



# Marko Stepanovich

JAN 7, 1955 - NOV 26, 2023



Scan to Visit



# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Events</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 6
<b>Media</b> .....	Page 22



# Marko Stepanovich

JAN 7, 1955 - NOV 26, 2023

**M**arko Stepanovich of Berea, OH, born January 7th, 1955, the son of the late Nick and Elsie (Hunchuck), and older brother of Nenad Stepanovich, passed away on November 26, 2023, at the age of 68, surrounded by family.

Marko is survived by his devoted and loving wife of 45 years Tina (Lisby); their son Nikola and wife Jennifer along with grandchildren Mila, Liljana, Kristina and Dako; their son Aleksander and wife Dawn along with grandchildren Luka and Marko; their daughter Melania Sima along with grandchildren Isidora and Bogdan. He is also survived by his brother Nenad, aunts, uncles, many cousins, and Kumovi.

Marko is preceded by his parents, and his granddaughter Eva.

Marko was born in Uniontown, PA and raised in North Royalton, OH. To his children and grandchildren, it sounded like a different era, as they regularly heard stories of riding a pony to a summer job, farms where there are now subdivisions and malls, and where walking into stores with a gun on your hip was not unheard of. He graduated from North Royalton High School in 1973 where he, as did his brother, made a name for himself as a standout football player and wrestler. Marko attended the United States Naval Academy and The University of Pittsburgh where he continued to excel in athletics. By 1978 Marko and Tina were married, and in 1980 he fulfilled his boyhood dream of becoming a police officer when he was hired by the City of Strongsville.

Marko retired as a Lieutenant in 2013, where some of his professional work included: Patrolman, Seargent, Supervisor of the Detective Bureau, Range Supervisor, Graduate of the FBI National Academy, Commander of the Southwest Enforcement Bureau (SWAT Team), lead a Narcotics Unit, and was part of the FBI's Joint Terror Task Force. His athletic success carried over into the professional when Mark proudly represented both Strongsville and Ohio, winning several National and World Wrestling Championships in what is today called the World Police & Fire Games. Stories of "Big Mark" still circulate the area. There are funny ones like chasing rowdy teens out of McDonalds after Mustang football games, or serious ones like police raids and



## Obituary

**Marko Stepanovich**

JAN 7, 1955 - NOV 26, 2023

---

hostage situations. The proudest stories, and the ones his family hears the most, start with: “I remember this one time, when your dad/grandfather, helped me...” – he will be remembered for a lifetime of being there to help, and coming through for his family, friends, and the community.

One of his greatest joys was to watch his children, and then his grandchildren, compete in their respective sports. He loved the outdoors and hunting, particularly his trips to Colorado for elk every couple of years. Interestingly, he even participated in competitive pistol shooting.

A member of St Sava Orthodox Cathedral in Parma, OH – Marko was proud of his Serbian heritage. He was devoted to maintaining the traditions of his Orthodox faith and Serbian culture and was a member of the Movement of Serbian Chetniks Ravne Gore, and the Serbian National Federation. He even had the honor of serving as bodyguard for Patriarch Pavle when he came to Cleveland in 1992. Marko, like his father, was a Freemason, and as a Master Mason was also active as a Shriner and the Royal Order of Jesters.

Family and Friends are welcome to attend calling hours on FRIDAY, December 1st, at Jardine Funeral Home, 15822 Pearl Road, Strongsville, from 4pm – 8pm. Funeral Services will be on SATURDAY, December 2nd at 12pm at St Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral located at 6306 Broadview Road, Parma, followed by interment at St Theodosius Cemetery.



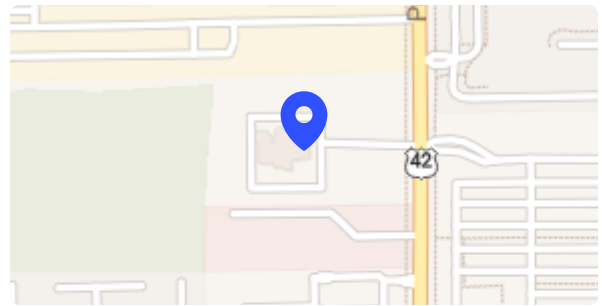
# Events

**Marko Stepanovich**

JAN 7, 1955 - NOV 26, 2023

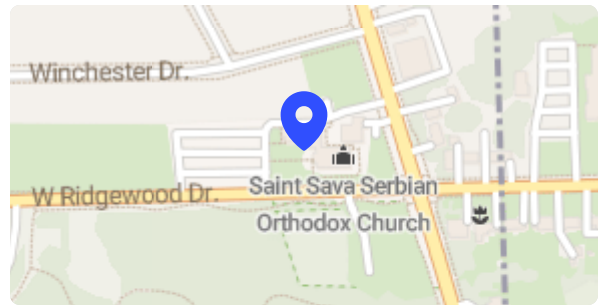
## Visitation

- Friday**, December 1, 2023
- 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET
- Jardine Funeral Home**  
15822 Pearl Rd, Strongsville OH 44136



