



John Schneider

October 2, 1950 - July 1, 2022

John Arthur Schneider, a lifelong Topeka resident, passed away peacefully in his home on July 1, 2022. Devoted to his loved ones, John formed many friendships as a boy that endured his entire life.

John was born in Topeka, Kansas, on October 2, 1950, to Arthur E. Schneider and Mary E. (Towle) Schneider. He had fond childhood memories of his large, extended Towle family.

After graduating from Hayden High School in 1968, John served in the Kansas Air Force National Guard, from which he received an honorable discharge. He went on to receive a bachelor's degree from Washburn University. After completing his degree, he continued to audit courses of personal interest.

John dedicated his professional career to the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS), where he held many positions, including Commissioner. During his tenure at SRS, John administered nutrition and food programs for families in need.

After his retirement, John ran for public office in Shawnee County and enjoyed knocking on doors and talking to neighbors about how county government could be improved. During retirement, he also worked part-time at the Kansas

Department of Transportation, administering federal highway safety programs. In his later years, John worked part-time jobs to remain social and physically active. Most recently, he worked delivering essential medication to homebound community members.

John was on a lifelong journey to confront, repair, and eradicate generational trauma. For himself, his children, and grandchildren, John worked and persevered to dismantle inherited patterns that can cause harm. He did so by initiating difficult conversations, bravely addressing his own mental health, finding strength in groups with shared experiences, and never abandoning hope. John expressed his love openly, acknowledged his own shortcomings, expanded his worldview, embraced differences, and modeled a commitment to self-discovery.

John enjoyed Broadway musicals, college sports, and traveling, particularly road trips. He loved nature, inviting birds into his yard with baths and feeders.

Most importantly, John was dedicated to his family. Nothing was more important to him than his children and grandchildren, whom he loved spending time with at every opportunity.

John is preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Larry Schneider.

He is survived by three children, Andrea Schneider (Mark Llamas) of Olathe, KS; Emily Pogozelec (Mike) of Lenexa, KS; and Eric Schneider (Sanjeev Singh) of Chicago, IL. John shared his loving children with his former wife, Teresa Nichols, with whom he maintained a warm and caring relationship. John was also previously married to Pat Wilden, with whom he also remained close.

John is also survived by four grandchildren, Alex Nero, Jack Chansaviang,

Cooper Chansaviang, and Troy Reedy-Schneider; and two great-grandchildren, Myah Nero and Shawn Nero. His sisters, Eileen Boogher and Mary (Boo) Schneider, also survive him.

Visitation will take place Friday July 8 at 5:00 PM followed by a memorial service at 6:00 PM at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home in Topeka. Inurnment at Mt. Calvary Catholic Cemetery will be held privately.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in John's name to Topeka's Helping Hands Humane Society, where John adopted many loyal companions over the years.

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

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd
Topeka, KS 66606

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 8. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

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

Memorial Service

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Tribute Wall



“ *John Schneider*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *John was a friend in our neighborhood growing up. I remember he was always smiling and seemed happy to see us whenever we ran into him. I gasped at his obituary while looking for another. "Oh No!" I said aloud..so sorry to all who knew John.*

Lorrie Clark - July 12, 2022 at 07:54 PM



“ *A very well respected employee of the State of Kansas. Rest easy guy...*



Rhonda Underwood - July 09, 2022 at 12:19 PM



“ *John was a dedicated state employee here in Topeka. Well respected by one and all. May John rest in peace with God forever.*

Bob H - July 08, 2022 at 05:53 PM

MA

“ Thanks for the memories, John. Condolences to all your family. When you have reached the mountain top, then you can truly climb. When the earth has claimed you limbs, then can you truly dance. And when you have done all that, rest in peace, old friend.



Martha McCurry Routh
Clearwater, KS

Martha - July 08, 2022 at 04:19 PM

MM

“ Andrea, and family sorry for your loss. John was a great man and will be missed by all. Both of our fathers were lifelong freinds, and we were able to go to school together just like they did. Your Dad had a great sense of humor and I always enjoyed seeing him. Please except our condolences and if you need anything let us know.

