



## John Kobs Evashevski

July 5, 1950 - May 30, 2021

John Evashevski, husband, father, teacher, coach, died on Sunday, May 30th in St. Ignace, Michigan at his home. He was 70 years old.

The cause of death was due to complications related to Multiple System Atrophy (MSA)

Mr. Evashevski was born in Pullman, WA on July 15, 1950 and grew up in Iowa City, IA. He spent his summers with his extended family in Northern Michigan where he eventually came to live and raise a family.

Evashevski was a gifted wrestler. He earned a state title for Iowa City High in 1968 at 154lbs and later, for the University of Iowa, a 1972 Big Ten championship in the 177 weight class. It was not uncommon for him to lose 10-15 pounds to make weight, and having dinner after weigh-ins became an important event. His cousin Prentiss "Giz" Brown, who was concurrently studying law at Iowa, once promised to make him dinner on the condition he bring a date. That evening he arrived with his future wife.

Upon graduating from Iowa with a Bachelor of Science and a state teachers certificate, Mr. Evashevski taught and coached football in Petoskey, MI for two years before taking a job at St. Ignace Area Schools in 1974 where he taught

chemistry and later middle school science. There he founded the wrestling program with mats he sourced from a defunct college on Mackinac Island. He was the head coach for 28 years with a brief hiatus in the early 1990s. Evashevski retired from teaching in 2005 and subsequent pursuits included a stint as a special education teacher for Gros Cap School, a board member for the Eastern National Forest Interpretive Association, and environmental consulting for Mackinac Environmental. He was also a member of the local Chocolate Society.

Evashevski was known for his perseverance which he honed on the wrestling mat and applied to other areas of his life. He was an avid runner and completed 16 Marathons. Not satisfied with his childhood piano skills, he restarted lessons as an adult, determined to be better. He went on to write several songs, recorded an album, and performed at numerous community concerts.

He was an enthusiastic hunter and fisherman, and a dedicated conservationist. He built a house for his family on land he discovered while hunting which featured a high ridge with a southern view spanning the area from Lake Huron to Lake Michigan. His brother Jim Evashevski once quipped “Most Americans will brag about their new car but John will tell you about his lookout point”. He made numerous trips to Lake Superior Provincial Park, the Dakotas, Montana, Alaska, and the Arctic Circle. His enthusiasm for the outdoors endured beyond his ability to experience them. While immobile during the late stages of his disease, he would still ask family members if they saw any deer or caught any fish and where.

Mr. Evashevski is survived by his wife, Lucy Evashevski, his two sons and their families, Forest Matthew Evashevski and Adam Patrizia of New York City, and Michael Charles Evashevski and partner J. Mike Smith of San Francisco, CA, and his six siblings, Forest and Jean Evashevski of

Corvallis, Oregon, Jim and Marty Evashevski of Nashville, TN, Marion Evashevski of Petoskey, MI, Tom and Debbie Evashevski of St. Ignace, MI, Bill and Genevieve Evashevski of Good Hart, MI, and Kassie Evashevski and Charle Landry of Larchmont, NY.

A memorial celebrating Mr. Evashevski's life will be held at the St. Ignace United Methodist Church on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 with visitation at 2:00pm and a service at 3:00pm.

Online donations to support MSA research can be made using the following link:

<https://philanthropy.mayoclinic.org/donateMC> The designation selection should be "other" and "Low/Singer MSA Research" should also be entered.

Checks can also be mailed to:

Low/Singer MSA research Department of Development Mayo Clinic, 200 First Street SW, Rochester, MN 55905

# Previous Events

## Memorial Gathering

JUN 9. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

United Methodist Church  
615 W. I-75 Business Spur  
St. Ignace, MI 49781

## Memorial Service

JUN 9. 3:00 PM (ET)

United Methodist Church  
615 W. I-75 Business Spur  
St. Ignace, MI 49781

# Tribute Wall



“ *John Kobs Evashevski*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *John Kobs Evashevski*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *John Kobs Evashevski*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *I just learned that John passed away. I went to high school with John, played football and hunted with him. John was a gentleman even than. Quiet and unassuming. Glad I got to see him at our 50th class reunion. My belated sympathies to John's family*  
*Chuck Kupka*

**Chuck kupka** - October 29, 2021 at 09:31 PM



“ *Sending the Evashevski family prayers and hugs. May warm memories be a comfort during this difficult time. Krisha Pietrzakowski*

**Krisha Berg** - June 30, 2021 at 10:14 AM

KL

“ Just by chance I came across John's obituary today. I was saddened to learn of his passing. I was a classmate, fellow wrestler and good friend of John's at Southeast Jr. High School and later for a short time at City High until I transferred to University High School, While still in Junior High I had the good fortune of being invited to the Evashevski's summer home in the upper peninsula of Michigan. An incredibly warm and welcoming family. My sincerest condolences and prayers to the entire Evashevski family. . Kim Luther St. Louis, Missouri.