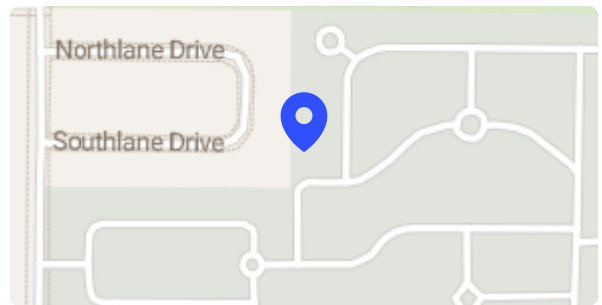
## Funeral Service

- Saturday**, December 2, 2023
- 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM ET
- St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral**  
6306 Broadview Rd, Parna OH 44134



## Cemetery Details

- St. Theodosius Cemetery**  
8200 Biddulph Road, Cleveland OH 44144





## Tribute Wall

**Marko Stepanovich**

JAN 7, 1955 - NOV 26, 2023

RS

**Rich Skoczen** posted:

God Bless Marko and all the Stepanovich Family. Love and Prayers to you all. Rich Skoczen Family

December 3 at 3:38 PM

JF

**Julie Buchanan Frantz** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Found the is while hiking in the woods near our house and took a photo since I knew the name. There are always echoes of our lives that will live on forever. Matt & Julie Frantz



December 1 at 6:48 PM

MB

**Mark Balas** posted:

To the family of Marko I offer my condolences on the loss of your husband, father and grandfather. I met Marko over 25 years ago at the police department. He was a great man and I always enjoyed our conversations. He always took the time to say hello and talk with me. May He Rest In Peace. 🙏 (I was a uniform salesman who would go to the police department quite frequently.)

December 1 at 1:27 PM

DH

**David Hawk** posted:

Growing up the son of a Strongsville police officer was really awesome. My late father, Don Hawk was a great father and a friend to many. Through the years I got to know a lot of his co-workers on the SPD. First time I met Mark Stepanovich, I was 16. Mark was truly larger than life! He was a no nonsense guy with a kind heart. My father always thought very highly of Mark. This world was a better place with Mark in it. He will be missed by many, including me. Rest in peace Mark. David Hawk

December 1 at 12:14 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful Heart Bouquet to the Stepanovich family.



December 1 at 11:01 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Marko Stepanovich**

JAN 7, 1955 - NOV 26, 2023



**Anonymous** sent a Medium Dish Garden to the Stepanovich family.

December 1 at 8:09 AM



**Anonymous** sent an Enchanted Cottage to the Stepanovich family.

December 1 at 5:59 AM



**The Kohout Family** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Marko.

December 1 at 5:59 AM



**Janice Bailey And Deanna Wolfe** sent a Gracious Lavender Basket to the Stepanovich family.

December 1 at 5:58 AM



**Alaric Evans & Owen Grueber** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Marko.

December 1 at 5:58 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Stepanovich family.

December 1 at 4:02 AM





## Tribute Wall

**Marko Stepanovich**

JAN 7, 1955 - NOV 26, 2023



**The Legg And Sima Family** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Marko.

December 1 at 4:02 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Stepanovich family.

November 30 at 2:39 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Serenity Wreath to the Stepanovich family.

November 30 at 2:30 PM



**William J.** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Marko.

November 30 at 12:49 PM



**Shirley Perry** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Stepanovich family.

November 30 at 11:50 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Stepanovich family.

November 30 at 11:42 AM





# Tribute Wall

**Marko Stepanovich**

JAN 7, 1955 - NOV 26, 2023



**Anonymous** sent a Lavender Reflections Spray to the Stepanovich family.

November 30 at 11:17 AM



**From Dr.'S Taylor And The Nr Dental Team** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Marko.

November 30 at 11:17 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Stepanovich family.

November 30 at 9:47 AM



**Dana, Madison, And Donna Porter** sent a Serene Retreat to the Stepanovich family.

November 30 at 8:54 AM



**Shannon Raimondo** lit a candle in honor of Marko.

November 30 at 8:42 AM



**The Raimondos** sent a Tender Tribute to the Stepanovich family.

November 30 at 8:40 AM





## Tribute Wall

**Marko Stepanovich**

JAN 7, 1955 - NOV 26, 2023



**The Raimondos** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Marko.

November 30 at 8:40 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Stepanovich family.

