



## Ryan Joseph Koehn

May 1, 1979 - December 22, 2022

Ryan Joseph Koehn passed away at Shelby Health and Rehabilitation Center in Shelby Township, Michigan on December 22, 2022 at the age of 43. Ryan was born in Warren, Michigan on May 1, 1979 to Dennis and Renee Koehn. Ryan was a 1997 graduate of Utica High School excelling in Football. Ryan quarterbacked the Chieftain team breaking his brother's record for passing yards in the process. Ryan was called back to his High School alma mater 5 years after graduating to take part in the coin toss in a game where his Chieftain team honored those that serve rolls as firefighters/EMTs/and police officers.

Upon graduating from Utica High Ryan took his talents to Wayne State University where he studied and played for the University's football team earning his letter and playing for the Tartars/Warriors for 2 years.

After leaving Wayne State University Ryan joined the Detroit Fire Department. Ryan served the citizens of the city of Detroit for over 19 years as one of the first responders earning the Detroit Fire Department Medal of Valor and saving countless lives and properties.

At age 28 Ryan was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Ryan refused to let this diagnosis define him and used his years playing football and on one of the nation's busiest fire departments to fight against his new opponent. Ryan's

brother Todd saw a photo published by Pulitzer Prize winning author, and cancer patient, John Kaplan of the hard rock group Pantera's lead singer Phil Anselmo's head tattoo that says 'stength'. Todd couldn't help but notice that this tattoo was in the exact spot where Ryan's surgery scar was from his treatment. John Kaplan and Phil Anselmo both flew to Detroit to present this photo to Ryan and Ryan and Todd became an integral part of the documentary that Mr. Kaplan was working on titled Not As I Pictured.

Ryan also loved to be out in nature. He would often be found hiking with his friends or just sitting and taking in all that was around him. In stark contrast Ryan also loved music by bands like Pantera for Ryan it was always the louder the music was the better it was.

Ryan is the beloved son of Dennis and Renee Koehn. Loving brother of the late Todd Koehn. Dear uncle of Mackenzie and Delaney. A memorial service for Ryan will be held at a later date. Please refer back to the website for details.

Memorial contributions in Ryan's name may be directed to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital [https://www.stjude.org/donate/srch/donate-to-st-jude-childrens-research-hospital.html?frequency\\_selected=0&sc\\_icid=impactgiving-donate-bttn-top](https://www.stjude.org/donate/srch/donate-to-st-jude-childrens-research-hospital.html?frequency_selected=0&sc_icid=impactgiving-donate-bttn-top)

or to the Detroit Fireman's Fund <https://www.detroitfiremensfund.com/donate>

# Cemetery Details

## **Resurrection Cemetery**

18201 Clinton River Road  
Clinton Township, MI 48035

# Tribute Wall

NR

“ I am so sorry to see this notice. I was an administrative assistant at UHS when Ryan was a student and football star and also when Todd taught there. My memories of both of the Koehn brothers are of how kind and well bred both boys were. A wonderful tribute of how they were loved and raised by two loving parents. I am so sorry for your loss and I pray that you hold on to the memories you have of both of your sons. RIP Ryan...you have definitely earned your well deserved wings.

NancyR

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**Nancy Rutledge** - January 02, 2023 at 07:08 PM

JM

“ Ryan, you have brought so much joy to our lives. From watching little you break dance, to all the family Trivial Pursuit games where we laughed until we cried, and the Friday night football games at Utica HS. Always such fun!

We have been so proud of you and your achievements as a firefighter and in your courageous fight against cancer. It has been an honor to be your Godparents and your family. We will miss you very much and treasure every happy memory.

Love you forever,  
Aunt Judy and Uncle Guy

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**Judy Mariani** - December 28, 2022 at 07:56 PM

MR

“ *Dennis and Renee,  
We are truly sorry we have lost touch with you while you are going through the worst loss parents could experience. We have fond memories of your loving family when our children played together. We pray you find comfort in your faith, in the cherished memories you have of Ryan and Todd, and in the precious gift of grandchildren.*

*Al and Mary Beth Reynaert  
Safety Harbor, FL and Manistee, MI*

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**Mary Beth Reynaert** - December 27, 2022 at 08:55 PM

CW

“ *Dennis and Renee, we are so sorry for your loss and send our condolences to you. You both are in our prayers.*

*Mary Jo Balhorn  
Dave and Cathy Warner*

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**Catherine Balhorn Warner** - December 26, 2022 at 12:32 PM