



Dr. Roman Hiszczynskyj

January 16, 1935 - December 24, 2025

Roman Hiszczynskyj, 90, of Topeka, Kansas, passed away on December 24, 2025, at Cedarhurst Senior Living. He lived the kind of life often seen in movies—one he once described as going from Hell to Paradise. As a young child, Roman endured the horrors of World War II. As a teenager and throughout the rest of his life, he remained deeply grateful for the blessings and opportunities he was given.

Roman was born on January 16, 1935, to Eustachy “Stan” Hiszczynskyj and Maria Tuziak in Peremyslan, Ukraine. After experiencing life under both Soviet and Nazi rule, Roman, his younger brother, Lubon, and their parents fled their home in search of safety in Allied-controlled territory. At one point, the family hid beneath a train car while airplanes bombed the area. A nearby explosion caused Roman to suffer permanent hearing loss. Later in life, he told his family that he believed their lives were saved during that attack because they prayed to the Holy Virgin Mother for her intercession while huddled beneath the railway car.

The family was eventually captured by the Nazis and sent to a labor camp in Dachau, Germany. Through extraordinary courage, Roman’s father managed to steal a firetruck, allowing the family to escape. They headed west and were among the last groups permitted to cross the final bridge over the Danube River before the end of the war.

After the war, Roman, his parents, and his brother lived in a refugee camp in Austria for five years while awaiting permission to immigrate to the United States. In 1949, at the age of 14, Roman and his family arrived in New York, where his first glimpse of America was the Statue of Liberty. Roman later told his children that this moment marked the first time in his life he truly felt safe.

The family initially settled in Livermore, Iowa, and later in Fort Dodge, Iowa. At one point, Roman and his brother marveled at their new life; they had access to meat and were able to eat three meals a day, which they were not able to do in Europe. Roman began school and quickly learned English—his seventh language. The family proudly became United States citizens on April 14, 1955. Roman never forgot where he came from and remained forever grateful for the opportunities America provided.

Roman graduated from Fort Dodge High School in 1953. He worked his way through college while helping his parents make a down payment on their home. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Minnesota in 1958. On September 11, 1965, he married the love of his life, Elaine “Sherry” Sheridan, and together they raised four children.

Roman earned his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Iowa in Iowa City in 1966. He completed his residency in Pathology at the University of Kansas School of Medicine from July 1967 to May 1968 and from December 1969 to December 1972. While working at Menorah Medical Center in Overland Park, Kansas, he received the Best Teacher Award. In 1977, Roman joined the Topeka Pathology Group, where he practiced until his retirement in 1998.

Roman also served his country in the Kansas Army National Guard from May 1968 to November 1973, achieving the rank of Captain. He served on the

Board of Directors for the Topeka Blood Bank from 1986 to 1992 and was President of the Board. He was Coroner of Shawnee County, Kansas, from 1984 to 1990, and was a fourth-degree member of the Knights of Columbus at Christ the King Catholic Church in Topeka, Kansas.

Roman was preceded in death by his parents, Eustachy and Maria Hiszczynskyj; three brothers, Stephan, Antony, and Mirko (Miroslaw); and his beloved wife, Elaine "Sherry". Roman is survived by his brother, Lubon Hiszczynskyj and his wife, Daria; children, Ann and her husband, Hon. Timothy Henderson, Carol and her husband, Dr. George Evans, Laura, and her husband, Dennis Corwin, and Gregory Hiszczynskyj and his wife, Loni.

Roman is also survived by thirteen grandchildren, John Henderson, Abby Ellis and her husband, Mateo Ellis, Sister Joy Marie (Sarah Henderson), Amanda Evans, Ashley Evans, Grace Evans, Benjamin Evans, Alexander Corwin, William Corwin, Hannah Hiszczynskyj, Noah Hiszczynskyj, Baya Hiszczynskyj, and Jonah Hiszczynskyj; one great-grandchild, Amaya Ellis; and many nieces and nephews.

Roman never forgot the hardships of his early childhood. He lived his life with deep gratitude for his many gifts and blessings. Roman always emphasized the importance of education. He frequently told his children and grandchildren you can have everything taken from you, but no one can take away your education. You can do anything you set your mind to. He will be profoundly missed.

Visitation will be from 5 to 6:30 p.m. with Rosary and Chalice Ceremony to follow at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, January 5, 2026, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Tuesday, January 6, at Christ the King

Catholic Church, 5973 SW 25th Street, Topeka KS 66614. Interment will be immediately following at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Topeka.

