



John E. Shirey

July 29, 1946 - April 17, 2023

John Edward Shirey, 76, Osage City, Kansas, died Monday, April 17, 2023.

John was born July 29, 1946, in Richland, Washington, to Harold and Harriett Cramer Shirey. John served our country in the US Air Force, retiring with 32 years of service. In his retirement, John had an upholstery business and was known in Osage City as “Cougar John.” He was a kind-hearted Christian man and a member of Mater Dei Catholic Parish.

Survivors include John’s wife, Miriam Herrick-Shirey; his son, Mark Shirey; daughter, Rebecca Shirey; step-sons, Rodger Herrick and Ray Herrick II (Amanda); grandchildren, Josh and Alisha Shirey, Adrianna Lynch and Lena Rose Shirey; and greatgrandchild, Kashus Lynch; siblings, Linda Mitchell, Timothy Shirey (Marilyn), Patrick Shirey (Carol) and Theresa Grescheck (Tony). John was preceded in death by his twin grandsons, Jonathan and Steven Jefferson.

According to John’s wishes, cremation will take place and there will be no service.

Memorial contributions may be made to Mater Dei Parish, sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Tribute Wall

MM

“ John was my sister in law's husband. I worked with him on Mama's roof a few years back and learned about his character quickly. Friendly, generous and helpful. I am going to miss him. I wish I was able to provide him with matching blood, comfort and support. We prayed for him a lot and will still do so. Rest in peace, brother. Until we meet again... Best wishes to his family. We all were proud of John.



Michael R McCartney - April 24, 2023 at 07:01 PM

RW

“ We were good friends of Johns but haven't seen him for ages. I really regret that. Praying for the family. God bless!

roger wilson - April 20, 2023 at 04:46 PM

MW

“ I am sorry for your loss. I pray the Lord will give you His peace and comfort. I remember John from the 190th CAM Sq at Forbes. I remember one day I came out of the hangar and John was standing by his pickup. He had a cougar in the bed of his truck just laying there looking around. Also, the times when he would bring a cub to the petting zoo when we would have special times. Many times we met as he would be upstairs in the administration section to speak with someone else, or I would be down in his section checking on the training being given to everyone there. I know he will be missed. God and the Holy Spirit (Comforter) be with you. MSgt Margaret L. Wescott, 190th ARW, retired



Margaret L Wescott - April 20, 2023 at 03:44 PM

GS

“ To the Shirey family, so sorry for your loss. I was fortunate to know and work with John for most of my life. My father and John worked for many years together and I had the pleasure of working with him, the last few years before he retired from the 190th ARW. One of my earliest memories is from the family days with the 190th when John and some other members brought their animals to make a small petting zoo for the children. I know that John had touched 3 generations of my family, my parents me and my sibling’s children and nieces and nephews. He was a formidable guy and incredibly talented, he recovered the upholstery on my fathers 1929 Model A, and my brothers 1966 Ford Mustang and several other vehicles. I was truly fortunate to call him my friend.
RIP John, MSgt Gordon “Gordie” Cole 190th ARW retired.

Gordon L COLE Sr - April 20, 2023 at 09:52 AM

PO

“ to the Shirey family, so sorry for your loss. I was fortunate to work with John for a great number of years at the 190th ARW, he was an awesome guy and very talented, a very good friend, loved the exotic cats he always had, did awesome work on classic car interiors, was very fortunate to have him as a friend, RIP my friend, MSgt paul owens 190th ARW retired

paul owens - April 19, 2023 at 05:12 PM

LC

“ John was a good friend for many years and we enjoyed his company. He was always willing to help us in any way he could. We remember the baby racoon that he brought for our kids to enjoy and they certainly did. John worked with Jimmy Camacho at the 190th at Forbes in Topeka. The last time we saw him was several years ago when he brought over an antic car and took Jimmy for a ride on Jimmy's birthday. Jimmy really enjoyed this and was truly surprised to see John as he approached our home in that antic car. We thought of John often and will cherish the memories we have of him through the years. He will be missed.

Lilia Camacho - April 19, 2023 at 12:08 PM

KP

“ In the years we got to know John he was such a gracious man. Never unkind. It was a blessing to have known him. Rest in peace.Amen

Kimo Windy Plakio - April 19, 2023 at 10:19 AM