

In Memoriam

Elaine Kokoski

Elaine Kokoski, Hadley, Mass., 76, passed away on June 29, 2025, after a brief illness.

She was born on March 10, 1949, in Ludlow, Mass., to the late Jose Teixeira and Sophie Teixeira. She shared 55 years with her loving husband, John Kokoski, and built a lifetime of love, friendships and laughter.

Elaine was a devoted farmer's wife, supporting John through the challenges and rewards of building Mapleline Farm on land that has been in his family since 1904. Today, the registered Jersey farm and bottling plant is owned and managed by their daughters, Jennifer Zina and Jessica Dizek, who represent the fifth generation on the farm.

Elaine enjoyed the family's involvement with dairy and agriculture activities. She and John attended many dairy and Jersey breed events across the country and meetings while John served as a director and president of National All-Jersey Inc.

She was very much an unsung hero, supporting John, their children, and then their grandchildren, keeping everyone organized and well fed. While raising her three children, Elaine worked at another of John's businesses, a trucking business, supporting the operation administratively. Developing a keen sense of business herself, she created a trucking and logistics company with Susan Mannheim, appropriately named S & E Trans.

Elaine had a non-nonsense way about her that she never shied from. She could entertain for a party at the last minute with ease and enjoyed good food and drink with her and John's many good friends. They shared many memories with friends in Bermuda and New Hampshire, where they brought their kids in the summers, and more recently, Pennsylvania, where they lived part-time and found new friends and family.

In addition to her husband and daughters, Jennifer Zina and Jessica (Chad) Dizek, Elaine is survived by a son, Paul (Leann); seven grandchildren; one great-grandchild; three step-grandchildren; and a brother, Tom (Carol) Teixeira.

Memorials may be made in her memory to Jersey Youth Academy, c/o American Jersey Cattle Association, 6486 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068.

Joseph C. Kirchdoerfer

Joseph Charles Kirchdoerfer, Cape Girardeau, Mo., 89, passed away on July 3, 2025, at his home on the family farm surrounded by his family.

He was born on July 15, 1935, to Joseph A. and Mary Heuring Kirchdoerfer. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary Cathedral in Cape Girardeau and married Mildred Kluesner on April 23, 1960, at Guardian Angel Catholic Church in Oran.

Born and raised on the family farm west of Cape Girardeau, Joe was a third-generation farmer. With his family, he owned and managed Jo-Kirch Jerseys, a registered Jersey dairy herd.

As a dairy breeder, Joe built one of the top herds in the state and nation for milk production and type. He exhibited Jersey cattle at numerous national, state and local fairs, including the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia, the Mid-South Fair in Memphis, the DuQuoin State Fair in Illinois, and the SEMO District Fair, at which he exhibited cattle for 75 years. With renowned success in both the milk barn and show ring, fellow dairy producers throughout the U.S. have purchased Jo-Kirch Jersey cattle over the years.

Joe was affiliated with several agriculture organizations, including the Campster 4-H Club, MFA-Inc., Farm Service Agency and Cape Girardeau County Farm Bureau. He was also a member of the American Jersey Cattle Association and the Missouri Jersey Cattle Club.

As a leader in the dairy industry, Joe received numerous honors. He and Mildred received the Distinguished Dairy Cattle Breeder Award from the Missouri Dairy Hall of Honors in 1988. He was also inducted into the Missouri State Fair Stockman's Hall of Fame, received Farm Bureau's Friend of the Farmer award and earned an honorary state FFA degree.

A man of few words, Joe was loved by many for his silent, behind-the-scenes actions to help family, friends and neighbors in need. He was respected for his profound faith, strong work ethic, unwavering integrity and sincere kindness.

Joe was a lifelong member of St. Mary Cathedral, serving on various committees. He had been president of the St. Mary Cemetery Association since 1974.

In addition to his loving wife and soulmate of 65 years, Mildred, Joe is survived by four children, Carl Kirchdoerfer of Cape Girardeau, Edward (Amy) Kirchdoerfer of Cape Girardeau, Glenda

(Kendall) Hampton of Sikeston, and Julie (Keith) Eftink of Chaffee; seven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and a sister, Adelia Frank.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Anton Kirchdoerfer; two sisters, Stella Ostendorf and Marie James; three brothers-in-law, Fred Ostendorf, Alvin Frank and Robert James; and a dear friend, Rev. Raymond Kunkel.

Memorials may be given to St. Mary Cemetery Association.