November 30 at 8:39 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Stepanovich family.

November 29 at 6:48 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Stepanovich family.

November 29 at 6:23 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the Stepanovich family.

November 29 at 5:40 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Stepanovich family.

November 29 at 5:23 PM





## Tribute Wall

**Marko Stepanovich**

JAN 7, 1955 - NOV 26, 2023



**Paul Bican** posted:

I got to know Mark in the 70's before he was a Police Officer and then had the honor and privilege to work with him for 30+ years. He was honest; kind; compassionate; unbelievably energetic and he had a wonderful sense of humor. He was truly one of those rare gems that one comes across in life that makes life better, and that you can never forget. I'm glad that he crossed my path. Paul Bican Chief of Police (Ret.) North Royalton P. D.

November 29 at 3:20 PM



**Anonymous** sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the Stepanovich family.



November 29 at 2:39 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful Dreams to the Stepanovich family.



November 29 at 1:31 PM



**Steve, Jen, Samantha, Anna, And Angelina** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Marko.



November 29 at 1:31 PM



**Tom Ambrose** posted:

Mark, miss already having conversations regarding history. Including how holidays are spent to different foods from different cultures. I enjoyed listening to your family background. Thank you for your time and friendship. Tommy Ambrose

November 29 at 11:00 AM



**Anonymous** sent an Arrive in Style to the Stepanovich family.



November 29 at 10:41 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Marko Stepanovich**

JAN 7, 1955 - NOV 26, 2023



**Kenny And Savka** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Marko.



November 29 at 10:41 AM



**Debbie Malenock** posted:

So sorry for your loss. Mark was an upstanding man and always bigger than life. It has been too many years since we have crossed paths during our high school years and when we were first having our children. Tina and I were pregnant at the same time at one point. Will never forget going to Blossom in the van to see the Beach Boys with Mark and Tina and Elaine and Jimmy Cheek. Prayers for comfort as you navigate life without him. Debbie (Farmer) and Bob Malenock

November 29 at 9:48 AM



**Shane And Kelly Denham** sent a Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray to the Stepanovich family.



November 29 at 9:42 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Stepanovich family.



November 29 at 7:16 AM



**Your "Brothers" Brian, Marc & Jim** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Marko.



November 29 at 7:16 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Stepanovich family.



November 29 at 6:16 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Marko Stepanovich**

JAN 7, 1955 - NOV 26, 2023



**Anonymous** sent a Dreams From the Heart Bouquet to the Stepanovich family.

November 29 at 5:56 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Stepanovich family.

November 29 at 5:48 AM



**Milosh D. Milenkovich** posted:

Our condolences to the family of Marko Stepanovich on the untimely departure from the exemplary life he created, lived and left us to remember him by forever. Two moments in Marko's life stand out vividly. One was when Marko was couple of years old when his parents, Nick and Elsie, were visiting my mom and dad and spoke in perfect Serbian language to my parents as we have recently, then, come to America. The second occasion was in August of this year when Marko told me that he had bad news from his doctor that he was terminally ill. He promised to be brave and overcome the odds as he has always done throughout his life. Marko's victory is in the life trails he has forever left for us to remember him by and to have his memory eternally be with us. We pray to God to be merciful to his Soul and to honor his great deeds he decorated with his entire life. Memory Eternal!Jelisaveta and Milosh D. Milenkovich

November 29 at 5:21 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Serene Reflections Bouquet to the Stepanovich family.

November 28 at 5:43 PM



**Michael Rooker** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Marko.

November 28 at 5:43 PM





# Tribute Wall

**Marko Stepanovich**

JAN 7, 1955 - NOV 26, 2023



**Harry Bernhardt** posted:

One of the finest officers ever to wear the uniform. I am proud to have called him friend. Gone from us too soon but leaving behind an example of dedication to public safety at the highest level. God bless his family, God bless Mark's time with us, and May God continue to bless and protect American Law Enforcement. Harry Bernhardt Chief of Police (Ret.)Berea P.D.

November 28 at 5:36 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Sweet Tranquility Basket to the Stepanovich family.



