



John (JJ) Miller

September 4, 1934 - August 18, 2021

John “JJ” Miller, 86, passed away at his home Wednesday, August 18, 2021. Johnnie Joe was born on September 4, 1934, the son of Albert and Agnes Miller. JJ graduated from St. Joseph High School in 1952. After graduation he joined the US Navy and proudly served during the Korean War at just seventeen years old. He was an aviator mechanic on the USS Lake Champlain, or as he called it, “Lake Damn-Shame.” He was honorably discharged in 1955 after serving, “3 years, 21 days, 4 hours, and 15 minutes.” After his discharge he attended and graduated from Donnelly College. JJ was a natural-born salesman and spread his talents in a few jobs before owning and operating Miller Retail Liquor Store, which became the largest retail liquor store in Kansas. JJ was passionate in advocating for the liquor industry in Kansas. He opened JJ’s Party Center next to his store - much to the consternation of the ABC agents in Kansas – allowing him to advertise and market the party center on such things as matchbooks that read, “Kansas Liquor Laws Suck.” He was past President and District Director of the Eastern Kansas Retail Liquor Dealers Association. He was a lobbyist for the Kansas liquor industry and was instrumental in getting Liquor by the Drink legislation passed in 1986, opening doors for the hotel and hospitality industries to flourish in Kansas, and allowing the everyday person to enjoy a cocktail without purchasing a private club card to each establishment. Cheers! JJ was a great Shawnee advocate. He was a 55-year member of the Shawnee Knights of Columbus, and also a past Grand Knight. He was also a

member of the American Legion, Shawnee, for 55 years. He was passionate in promoting the City of Shawnee. With a little help from his friends, began the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1981, a tradition which continues today. He proudly led the parade each year behind a banner that read, "We're the Idiots Who Started this Mess." He also began the Great Shawnee Duck Race to fund the City's Sister City Program with Erfurt, Germany; Listowel, Ireland; and Pittem, Belgium.

John was a lifelong member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Shawnee. He was an establishment at 10:30 mass as an usher for over 60 years. He never met a stranger and loved to interact with everyone, especially the kids, joking with them – and never quietly. We're not sure he ever knew how to whisper. He was a true believer in the benefits of Catholic education, sending all five of his children through St. Joseph Grade School and St. Joseph High School/Aquinas.

On May 28, 1960 he "outkicked his coverage" when he married his bride of 61 years, Barbara Rottinghaus, a farm girl from Horton, Kansas turned registered nurse. In his words he, "joined the extremely beautiful Barbara Rottinghaus in raising five equally beautiful children." He was always the favorite grandpa to his ten grandchildren and two step-grandchildren. Babies and children were the light of his life, and he felt so fortunate to be around long enough to tease and play with his next generation of great-grandchildren. They will miss his larger-than-life presence and fun-loving nature. JJ's charismatic personality and clever wit was the perfect blend of warmth and humor. He was one of a kind. With his booming voice, sense of humor, and love of people, he never went unnoticed. He was "JJ from Shawnee."

He taught us to count our blessings, see beauty in everything, and how to be happy and grateful. His big personality leaves behind an even bigger void in our hearts. But JJ wouldn't want our sadness, he'd want us to celebrate the great life he lived.

"I love you more now than I ever did."

JJ is preceded in death by a son, Greg Miller; parents Albert and Agnes Miller;

brothers and their spouses, Albert and B Miller, Bubba Miller, Tommy and Barbara Miller, Bobby Miller and Danny Miller; niece Terri Miller and nephew Tom Burns. He is survived by his wife Barbara Miller; four children and their spouses Denise Keating (Dan), JJ Miller II (Monica), Lisa Mahoney (Colin) and Laurie Long (Ray); siblings and their spouses Carol (Bob) Burns of Evergreen, CO, Kathy (Mark) Gandy of Shawnee, KS, Aggie (Alan) Willoughby of Shawnee, KS; sister in law Margie Miller; and numerous other extended family members.

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery

Shawnee, KS

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

AUG **25**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
11311 Johnson Drive
Shawnee, KS 66203

Funeral Mass

AUG **25**. 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
11311 Johnson Drive
Shawnee, KS 66203

Tribute Wall



“ *Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery created a Tribute Video in memory of John (JJ) Miller*



Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery - August 24, 2021 at 01:17 PM

MD

*Such nice memories!
He is a legend indeed. I 'll never forget him. Rest in peace JJ.*

Martine debaecke - August 26, 2021 at 03:52 AM

DM

Thank you for the memories. What a guy 🌹👤🏠🚀

donda mclaughlin - August 30, 2021 at 02:49 PM



“ *John (JJ) Miller*

October 08, 2023 at 10:59 AM



“ *John (JJ) Miller*

September 17, 2022 at 08:24 PM

DL

“ His obit fit him so much and I laughed until I cried. He use to get me out on the dance floor when I was young and make me dance at all the weddings. He was trying to teach me all the dances he knew. Loved Johnny Joe and he always called me Donna Marie. He will be truly missed, love you Johnny Joe

Donna Logan - August 25, 2021 at 12:00 PM

SO

“ To Barb and family,
Sr. Michael Marie and I will try to watch the live stream of the funeral. We would love to be with all of you, but be assured of our prayers. Sr. Pia Rottinghasu, OSB

Sr. Pia Rottinghaus, OSB - August 25, 2021 at 11:50 AM



“ Summer's Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of John (JJ) Miller.



August 25, 2021 at 08:26 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of John (JJ) Miller.



August 24, 2021 at 04:02 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John (JJ) Miller.*



August 24, 2021 at 01:41 PM



“ *85 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery - August 24, 2021 at 01:15 PM



“ *Ada and Maurice Keating purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of John (JJ) Miller.*



Ada and Maurice Keating - August 24, 2021 at 12:56 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of John (JJ) Miller.*



August 23, 2021 at 08:38 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John (JJ) Miller.*



August 23, 2021 at 07:59 PM



“ *Blessings to your family! 🙏. My dad would have breakfast with JJ at Hyvee. He will be missed.*

cindy swarner - August 23, 2021 at 06:58 PM



“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. I'm comforted knowing that him and Ferg are reunited and I am sure they are having a grand ole time! Prayers for comfort for all his family!*

Megan Peace - August 23, 2021 at 12:57 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John (JJ) Miller.*



August 23, 2021 at 11:58 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John (JJ) Miller.*



August 23, 2021 at 11:09 AM



“ *JJ was very very special to us. He was a great friend and our best Man at our wedding. He is loved and we will miss him. Condolences and prayers for Barbara and the entire family. Butch and Shelia Gadwood*



Butch and Shelia - August 22, 2021 at 09:32 AM



“ *So sorry to all his family and friends. 2 of my favorite memories are 1. He always made people around him laugh and have a good time, and 2. With that in mind he was one of the original 4 who march down Johnson Drive, starting a many decades long, and continued Shawnee St Patrick's Day Parade tradition. He's done so much for so many. The best of the Irish parties to all above!!*

Joan Brady - August 21, 2021 at 11:56 PM

FO

“ *Dear Barbara and family,
All of you are in my thoughts and prayers. We are offering Masses here in the monastery and parish for "J.J". He has left everyone with many good memories and stories to keep us laughing.
Blessings,
Fr. Michael Stechmann, O.A.R.*

Fr. Michael Stechmann, O.A.R. - August 21, 2021 at 05:06 PM