



John Junior Merritt Obituary

AUG 2, 1937 - NOV 2, 2013



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John Junior Merritt Obituary

AUG 2, 1937 - NOV 2, 2013

John Junior Merritt of Seymour, Iowa, passed away at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines on November 2, 2013, at the age of 76 years and three months.

He was born on August 2, 1937, to John LeRoy and Cosy Ethel Clark Merritt, in Walnut Township, near Seymour, Iowa. He was the youngest of four sons. He attended Center Country School through the eighth grade and then graduated from Seymour High School in 1955.

His father passed away near the end of John's freshman year in high school, and many friends and neighbors and his three older brothers just stepped in and helped John and his mother continue the farming that they were left to do, both with good advice and much hard physical work. John was still farming with a team of horses at the time, and his brothers helped him to get his first tractor.

While John was still in high school, he gave his heart to the Lord during revival service with Rev. Bill Cleeton and his own brother, Rev. Jack Merritt. John married Norma Jean (Jeannie) Sharp on August 12, 1956, at the Evangelical United Brethren Church in Seymour, Iowa, and they welcomed four children into their lives.

John retired in 2007, after 38 years at L & M Tire Distributors, Inc., a company he and his friend, Bob Lockridge, started in January of 1969. In later years, John left Jeannie and son, Andy, to pretty much handle day to day business at L & M Tire and the farming while he worked as a Sales Agent for Hankook Tire America, setting up new distribution dealerships in five states in the upper midwest.

He enjoyed his business life, but his true love was at the farm, often telling others that it was peaceful, mind clearing therapy for a stressed out road salesman. He loved his horses, loved the sport of horse trading. He enjoyed the horse trips to the mountains with friends, and the many trail rides the group made in southern Missouri.



Obituary

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John was preceded in death by his parents, his son, John Jeffrey Merritt, his granddaughter, Natalie Jean Bunnell, and all three of his brothers, Forrest 'Torp', Jack, and Harry Jay Merritt. He is survived by Jeannie, his wife of 57 years, and his children, Sally Jean Merritt-Rash (Joel), of Colfax, Andy David Merritt (Linda), of Seymour, and Susan Lynn Merritt-Bunnell (Rick) of Oskaloosa.

Also, grandchildren, Jeff Campbell (Jamie) of Chariton, Travis Rash of Seymour, Tanner Rash (Amy) of Eddyville, Adam Moore of Des Moines, Ashly Moore of Pasadena, California, Levi Merritt of Talulah, Louisiana, Quinten Merritt from Seymour, Clayton Merritt from Iowa City, and Luke Merritt from Seymour, Ross Merritt (Elizabeth) from Seymour, and Juliana Bunnell from Oskaloosa. He is leaving eleven great-grandchildren behind, Jayla, Carsen, Carli, Ava Rose, Blair, Tripp, Karsyn, Karleigh, John, Erin, and Bryn.

He also has four brothers-in-law; Bill Sharp of Shenandoah, Harold 'Bud' Sharp from Silvis, Illinois, Gary (Colleen) Sharp from Ft. Meyers, Florida, and Norm Sharp from Durango, Colorado, and one sister-in-law, Mary Mar Merritt from Phoenix, Arizona. Many nieces and nephews, and many, many friends.

John loved all of his family very much, and we all are going to miss his love and guidance very much. The family has requested that, in lieu of flowers, that a memorial donation be made in John's name to The Seymour Volunteer Fire Department and First Responders. Memorials may be sent to the Randolph Funeral Home, 204 North Greeley Street, Corydon, Iowa.

Book Travel to Services To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of John Junior Merritt Obituary please visit our Sympathy Store.



Tribute Wall

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Thomas Funeral Home posted:

October 21 at 11:29 AM



Thomas Funeral Home shared an album called **Obituary Wall**.



October 13 at 11:45 AM



Denny Merritt - Lake Elsinore, Ca - Nephew posted:

I'll always remember Uncle John as a generous, humble, and welcoming man who placed a high value on family and friends. I'll never forget his advice to me not long after Patty went to Heaven 'Remember this, Denny,' he said. 'Life is for the living.' It was his way of encouraging me not to give up, not to stop living, but believe that God still had some purpose for me down here. That was good advice. I believe that Uncle John continues to live in Heaven with the Lord and so many who have gone ahead of him and that his fatherly advice to me that day is still a good word today for all of us. Debbie and I are praying for you, Aunt Jean, and the entire family, friends, and community who are going through this season of grief. Let's all give like he gave, laugh like he laughed, and love like he loved. Until, by the power of the same 'Old Rugged Cross' of Jesus in which he trusted as a young man, we join that biggest of all Family Reunions either at our 'Home Call' or the Second Coming of Christ.

November 13 at 7:00 PM



Michael Doyle - Arlington, Tx - Coworker At Hankook Tire posted:

My regards to all that mourn the loss of this fine gentleman. I like to think that when Big John reached the gates of heaven he was warmly greeted by those that went before him, I am sure that he did not even have to knock on the door of that gate, as he approached the door swung open and he was welcomed with open arms. Respectfully, Michael

November 7 at 7:00 PM



Jim Sharp - San Diego, Ca - Nephew posted:

Uncle John always greeted me with a smile and kind word. Through the many miles and limited visits (the military life) the early life experiences 'down on the farm' certainly involed him. I will miss you, Uncle! Love and prayers go out to all who knew and will always love him! Jim

November 7 at 7:00 PM



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BT

Bill Finn - Dayton, Nj - Friend @ Hankook Tire posted:

Dear Jeannie & Family, Sorry to hear of John's passing. May the Good Lord grant eternal rest to John and bring peace to you and your family in this very difficult time. John was a good, honorable man and will surely be missed. Bill Finn Hankook Tire America (Retired)

November 6 at 7:00 PM

RF

Richard & Betty Couchman - Corydon, Ia - Friends posted:

I remember John well as I had my business in Seymour for over 33 years, and we talked at the caf, both John and Jeanie. John would always help in any way he could. We will miss his smile and thoughts on life around Seymour.

