



John Lardner

August 31, 1962 - April 8, 2026

John William Lardner, 63, was a man who didn't just inhabit the world; he explored it, adorned it with his eccentric style, and warmed it with a generous spirit.

On April 8, 2026, John answered the call home to rejoin his parents, Joseph E "Buzz" and Donna L. Eakes Lardner and siblings, Ann Aponte and Sean Jacob Lardner.

Born on August 31, 1962, in Topeka, Kansas, John was a beloved brother and loyal friend known for remembering birthdays, relaying the newest vehicle statistics, and wearing colorful clothes that would allow him to strike up a conversation with anyone who noticed. He loved Harley anything, his collection of model sports cars, and riding his bike around Topeka discovering new adventures. John graduated from VoTech of Topeka with an associate's degree in mechanics and went to work with his dad at Lardner Monuments. He was a proud 4th degree member of the Knights of Columbus.

John's life was a testament to the power of a kind word. He will be deeply missed by his sisters, Diane Westling (Chris) and Jeannie Fairchild (Eddie); brother, Joseph Kelley Lardner; Uncle Beryl Wilson; and many dear nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

On Monday, April 13, 2026, at 10 a.m., visitation for John will be at Mater Dei Holy Name Catholic Church, where a Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Chalice Ceremony and rosary will be prayed at 10:30 a.m. and Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. followed by a procession to Rochester Cemetery, 1200 NW Menninger Road, Topeka KS 66618.

Memorial contributions may be made to Mater Dei Parish or the Lotus House: Breakthrough House Clubhouse, and sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

John's family expresses deep gratitude to the doctors, nurses and staff at Stormont Vail Hospital in Topeka for their compassionate care of John.

Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Cemetery Details

Rochester Cemetery

1200 NW Menninger Rd
Topeka, KS 66618

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 13. 10:00 AM (CT)

Mater Dei Holy Name Church
1114 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66604

Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Chalice Ceremony and Rosary

APR 13. 10:30 AM (CT)

Mater Dei Holy Name Church
1114 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66604

Mass of Christian Burial

APR 13. 11:00 AM (CT)

Mater Dei Holy Name Church
1114 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66604

Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John Lardner



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - April 11 at 04:01 PM

AD

“ Oh wow that's sad John was always a cool guy & fun to work with, i knew him from the Topeka community when i worked for Valeo. John was always friendly & willing to help. Hope he is at peace now.
Adam W.

Adam - April 18 at 11:20 AM

DS

“ I’m just learning of John’s passing today. John and I have known each other since kindergarten and our families have been friends for many years. John and I would run into each other for here and there from time to time throughout our lives. Most recently, I saw him one day Walking through the building where I live. only to find out, he lived there too! We struck up conversation just like we had so many times before, just like time stood still, and we picked up just like for when we were still childhood friends. I learned of John’s passing today as a group of our neighbors were sitting outside and one of them was explaining to me that a lot of the people at the building today were there for the man who just passed away named John. When they told me what apartment number I almost lost it completely. I recently got a power wheelchair and had an incident happen shortly after getting my wheelchair. John was the first person there to help me get up out of the street, put my wheelchair back on the sidewalk, and help me get back into my wheelchair. It took several people as I have an electric wheelchair and I am completely disabled from my shoulders down. John was my savior that day! Not only did he rush to help me, he solicited help from others around me. He was a good friend, a good person, and a good neighbor. And he will be deeply and greatly missed not only to me, but from our neighbors as well. I love you, John John. And I’m so glad that you are no longer hurting here, but I will miss you and our friendship here on earth.

Danette (Hunt) Seymour - April 15 at 07:00 PM

JE

Thank you for sharing this, Danette. John shared this story with me a while ago. He was thankful he was able to help you. Thank you for being a good friend to him.

Jeannie - April 15 at 09:49 PM

DH

My sincere condolences go out to you and your family. I didn't know that Diane had married Chris either. My older brother Derek and Chris were childhood friends as well. Mrs. Wesling I think used to be their Cub Scout leader. Could be wrong about that, but I know she had something to do with kids and she was really nice to everybody. She was very sweet. John has been on my heart all day. I'm really going to miss him.

Danette Hunt - April 15 at 10:35 PM

MS

“ Diane, Jeannie, and Kelly, My family and I were so sorry to learn of John's passing. We all remember the days at Rochester School and making new friends. John was a very pleasant young man and always polite. We are so sorry for your loss. Margaret Stanley and family

Margaret Stanley - April 15 at 06:53 PM

JE

Thank you, Margaret.

Jeannie - April 15 at 09:51 PM

VV

“ My Deepest Sympathy and Condolences to All . I was John's Neighbor and Friend I will Miss Our Visits. I Will Miss My Friend I Did My Best to Help Him Please know That .. My Prayers of Strength and Healing To All Rest In Peace My Friend Vicki



Vicki Vandenburg - April 14 at 06:12 PM

GA

“ John will forever be the little boy I remember when we were all young. My deepest condolences and continued prayers for strength and love and peace to carry you through this loss of your little brother. My love for your family has continued throughout the years and the lifelong memories which are among the sweetest an individual could have. Hugs to Diane "Squirrelita" aka "Squirrel" and to Jeannie and Kelly. Love, Gina Flores Mitchell Anthony

Gina Madageekwe Mitchell Anthony - April 14 at 10:54 AM

SC

“ Jeannie, I'm so sorry for your loss. May you find peace and comfort in the memories you shared. I'll keep you in my prayers during this difficult time. Fondly, Susan Chilson

Susan Chilson - April 13 at 11:08 AM

JE

Thank you, Susan.

Jeannie - April 15 at 09:51 PM

CW

“ Jeannie and Diane, My sincere condolences for the loss of your dear brother. May you find peace and understanding. Please know I am thinking of you both and sending prayers and hugs. God Bless you and your family. Carla Wilson.

Carla Wilson - April 12 at 08:30 PM

JE

Thank you, Carla.

Jeannie - April 15 at 09:53 PM

DB

“ *Diane, I am so sorry to read of the passing of your brother. My thoughts and prayers go out to you as you grieve his passing.* ”

Darleen Bernhardt - April 11 at 02:13 PM

TM

“ *Diane, So sorry to hear about the loss of your brother.* ”

Tom Madl - April 11 at 08:34 AM

LD

“ *I drive a city bus for Topeka Metro and John was one of my passengers. I really enjoyed visiting with him every time I saw him. Condolences to his family and friends. He was a good man.* ”

Lana Dillner - April 10 at 02:27 PM

VJ

“ *Deepest sympathies to the John's family and friends. My prayers are with you all.* ”



Verna Jackson - April 10 at 11:30 AM

JE

Thank you, Verna.

Jeannie - April 15 at 09:53 PM