



John Willett

December 12, 1942 - September 28, 2009

John passed away peacefully on Monday, September 28, 2009 in Topeka, Kansas surrounded by his family. He was diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 2004 and fought a courageous fight against the disease for five years. John's faith in God was very strong. He was and will continue to be a source of inspiration to his family and many friends. John was born December 12, 1942 in Junction City, Kansas, the son of Quentin and Margaret Willett. He graduated from St. Xavier's High School in 1960 and married Connie Meis, they later divorced. John graduated from Ft. Hays State University. John owned and operated Automated Business Systems in Topeka for 24 years. John married Jeanette Evans in 2004. John was active in his community as a member and past president of the Southwest Optimist Club. He was a member of Christ the King Catholic Church and later became a charter member of Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church. John is survived by his wife Jeanette: his daughters, Kimberlee Burghart (Steve) TN, Gina Coffman (Dave) Topeka, Heather King (David) Derby and Michele Banks (Scott) Wichita; and stepsons, Randy (Michelle) Topeka and Rick Evans (Tracie) Olathe. John was the adored granddad of 19 grandchildren and 5 step-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brothers, Pete (Judy) and Kelly Willett, Topeka; sisters, Peggy Parr (Bill) CA, Elaine Bryan (Ed) and Beth Feldman (Dick) Topeka. He is preceded in death by his parents, son, Phillip, and his granddaughter, Marissa. John will be remembered for his laughter, his positive attitude and sense of optimism, his encouragement of others and

willingness to lend a hand. John never met a stranger; if he met you, you were a friend. He loved listening to jazz and worked to bring new musicians to the area. He also loved drag racing and hunting. His green and yellow "John Deere" Nova will be missed at the Heartland Park racetrack. John will lie in state at Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church, 2014 NW 46th Street, today, where the family will receive friends from 5:00 till 7:00 p.m. followed by a Parish Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Thursday at 10:00 a.m. at the Church. Interment will follow in Mt. Calvary Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church or St. Francis Cancer Center and sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614. Online condolences may be sent to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *John Willett*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Jeanette, Jerry and I were so sorry to hear of John's passing. I know we lost touch years ago, but we still think of you a lot. We are saddened to hear of your loss and know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and all of your family and extended family.*
Deanna and Jerry

Deanna and Jerry Thomas - November 02, 2009 at 01:08 PM



“ *Pete, Peggy, and Elaine (and all the other family members), My heart goes out to you in your loss. You are all strong people with strong faiths, so I know our Lord will help you through this. John was a super guy. When we were young and attended St. X John was one of the few "older" kids that was truly kind to us "youngsters". He and Judy Montgomery were always my favorite people. The last time I talked to John was at a St X reunion at the K of C hall and he was just so positive; it was inspiring to talk to him. I know Heaven is a happier place with him there. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. He will live on in your hearts forever. We are all better for having John in our lives.*
God Bless you all!!!
Carolyn Cook

Carolyn Cook - October 08, 2009 at 08:55 AM

DW

“ I was so happy for Jeannett when she married John. It was my honor to get to know him. He made you feel like you had known him for years.

Their open invitation to come to visit in Michigan was such a treat. To see how much they tresured each other was a lesson to how important family is together. My heart goes out to the entire family & Jeannetts boys & thier wives as well. The boys lost a great dad & a great step dad as well. To Johns children who I have only met a few & to all those so close to him, I will pray to heal the hearts of all that loved him.

Donna White=Jackson

Donna White-Jackson - October 05, 2009 at 01:15 PM

CK

“ We are sad to hear of John's passing, but have great memories of him (and the Nova) from his time in Hastings, MN.

Cory and Karlene Koesterman - October 02, 2009 at 05:14 PM

MM

“ John is smiling in Heaven - you could see Jesus in him - I was inspired by his love for others and his laughter. John will be missed by many!!

He and his family are in our prayers.