Matthew and Cecilia McCurry

Matthew McCurry - July 08, 2022 at 02:01 PM

RW

I can't thank John enough for what he did for me by cleaning up Larry's house before we sold it! Many thanks and RIP!

Rita Clark (Larry's widow) - July 11, 2022 at 06:40 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John Schneider.



July 08, 2022 at 12:53 PM

PB

“ While John was at KDOT, he gave his all, was very innovative, always volunteered to help anyone and kept everything light with his sense of humor. I considered him a friend, not just an employee. He will be missed.

Pete Bodyk

Pete Bodyk - July 08, 2022 at 11:31 AM

“ I can't really remember exactly when I first met John Schneider, as it seems like I have known him for ever. I must have been 16 years old and John was best friends with Danny Reese. Danny and John had gone to Hayden Highschool together and Danny had "transferred" from Hayden to Topeka High school. Wherever Danny was, John was by his side.

They both would sometimes come over to my house on 7th and Horn after school, and on weekends to party in our basement. My Mom and Dad always liked John and Danny. We would listen to my albums of Bob Dylan's, "Girl from the North Country Fair", "Lay Lady Lay", "Don't think twice", "Just like a Woman", and we would all sing, but John would say "it's painful to hear me sing", but we would belt out the songs. I would always say to John, "You remind me of Bob Dylan", (because of his crazy hair, I guess) and he would always remark, "I wish i could write songs like him", and he would call Bob Dylan a "poet".

I always loved sitting and listening to John and Danny's discussions, as they were both so very intelligent and I would remark on how smart they both were, and John would laugh and say, "tell that to my history teacher" and Danny would chuckle and say "Sis, (they always called me Sis), "you don't get out much".

Throughout the years, I saw both John and Danny rarely, but when I did, It was as if we were 16 again, for me anyway. John had an easy way about him and I could always tell he was always thinking about something of importance. He was a deep thinker, a very good man, a good friend. He loved his home and he loved animals.

I thought I knew John Schneider, but after reading that amazing obituary, I realized I didn't really know him at all. He was a complicated man but yet lived simply. He was a quiet man but had much to say, if I would have just sat and listened. I have so many great memories of John. He will always remain dear to me in my heart and in my many memories of him. He always had that smile, that famous John Schneider smile.

My sincere sympathy and condolences to his family. Such a loss, and too soon. Danny always says, "none of us are getting out of here alive, Sis", and John would sometimes follow up quietly with,

*"some of us sooner than others".
Rest now, John, and we will all meet again. May you rest in eternal
peace. Your old friend, Lynda Ridgeway-Morrison.*

Lynda Morrison - July 07, 2022 at 10:16 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the
family of John Schneider.*



July 07, 2022 at 11:17 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of
John Schneider.*



July 07, 2022 at 10:52 AM



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



July 07, 2022 at 09:47 AM

SP

“ John Schneider was truly a pillar of SRS. I remember working with John at Social Rehabilitation Services and he was respected by everyone in the agency. Sincere sympathy to the Schneider family.
Sandra Powell

Sandra Powell - July 06, 2022 at 03:37 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Schneider.



July 05, 2022 at 09:09 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of John Schneider.



July 05, 2022 at 08:42 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of John Schneider.



July 05, 2022 at 05:46 PM

SC

“ Stephen Nichols and Children purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John Schneider.



Stephen Nichols and Children - July 05, 2022 at 04:54 PM

TA

“ John was a very special man! He was always open to new experiences and knowledge. He will be missed dearly. His family is in our prayers.

Tom & Sonja Allen

Tom & Sonja Allen - July 05, 2022 at 12:14 PM

SB

I am so glad that I got to know John through my friend, Claudia. I met him at one of our class reunions in Atchison and then again recently. I would come to Topeka and John, Claudia and I would spend the day eating and visiting. They would drive to Beto Junction to meet me for lunch and we would spend several hours visiting. John was so interesting and I really enjoyed his company. He was a good man and I will miss our visits. Rest In Peace John. Condolences to John's family and to my friend Claudia.

Sandy Besinger - July 09, 2022 at 09:56 PM