November 6 at 7:00 PM

TN

Todd Harker - Parker, Co - Nephew posted:

I have only great thoughts and memories of uncle Jonny. I always looked forward to talking with him. I know he will be missed greatly. We are praying for you and your family.

November 5 at 7:00 PM

RN

Ron And Diane Schweitzer - La Mesa, Ca - Niece posted:

We are so thankful that we got to see Uncle Johnny in June when we went to Seymour. When Ron and I went through cancer treatment at the same time Uncle Johnny would call and see how we were doing and always cheered us up. I know my mom and Dad would have done that so it made us feel so loved to know that Johnny and Jeanne were there for us with their love. Johnny's family are in our thoughts and prayers. Much love, Ron and Diane

November 5 at 7:00 PM

PN

Penny Merritt Hollar - Mckinney, Tx - Neice posted:

So glad that we got to visit with Uncle Johnny last week. We love him. He was a wonderful man and a blessing to us in many ways. He will be missed! My heart breaks for the family during this difficult time and you are in our prayers. Love, Penny and Larry

November 5 at 7:00 PM



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GT

Garrie D. Yates - Charlotte, Nc - Fellow Salesman At Hankook Tire. posted:

I am very sorry to hear of John's passing. He was a great man and a joy to be with when we would go to meeting or on company trips. I will miss him. Garrie D. Yates

November 5 at 7:00 PM

JC

Jana Winter - West Des Moines, Ia - Cousin posted:

Jeannie and family I was so sorry to hear of Johnny's passing. Please know that many will be thinking of and praying for your family as you experience this difficult time in your lives. Hang tough and keep the Faith. God is good... All the time... All the time... God is good! Love you. Jana (Stover) Winter

November 5 at 7:00 PM

LF

Larry Barnblatt - San Francisco, Ca - Friend posted:

Dear Jeannie, I am so sorry for your loss. I wish you peace and feel for your loss. Our dear friend will be remembered always. I so enjoyed knowing and sharing memories with John. My Deepest condolences, Larry Barnblatt

November 4 at 7:00 PM

BF

Barbara Ferren Gardner - Centerville, Ia - School Friend posted:

Jeannie and family So sorry to hear of John's passing he was always a special person to our family he will be missed. Richard and Barbara

November 4 at 7:00 PM

DF

Dana (Wiley) Kramer - Urbana, Ia - Friend posted:

Andy, thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family during this difficult time. So very sorry for your loss.

November 4 at 7:00 PM



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JF

Janet Demry - Centerville, Ia - Friend posted:

Jeannie and Family, I am so sorry for your loss. Tom always enjoyed John and your whole family so much. Please cherish all of the good times. My thoughts and prayers are will all of you. Janet Demry

November 4 at 7:00 PM

LC

Leroy And Betty Sager - Brownsburg, In - Friends And Former Classmate posted:

We will always remember our years as business owners around the corner from your business at the Sager's Cafe. LeRoy often talks about the friendship he had with him in High School and in later years working for him on your farm. And Betty will always remember her early years at Brush College with Jeannie. We are praying for your family in the loss of your loved one. Proverbs 3 5 & 6

November 4 at 7:00 PM

BO

Barry & Janice Donald Gentile - Lake Ozark, Mo posted:

Jeannie & family. May Gods gentleness be with you.

November 4 at 7:00 PM

BF

Bill Misko - Tuscaloosa, Al - Friend posted:

May John Rest in Enternal Peace. T he Merritt family can always be proud in knowing that John was also loved and admired by his many friends in the Tire Industry. Beyond his regular travel boundaries he also visited NJ to attend meetings is where we first met. This guy from Iowa has remained a dear friend throughout work and retirement years. You always knew where John stood; it was all about family. Though I live in Alabama my heart will be in Seymour this week.

November 4 at 7:00 PM



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EN

Erica Shry - Mancos, Co - Great Niece posted:

About 5 years ago, i went with my Mom (Tracie Sharp) to the family reunion in Iowa. While there i also celebrated my sweet 16. Although this is the only time i remember meeting my great uncle, i know that i had before a few times. I remember him telling me that there was never a day he went without his bibs. I thought it was so weird, because it is where i come from. But having spent a week in Iowa i realized that it was as normal as can be. I remember Johnny as a fun, hard working, loving man. And i will never forget him.

November 3 at 7:00 PM

CT

Cindy Clack - Tallulah, La posted:

So sorry for your loss. Levi, I am sending up special prayers for you and your family.

November 3 at 7:00 PM

SN

Sandy Merritt Edenfield - Saginaw, Tx - Niece posted:

You were a big part of my growing up and I will always treasure those last few days I was privileged to spend with you. Jeanne, you and your family will be in our thoughts and prayers. I really wish I could come back for the service. We will make the donation to the Seymour Volunteer Fire Dept. Much much love, Sandy and Ellis

November 3 at 7:00 PM



Media

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Thomas Funeral Home shared a photo to the **Obituary Wall** album.

October 13 at 11:45 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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