Matt Mercer - October 01, 2009 at 10:08 PM

DH

“ So deeply saddened to hear of John's passing. He was such a kind and giving person. My father cherished their friendship, as do I. His faith helped bring me along in my struggles over the past few years, I will forever be grateful for his understanding and wisdom. His generous spirit will live on in our hearts and daily lives. Levi and I will miss him dearly, you are all in our thoughts and prayers, God bless all of you

douglas herrick - October 01, 2009 at 11:25 AM

DH

“ Kim and family, my prayers are with you. I am so sorry for your loss. Just think, Marissa is up there riding horses with Grandpa, and having a grand ole time!

Deb Harrop - September 30, 2009 at 07:57 PM

MG

“ The Topeka Jazz Workshop, Inc. Board of Directors wish to express their condolences on John's passing.

Marcene Grimes - September 30, 2009 at 07:45 PM

LC

“ Heather & David,

It has been many years since we have been in contact with each other, but I have thought about you through the years. I want you and your sisters to know that I am truly sorry for your loss. May God bless you and keep you.

Jerry, Lori, Kyle & AJ Clay

Lori Clay - September 30, 2009 at 07:14 PM

JA

“ John will always be an inspiration to me. I met John when he brought communion to me when I was healing from cancer. He shared his story of this horrible disease and gave me hope. To me, John has always carried the Light of Christ, now he has received the Light of Christ. May he rest in peace. Thank you God for letting me know John.

Jane Akin - September 30, 2009 at 04:40 PM

TW

“ Dear Friends,
Pat and I extend our most sincere condolences to you in the loss of your father and loved one, The Willet Family touched our lives at Randolph School and we will be eternally grateful. John was an inspiration to many and a true friend to all. His efforts as President of the PTA, along with Connie, made a difference at the school. The Willet children will remain locked in my heart forever.
May God Bless and Comfort You.
Ted & Pat Walters

Ted Walters - September 30, 2009 at 04:23 PM

RF

“ I met John through Mother Teresa Parish and he was a wonderful Christian man. One could definitely see Christ through John and the way he lived his life. I also spent time with John at the Cancer Center, where he put up a great fight. I know he's in a better place now. I can't wait to see him in eternity.

Randy Freeman - September 30, 2009 at 04:12 PM

DN

“ My condolences to John's family. I had the outstanding opportunity to travel with John and Jeanette to the Bahama Islands. We had a great time and John was truly a person of encouragement. A friend forever. He will be missed by us, Mark and Dona Nordstrom.

Dona Nordstrom - September 30, 2009 at 02:05 PM

RL

“ Gina, Dave and family, may God give you strength and peace as you send John home to Him. Only knowing John through stories shared by Gina, I'm deeply moved by his faith and courage to live and celebrate each day he was here. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Ray Lauber - September 30, 2009 at 12:37 PM

SL

“ I met john through coming to see me to hav his blood taken every week. He was so possitive and up beat would always make me smile with his stories. He was one of a kind and i will truly miss seeing him and will always remember him and Jenett my thoughts and preyers are with u and ur family god bless u. thank u for the true honor to meet a wonderful man
Stephanie in the lab

Stephanie Patterson in the Cm lab - September 30, 2009 at 08:57 AM

DT

“ I came to know John through the Saturday morning "Defenders" Men's Group which meets @ 6:30am each Saturday morning. John was an active participant who often shared new insights that we had not thought of before. He certainly talked very positively of his children and freinds. We will of course miss him but his enthusiasm for God and family is a standard that we will continue to strive for. It was a true blessing from God to have spent time with him.

Danny Thomas - September 30, 2009 at 08:43 AM

JC

“ My prayers are with your family. Jane Cipolla

Jane Cipolla - September 29, 2009 at 07:25 PM

TF

“ We saw you today at Brennans and our hearts went out to you as we lost our mother on Thursday. The Tangari family is truly sorry for your loss and our prayers will be with you during this time.

Tangari Family - September 29, 2009 at 05:06 PM

CH

“ Dave and Gina - My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family.

Cindy Romine Hatfield - September 29, 2009 at 04:18 PM