Coaches. Rebecca hugs to you. He was truly a fighter. You are such a soldier.

GiGi Elder - April 15, 2024 at 09:23 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mark "Koz" Koziol.



April 15, 2024 at 09:13 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mark "Koz" Koziol.



April 15, 2024 at 07:46 PM

P1

“ PVA Post 1 purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Mark "Koz" Koziol.



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**PVA Post 1** - April 15, 2024 at 04:01 PM

AF

“ Adam & Elaine, Lori & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mark "Koz" Koziol.

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**Adam & Elaine, Lori & Family** - April 15, 2024 at 03:47 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mark "Koz" Koziol.



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April 15, 2024 at 03:47 PM

KS

“ Krystyna S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mark "Koz" Koziol.

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**Krystyna S.** - April 15, 2024 at 03:24 PM

MH

“ I had the pleasure of meeting him at CHJCF great human is all I can say rip

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**Marvin Harris** - April 14, 2024 at 09:15 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mark "Koz" Koziol.*



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April 14, 2024 at 12:33 PM



“ *Georgene & John Zultner planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mark "Koz" Koziol.*

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**Georgene & John Zultner** - April 14, 2024 at 11:12 AM



“ *Nikki & Joe Bush and Kylie Pepper purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mark "Koz" Koziol.*



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**Nikki & Joe Bush and Kylie Pepper** - April 14, 2024 at 10:59 AM



“ *Eric, Beth, Austin and Hayden Hill purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mark "Koz" Koziol.*



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**Eric, Beth, Austin and Hayden Hill** - April 14, 2024 at 09:16 AM

EH

“ Eric, Beth, Austin and Hayden Hill planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mark "Koz" Koziol.

Eric, Beth, Austin and Hayden Hill - April 14, 2024 at 09:16 AM

AU

“ Art Udovich planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mark "Koz" Koziol.

Art Udovich - April 13, 2024 at 12:19 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mark "Koz" Koziol.



April 13, 2024 at 12:19 PM

AT

“ Arlene and Irena Traxler purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Mark "Koz" Koziol.



Arlene and Irena Traxler - April 13, 2024 at 11:34 AM

SV

“ Scotti & Krissi Campana VTLG planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mark "Koz" Koziol.

Scotti & Krissi Campana VTLG - April 12, 2024 at 12:26 PM

SV

“ *Scotti & Krissi Campana VTLG purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mark "Koz" Koziol.*



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**Scotti & Krissi Campana VTLG** - April 12, 2024 at 12:26 PM

JP

“ *Jeannine and Braylon Perrault purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mark "Koz" Koziol.*



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**Jeannine and Braylon Perrault** - April 12, 2024 at 09:24 AM