November 28 at 5:02 PM



**Tony And Yvonne (Brnilovich) Ipsaro** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Marko.



November 28 at 4:02 PM



**Anonymous** sent an Arrive in Style to the Stepanovich family.



November 28 at 1:11 PM



**John Robinson** posted:

I knew and worked with Marko at the Federal Court House. I was a cop in Lakewood, Ohio but never met him until we were both retired. Marko was easy to like and we got along. We were both gun guys, and firearm instructor. Marko was and excellent shot and always ranked Expert when qualifying at work. He was dedicated to the job and to his love of Country (USA). I wish I had met him earlier in my career in LE. Marko was very proud of and loved his Wife, Children, and grandchildren. Marko was "OLD SCHOOL" and I trusted him with my SIX as SWAT guys call it.I am sad that he is gone but I will keep him in my thoughts and prayers. Marko always had a smile and a laugh and a great story for the guys around him. As they say "He was a Mountain of a Man"

November 28 at 12:21 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Marko Stepanovich**

JAN 7, 1955 - NOV 26, 2023



**Anonymous** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Stepanovich family.

November 28 at 12:18 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Small Garden Dish to the Stepanovich family.

November 28 at 11:54 AM



**Nicholas Vouvalis** posted:

I had the privilege of meeting Mark over 30 years ago at a search warrant and had the honor of working under him at the SEB Unit. From that first day, I knew we'd be long-time friends/brothers. Mark, I always looked forward to our phone conversations, especially around the holidays and I will miss that tremendously. You were a great friend, father, husband grandfather and brother LEO! Since Alex called me, I've been heartbroken and have been praying for you and the family! I love you my brother and will miss you! My sincerest condolences to Tina, Nikola, Alex, Melania and the entire family on your loss! Mark, May your memory be eternal and May God rest your soul in peace! Niko & Grace Vouvalis

November 28 at 10:26 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Stepanovich family.

November 28 at 8:41 AM



**Mike And Jeannie Myers** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Marko.

November 28 at 8:41 AM





# Tribute Wall

**Marko Stepanovich**

JAN 7, 1955 - NOV 26, 2023



**Ken Kozma** posted:

Tina, Nick, Alex and Melanie, my deepest condolences, this world was a better place with him in it and he will be missed. He was part of our 20 year class reunion committee, we all became quite close and that continued for years. In 2003 my son Jeremy turned 21 and I wanted to get him something special, I called Mark and asked if he would help me get autographs from The Ohio State players since my son was a huge fan. Mark bought a football and had Alex get the autographs, I tried to pay the costs for the football and shipping to Atlanta but he would not accept it, he said being part of this special gift was all the payment he needed. This is just one of the special memories and I'm sure he touched others with his big heart. RIP my friend...Ken Kozma

November 28 at 6:59 AM



**Marian Steele** November 28 at 10:04 AM

Talk about a good cop, a great cop a caring cop , Mark was all of that and More. God watch over you . Proud to have known you. The Steele Family



**Anonymous** sent a Florist Choice Bouquet to the Stepanovich family.



November 28 at 6:46 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Crystal Cross Bouquet to the Stepanovich family.



November 28 at 6:41 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Stepanovich family.



November 28 at 6:36 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet to the Stepanovich family.



November 28 at 5:09 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Marko Stepanovich**

JAN 7, 1955 - NOV 26, 2023



**Anonymous** sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Stepanovich family.



November 28 at 4:52 AM



**Mike Santry & Family** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Marko.



November 28 at 4:52 AM



**Anonymous** sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the Stepanovich family.



November 28 at 4:29 AM



**George Burress** posted:

I met Marko about twenty years ago when we worked a Cleveland clinic protective detail in Bratenal, ohio. I was also privileged to work with Marko during the years at the United States federal court.. he will be missed. I always let him know that I prayed for him and his family during these past few months. RIP brother.

November 28 at 4:21 AM



**Nicholas Vouvalis** November 28 at 7:43 AM

I had the privilege of meeting Mark over 30 years ago at a search warrant and had the honor of working under him at the SEB Unit. From that first day, I knew we'd be long-time friends/brothers. Mark, I always looked forward to our phone conversations, especially around the holidays and I will miss that tremendously. You were a great friend, father, husband grandfather and brother LEO! Since Alex called me, I've been heartbroken and have been praying for you and the family! I love you my brother and will miss you! My sincerest condolences to Tina, Nikola, Alex, Melania and the entire family on your loss! Mark, May your memory be eternal and May God rest your soul in peace! Niko & Grace Vouvalis



# Tribute Wall

**Marko Stepanovich**

JAN 7, 1955 - NOV 26, 2023



**William Toporowsky "Topper"** posted:

I first met this giant of a man when I became a auxiliary police officer then served with him on the Strongsville Police Department. He was in my wedding party. His guidance, strength both physical and emotional was an inspiration to myself and others. My words cannot describe the loss that will be felt by his wife Tina and his family along with everyone including myself that had the privilege to be part of his life. I have no doubt he will be missed and the world was truly a better place with him in it. My prayers of peace to his wife and family.