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**Kim Luther** - June 28, 2021 at 06:15 PM

JL

“ Josh Therrien, Mackinac Island lit a candle in memory of John Kobs Evashevski



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**Josh Therrien, Mackinac Island** - June 12, 2021 at 02:05 PM

EF

“ I remember when Lucy and John started dating. I was 9 or 10 at the time. Lucy was my childhood babysitter in DeWitt, IA, where we grew up. Her parents, Charlie and Virginia, were best friends of my mom and dad. When I was 8, Lucy actually taught me how to drive. Of course, I couldn't reach the pedals, but she'd let me sit on her lap and steer while she controlled the pedals. My first memory of John was when Lucy brought him over for dinner. As a HUGE Hawkeye fan, I was completely star-struck. After all, she was dating the son of Forest Evashevski. And, he was also an Iowa wrestler. I remember John teaching me his signature takedown.....the Evashevski heal pick. It ended up serving me well for several years on the mat. As noted, John was also an excellent hunter. DeWitt, IA is prime pheasant hunting territory. Whenever John came to town he would go hunting with Charlie and my dad. Quite often, I got to go along; however, I was not yet old enough to actually hunt. So I was a combination of dog boy and bird boy. That meant that I took care of Charlie's dogs and carried the birds. Normally, it was a pretty easy job. When John was there, however, it wasn't. I was so loaded with birds that I could barely walk the fields. John would just tell me that it would make me stronger. Although my time with John was short and fleeting, it was very memorable. He left an impression on me during a very impressionable time of my life. As a 10-12 year-old boy, I remember seeing him as larger than life, soft spoken, and full of class. For such a successful athlete and sportsman, he was a very kind and gentle soul. I pray that the details of my memories with John, and Lucy, will remain vivid for the rest of my life.

*God bless and deepest sympathies,*

*Ed Franks*

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**Ed Franks** - June 09, 2021 at 05:17 PM

DS

“ John was a great example for perseverance in whatever we do in life. He was devoted to the appreciation of nature and the out-of-doors. Johns ever present calming smile will never be forgotten. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. Dick, Louanne, Julie and Diane Soczek.

Dick Soczek - June 08, 2021 at 02:41 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Kobs Evashevski.



June 08, 2021 at 01:03 AM

RW

“ Lucy so sorry for your loss. God Speed and PRAYERS from the Waack family!

Richard Waack - June 06, 2021 at 10:57 PM



“ Dear Lucy, This is such unbelievably sad news. My parents spoke so highly of John, I feel like I knew him. This must be so painful for you and your family. Sending my love and deep sympathy. Jim Rutenbeck

James Rutenbeck - June 06, 2021 at 02:01 PM

BD

“ To Lucy from Barbara Doughty - My heart breaks for you and your family. Please know I'm thinking of you and will write soon.

Barbara Doughty - June 06, 2021 at 12:51 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of John Kobs Evashevski.*



June 05, 2021 at 03:49 PM



“ *John was a classmate and a wrestling teammate in High school. A wonderful man and he will be missed. Prayers to his family.*

**Rich Betterley** - June 05, 2021 at 03:07 PM



“ *John was such a great guy. He loved life, his family, the outdoors, and the students he taught. Kent and I send sincere sympathy to Lucy and her family.*

**Marianne Marcek** - June 04, 2021 at 10:49 PM



“ *Oh, Lucy, I am so so sad for all of you. All your Class of 1968 friends are sending thoughts and prayers! Love, Clista*

**Clista Fischer** - June 04, 2021 at 06:10 PM



“ *So sorry to hear of your loss Lucy and family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. May he rest in peace. God Bless!!!*

*Tammy & Rich Gillis*

**Tamara J. Gillis** - June 04, 2021 at 04:22 PM

PH

“ So terribly sorry to hear . Lucy and family your are in our thoughts and prayers. May God grant you peace during these especially hard times...

*Pat and Rod Hankamp*

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**Pat Hankamp** - June 04, 2021 at 12:56 PM

SH

“ So sorry for the loss of “Coach Ev” , as my husband called him. He was a huge influence on my husband, Gary, and his brothers, Archie, Kevin, & Tom, on the wrestling team. My husband was never so tickled than at our wedding because “Coach & Mrs. Ev” took time to attend. He would always say a friendly “hello” when I saw him around town. He was a great person. May he Rest In Peace.

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**Susan Horn** - June 04, 2021 at 07:41 AM

JB

“ Condolences to the family. Thanks for the mat time, Ev.

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**Jeff Bisel** - June 04, 2021 at 06:48 AM

AH

“ Mr. Ev was my 8th grade science teacher and cross country coach and like someone else mentioned he never got mad and always rolled with the punches. He’s one of those teachers one never forgets. Prayers for his family. I know he’s enjoying nature now in no pain.

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**Angela Hammond** - June 03, 2021 at 10:29 PM

AH

“ *Mr. Ev was my science teacher in 8th grade and my cross country coach. Like someone else said, he never got mad, rolled with the punches and was always a kindred spirit. He was one of the teachers you never forget. Prayers for his family and I know he’s enjoying nature in no pain now.*

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**Angela Hammond** - June 03, 2021 at 10:26 PM



“ *One of my favorite teachers. I still remember thinking he was so young when I was in 9th grade. He never seemed to get mad . He just rolled with the punches*

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**Kimberly Feltner** - June 03, 2021 at 07:31 PM



“ *So sorry for John's wife and family. John was my high school science teacher and always made class fun and interesting, and he always had a smile for everyone. May he rest in peace.*

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**Kathy Tamlyn** - June 03, 2021 at 06:43 PM

RG

*a truly GENUINE HUMANE HUMAN BEING : d&p in NY, NY*

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**Richard Gray** - June 21, 2021 at 07:12 PM

NS

*Lucy, I just learned of John's passing and of the terrible debilitating disease he had. I don't know how long he suffered from it but I know how hard it is on the family to watch and experience. I remember fondly the night you and John hosted us for dinner when we were traveling to Mackinac Island. He was a great guy, the kind of husband you deserved. Sending love, Norma Speer*

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**Norma Speer** - June 21, 2021 at 11:38 PM