Memorial contributions may be made to Christ the King Catholic Church, Kansas Honor Flight, or the Handmaids of the Precious Blood in New Market, Tennessee, in care of the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent online at www.kevinbrennanfamily.com

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd
Topeka, KS 66606

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 5. 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Rosary & Chalice Ceremony

JAN 5. 6:30 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 6. 10:00 AM (CT)

Christ the King Catholic Church
5973 SW 25th Street
Topeka, KS 66614

Tribute Wall

PC

“ I had just graduated from KSU, finished my year of internship at Stormont Vail laboratory and began working there when Dr H arrived to be one of our new pathologists. He was one of the most interesting people I knew and was always so good about teaching the theory behind the testing we were doing. I honestly believed he could give an on the spot lecture about any topic you asked him about and was thrilled that you asked him the questions. Such enthusiasm for teaching! I just recently retired as a Medical Laboratory Scientist after 49 years and so I was there for all of his years of working there. I consider myself blessed. RIP Dr Hiszczyński and thank you for some great memories.

Paula Copp

Paula Copp - January 06 at 01:11 AM

RJ

“ I wish I could be there, Laura, to support you and your family, but please know I am there with you in spirit and love. Though you will most likely not get word by the time the funeral occurs, 10 trees are to be planted in your father's memory. At least in this way his life will continue in spirit, beauty, and perseverance. With much love.....
Ron Judd

Ronald Judd - January 05 at 08:21 PM

JR

“ Jim Kersten. Please call when you return purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dr. Roman Hiszczynskyj.



Jim Kersten. Please call when you return - January 04 at 04:26 PM

JR

“ Jim Kersten. Please call when you return planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Roman Hiszczynskyj.

Jim Kersten. Please call when you return - January 04 at 04:26 PM

JN

“ I grew up across the street from Roman and his brother, Lubon. My father had a corner grocery store block away from them. I knew his mother and father. But I knew nothing about his family history, only that he immigrated from Russia, of which The Ukraine was a part at that time. Lubon, his brother, was closer in age to me and I used to go fishing with him in the Des Moines River which went through Fort Dodge. His mother was a really nice lady, a good seamstress and his father was a very good clothing tailor. They were a very good family and very purpose driven, clearly the type of people that America needs as immigration has been quite a topic in our news. Great family, great friends. His footprint in America was a welcome one. His family was a very welcome addition to the American fabric. I've lost contact with that whole family as life moves along but I'm proud to say I knew him. Topeka was lucky to have him helping the community with his lifelong skills. Rest well Roman, you are in the hands of God now. John Nicholls, PhD.

John Nicholls - January 02 at 10:54 AM

TG

“ Topeka Pathology Group purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. Roman Hiszczynskij.



Topeka Pathology Group - January 02 at 02:52 AM

TG

“ Topeka Pathology Group planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Roman Hiszczynskij.

Topeka Pathology Group - January 02 at 02:52 AM



“ I am reaching out as someone who didn't have the privilege of knowing Dr. Roman Hiszczynskij personally, but I was deeply moved by his remarkable life story as shared in his obituary. I can only imagine the profound emotions he must have felt when he first laid eyes on the Statue of Liberty. His life is a testament to the power of resilience and determination, serving as an inspiration to us all. Rest in peace, Dr. Hiszczynskij – your legacy will live on.

Tom Kansas - December 31, 2025 at 06:37 PM

KR

He was on a pathology team that studied the Shroud of Turin. He was convinced it is real. Brilliant man, resilient man.

Karyl-Ann Roehl - January 01 at 02:11 AM

MB

I'm with you on my thoughts while reading about his remarkable life.

Marcia Bradley - January 01 at 03:37 PM

LS

I didn't know Roman but I clearly remember the day his brother, Lubon, entered our 4th grade Corpus Christi classroom in Fort Dodge, Iowa. That must have been in 1949. Talk about pulling yourself up by the bootstraps! What a tribute to the family - the definition of endurance and tenacity. Best wishes to the family. Larry Sheker

Larry Sheker - January 02 at 07:38 AM

WL

I had the honor of knowing and working with Roman for many years as his partner in Topeka Pathology Group including a stint as Deputy Coroner. He was a remarkable man and a great doctor who was a model for me. I loved him and will miss him.

William N. Leifer, M.D.

William Leifer - January 05 at 07:02 PM

SL

“ *We send our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Hiszczynskij as our Sister Joy Marie (Sarah Henderson) prepares to travel home for the farewell for her grandfather. When we received a copy of the obituary containing just an outline of his incredible life it was shared with all our Sisters who gladly pray for the repose of his soul and the consolation of his entire family. We are also praying that someone will get his story into book form or better. It is a testament to the best mankind can offer when living in imitation of Christ: to risk so much and sacrifice so much and then spend the rest of one's life giving oneself in service to others. If we have any sadness it is that we did not have the great grace and opportunity to know him. May he be enjoying the Beatific Vision now and forever. We keep everyone in our prayers.*

- Handmaids of the Precious Blood, Cor Jesu Monastery, New Market, Tennessee

Sister Rose Philomena Law - December 31, 2025 at 02:56 PM

JZ

“ My husband, Raymond Fuller was in Roman's graduating class in 1953, I was in Lubon's 1957 class. I'm wishing that back in 1957 I would have known their story. God Bless all the family.

Jane Zenor - December 31, 2025 at 11:46 AM

D1

“ Dr. James Geisinger, FDHS, Iowa Med 1966 purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Dr. Roman Hiszczynskyj.



Dr. James Geisinger, FDHS, Iowa Med 1966 - December 31, 2025 at 09:17 AM

D1

“ Dr. James Geisinger, FDHS, Iowa Med 1966 planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Roman Hiszczynskyj.

Dr. James Geisinger, FDHS, Iowa Med 1966 - December 31, 2025 at 09:17 AM

KH

“ Kevin and I worked at Stormont Vail for 80 years between us and while neither of us worked with Dr. Hiszczynskyj, he was always pleasant and kind as we passed in the hallways and we knew he was loved by the people in the organization. Our daughter was a mobile manager for Topeka Blood Services and she had great respect for him. What I want to convey to you - his family - is that it didn't take a lot of first hand interaction with him to know that he was a wonderful man. His story is truly inspirational. It needs to be told on to a broader audience! We share your loss. Rhonda and Kevin Han

Kevin J Han Rhonda I Han - December 30, 2025 at 11:15 PM

CZ

“ Chris and Laurie Zacharias purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Dr. Roman Hiszczynskyj.



Chris and Laurie Zacharias - December 30, 2025 at 05:52 PM

CZ

“ Chris and Laurie Zacharias planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Roman Hiszczynskyj.

Chris and Laurie Zacharias - December 30, 2025 at 05:52 PM

MW

“ Mrs. Marla J Williams:
After graduating at KU & at KC Hospital, I transferred to Stormont Vail Lab in 1978 after working at 2 other Lab facilities in Topeka. I worked there until I retired in 2016. Dr. Hiszcynskyj was indeed the favorite, and reading about his early history today is shocking! Several years ago I was visiting a friend of ours at Thornton Place, and I had the joy of a brief visit with him in the eating area. Surely he has been welcomed into heaven now! God bless his family.

Marla J Williams - December 30, 2025 at 05:43 PM

TM

“ Ann, Carol, sorry to hear about your Dad passing. My thoughts are with you all . Very Sorry for your loss. Tom Mignacca.

Tom Mignacca - December 30, 2025 at 04:15 PM

KK

“ *An amazing story I never knew even growing up a few houses away and in the same age mix as his daughters. Always a wonderful man and a history to be proud of. My family’s thoughts are with all of you and all the lives he touched. Ken S. Kappelmann*

Ken Kappelmann - December 30, 2025 at 03:03 PM

DS

“ *Wow. Sincere condolences to the Family on our loss of Roman.*

Dr. Henry Spangler - December 30, 2025 at 01:16 PM

TM

“ *In the 80s I was occasionally given the task of tracking down Dr. H at Stormont. It wasn’t always easy but it was always a pleasure when I found him. I once asked how he was able to use desk as storage and also as a desk and he told me he tried to avoid his office. He said it was too easy for people to find him there! I also enjoyed his visits to the Topeka Blood Bank. He was a well respected pathologist and and instant friend.*

Tim McCall - December 30, 2025 at 12:20 PM

DH

“ Roman and I became friends while sharing meals together at Thornton Place. I loved listening to his stories and his very methodical manner of consolidating the used cups, saucers and plates when a meal was over. He scolded me every morning for the amount of sugar I dumped into my coffee... He loved music and whenever he could request a song it was Delilah by Tom Jones...he was a great dance partner! He brought me his newspaper every morning when I told him I was going to be packing to move out of state. The last time I saw him we danced to What a Wonderful World by Louis Armstrong ...I remember the tears leaking from my eyes ...,and when the music stopped he unexpectedly gave me a big kiss on the side of my face..squeezed my hand and said goodbye. He loved his children and was so proud of them. He would talk about them frequently with such affection. Roman, you were an incredible man, you will be missed.

Deborah Herrick - December 30, 2025 at 08:48 AM

DS

“ Now that I am retired, I've had the opportunity to reflect upon my life. There are a few individuals who had a profound influence on my career as a pathologist. Roman was one of those individuals. He was not only my mentor but a cherished friend. He loved learning new things and discussing new topics of interest. I was fascinated by the stories he shared with me of his childhood. He will be sorely missed.

"Therefore, you now have sorrow; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you."

Dr. Bill Schaezel - December 29, 2025 at 10:12 PM

FG

“ *A dedicated professional and a friend and mentor to so many of us who knew and worked with him. Condolences to his family.* ”

Frank Goodrich - December 29, 2025 at 09:02 PM

MR

“ *My sincerest condolences to the family.* ”

Mark Radziejewski - December 29, 2025 at 06:56 PM