November 27 at 8:11 PM



**Melania Stepanovich** December 3 at 5:45 PM



**Jim Stepancik, 1614, Ret. Bpd** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Stepanovich family.



November 27 at 5:21 PM



**Jim Stepancik, 1614, Ret. Bpd** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Marko.



November 27 at 5:21 PM



**Jim Stepancik** posted:

I was a police officer with Berea when we first met and was welcomed into your home and later when we were task force officers with different field offices of the FBI, our paths crossed again. My heart felt prayers and condolences to your bride, children and family. I will miss you, Marko Stepanovich.  
Jim Stepancik

November 27 at 5:15 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Marko Stepanovich**

JAN 7, 1955 - NOV 26, 2023



**Joe Cillian** posted:

To Tina and family, words cannot express the heaviness I feel for you and in my heart. Mark was a man among men. I played football and wrestled with him and know first hand how tough and dedicated he was. For two years he wrestled behind me and challenged me to a wrestle off every single week. He made me better just like he did for anyone that knew him. Mark was humble, kind, tough, respected and dedicated. Condolences to you all. R.I.P. my friend. You will be missed. Joe Cillian

November 27 at 4:40 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Florist Choice Bouquet to the Stepanovich family.



November 27 at 4:31 PM



**Dan Vucenovic** posted:

Primito naše iskreno saučešće, please accept our sincere condolences. John 11:25-26 "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.". Dragan and Jennifer Vucenovic

November 27 at 3:11 PM



**Diana Skorepa** posted:

The North Royalton Alumni Association extends sincere condolences to the family.

November 27 at 3:08 PM



**Gary Schmid** lit a candle in honor of Marko.

To Tina, Nick, Alex and Melanie and to All those who know and love him, I wish to let you know that he was one of my Heroes of Life. We were friends since the day we met. His devotion and commitment to His Family, His Nation, His Job and those in need wherever and whenever he was able. In Aviation we speak of ones passing as "Going West" a heading of 270 degrees into the Setting Sun. May Marks journey West be Swift .. pushed by the tailwinds from all the Love we left behind will send him. May the Skys be Clear and The Visibility forward to his new Journey be Clear and Unlimited. You are all in my Thoughts and Prayers at this the Most Difficult of Times. Gary Schmid and Family



November 27 at 3:08 PM



# Tribute Wall

**Marko Stepanovich**

JAN 7, 1955 - NOV 26, 2023



**Anonymous** sent a Full Of Love Bouquet to the Stepanovich family.



November 27 at 3:00 PM



**Joan Echols** posted:

Sincere condolences to Tina and Mark's entire family. Those of us in the extended police family take this loss very personally. 🙏🙏

November 27 at 2:38 PM



**Bill And Diana Pennybacker** posted:

To the family of Mark(Tina, Nick, Alex and Melanie) We haven't seen you all for years but remember the good times when you came to WV to visit Nick and Elsie. The kids played together. Nick and Alex and Matthew and Heidi. Such good memories. May God give you strength today and in the days ahead. Your friends in Franklin, WV. Bill and Diana Pennybacker and our Family

November 27 at 2:21 PM



**Marcia** lit a candle in honor of Marko.



November 27 at 2:18 PM



**William R. Fringley** posted:

The world was a better place with Marko in it. Pat and I knew Marko and his family for many years. I was on the Police Dept.and served with Ptl,Sgt. Lt. Marko Stepanovich for many years. We had many enjoyable and some not so enjoyable times. Mark was a leader and many times taught new recruits. Marko will be severely missed. There are many stories that could be told, but those are our stories, Our condolences to Markos family. Rest in peace my good friend. Bill& Pat Fringley

November 27 at 2:04 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Marko Stepanovich**

JAN 7, 1955 - NOV 26, 2023



**Anica, Cleveland, Ohio** posted:

Dear Tina, Nick, Alex, Melanie, it is surreal and unimaginable to be writing this condolence, let alone you all living the profound loss of your beloved husband, father, grandfather Marko. Sending you my deepest and most heartfelt condolences. May Marko rest in the peace of our Lord Jesus, may his memory be eternal. Vecnaja pamjat.

November 27 at 1:49 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Sweet Tranquility Basket to the Stepanovich family.



November 27 at 12:54 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Stepanovich family.



November 27 at 12:40 PM



**Media**

**Marko Stepanovich**

JAN 7, 1955 - NOV 26, 2023



**Julie Buchanan Frantz** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

December 1 at 6:48 PM





## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Marko by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit

