



John E. "Big John" Wegener

July 29, 1944 - August 24, 2014

John Edward "Big John" Wegener, 70, Topeka, passed away Sunday, August 24, 2014. John was born July 29, 1944, in Niagara Falls NY, the son of Norman and Mary Edith (McAughey) Wegener. Following high school John joined the U.S. Air Force. The Air Force brought John to Topeka, where he met his wife-to-be, Rebecca Eberting. On February 5, 1966, John and Rebecca were married. They enjoyed 48 years together. She survives of the home. John worked for the Topeka Fire Department for 36 years. He retired as shift commander on January 1, 2004. He was a member of the International Association of Firefighters Local 83. John also was a residential and commercial painter. He enjoyed selling and collecting antiques with Rebecca. He was dearly loved and will be sorely missed. Survivors include his wife, Rebecca; sons, Michael Wegener, Kansas City KS and Timothy Wegener, Topeka; siblings, Norma Edwards (Charles), Rochester NY, Bill Wegener and Frank Wegener, both of Lockport NY; numerous nieces and nephews; and close family friend, Anne Sutherland. John was preceded in death by his parents; a baby sister, Mary Wegener and a niece, Carrie Rose. John will lie in state from 10 to 4 p.m. Thursday at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614. Funeral service will be 11 a.m. Friday at the funeral home. Family will greet friends one hour prior to the service. Burial will be private. Memorial contributions are suggested to The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Development Office Unit 705, P.O. Box 301439, Houston TX 77230.

Tribute Wall



“ *John E. "Big John" Wegener*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you in this time of sadness. My dad always thought a lot of Big John, and mom still talks about visiting with him and Rebecca at the Fireman's picnic. The first time I remember meeting Big John was at the station at 8th and Clay. His smile lit up the room. He will be missed by all.*

Sharon and Mary Harrison

Sharon and Mary Harrison - August 31, 2014 at 10:28 AM



“ *We were so sorry to read about John's passing. He was such a nice guy. We always enjoyed seeing him at the antique shows. We'll be thinking of you, Becky, and your family.*

Emery and Judy Corbett - August 28, 2014 at 10:55 AM



“ *My codolences to your family.I work at Kansas Automotive[Katch's].It was always a pleasure to wait on John.Peace be with you at this time*

Tom Val Palmer - August 28, 2014 at 08:55 AM

FJ

“ My condolences to Johns family. John was a good man and a good friend. We were stationed together several times during our careers with TFD. We called him Granny because of his attention to details. John was a good friend and was always dependable.

Fred Joy - August 27, 2014 at 07:55 PM

BH

“ So sorry to see Big John gone so soon. I worked with John on TFD and on our days off. He was one of the few people I looked up to in more ways than one. He gave me different items that he had gotten at garage sales and would never let me pay for them. I wish i could be there for his funeral.

Brian Haugh - August 27, 2014 at 10:35 AM

TE

“ My sincere condolences to John's family. He was a great guy. I knew him from Wilson.

Terry Evans - August 26, 2014 at 10:00 PM

BT

“ God speed Big John. The world is a much sadder place without you. I know you were a TFD Shift Commander, but you will always be my Captain. I have so many fond memories of our time at #7 station (and even #5's). You had to be the most even-tempered man I ever knew. You never had an angry word or action towards anyone. (And God knows I had some coming my way!) So it is with sad and heavy heart I again say God Speed Big John. I know that there is a fire station awaiting your arrival and there to greet you will be Harrold D. and Kerry M....save a place for me when I am hearing the Last Alarm I want to rejoin our crew.

Bill Taylor - August 26, 2014 at 09:21 AM