



John K. Carlson

October 1, 1949 - July 14, 2014

John K. Carlson, 64, a resident of Moses Lake passed away Monday, July 14, 2014 at Samaritan Hospital following an illness. A celebration of his life will be held at 6 p.m., Friday, August 1, 2014 at Papa's Casino and Restaurant. John was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota to Quentin and Marlys Carlson. He was married to Dawn Miller. John worked for Papa's Casino/Restaurant/Bowling Alley. Survivors include his wife Dawn, daughter Alexine, grandson, Austin and children by a previous marriage.

Memorial donations may be made in John's name to:

The American Heart Association

Address

7272 Greenville Ave.

Dallas, TX 75231

Customer Service

1-800-AHA-USA-1

Previous Events

Service

AUG 1. 6:00 PM (PT)

Papa's Casino Restaurant
1165 N. Stratford Road
Moses Lake, WA

Tribute Wall

BL

“ One day I was driving to Dawn and John's house. I'm beyond directionally challenged (I don't think I could find my way out of a paper bag!) and I got lost on the way there. This was back in the days of payphones/pre-cell phone days. I put money in the payphone and John answered. The conversation went something like this.... John: hello? Me: hey, I'm lost. Can you help me find my way there? John: hello? Me: it's me, Bonnie, and I'm lost. Can you hear me? John: hello? Click...dial tone. I tracked down some more change, knowing that he could hear me just fine and I told him when he picked up that I'd have to kill him if he hung up on me again. He was such a goober. But he was our goober and we loved him, even when he was pulling stunts like that.

Bonnie Little - August 27, 2014 at 08:35 PM

SL

“ I have so many memories of Uncle John too! I love him! When I was little I was very selfish and didn't like sharing my bubble tape with my sister and brother so once I chewed it all up and put it back in the container lol well the next time I got bubble tape Uncle John put it high up in the light cover and gave me a piece every day until it was gone. I still didn't have to share lol! I remember when he let My little sister Emily run across the dinner table and practically hang from the light fixture! I also remember the way he would say "bye" more like "baahhh!" I remember coming to Washington for summer vacation when I was about 11 and digging potatoes up from the garden with him!!! I will hold him in my heart forever!❤️❤️

Sara Lopez - August 27, 2014 at 08:01 AM



Dawn
Miller

“ *This Dawn--John's wife. John and I would have had our 20th anniversary about a week after he passed away. When I was going through his paperwork, I found a flyer for the prettiest necklace with three hearts that on the back said "I love you". this year I didn't get m & m's, but you can bet I bought myself the necklace I know that he'd intended for our anniversary. It made me feel I a little like we hadn't missed it after all.*

Dawn Miller - August 27, 2014 at 12:40 AM

AC

“ this is from Alexine, John's daughter or "Axel" as he used to call her : "I need to get this out of my system real quick. I've been without my Papa for 43 days. Not very long, but it's been hard. My Dad was one of my best friends. He had the best smart-ass sense of humor of anybody that I know. I could complain to him and he would listen. He seemed to take my side on everything. He loved my friends. He told awesome stories. I miss him waking me up in the morning. I miss his voice, the way he would say bye that sounded less like bye and more like the noise a sheep makes. I miss the nicknames he used to call me, like Axel and Bugs. I miss how he took forever to learn how to use his smartphone and would text me with a period after each word and at least 5 spaces in between. Just. Like. This. I miss how I could go in the garage and sit on top of the freezer and listen to him and his friends talk. He loved A Christmas Story. We used to quote it all the time. He got a little replica of the leg lamp for Christmas. If it wasn't a Christmas Story, it was Grumpy, from Snow White and the Seven Dwarves because Grumpy was my Dad's mascot. One of my favorite memories of him was driving down the road in the Blazer with the Windows down, singing along to the Doobie Brothers or the Eagles. To someone who didn't know him he might have seemed a little scary, but he was just a big teddy bear. He said he hated people but he had so many wonderful friends. It seemed like everybody loved him. My goofball of a Daddy. I'm eager to stop being sad when I think about his loss and to start being happy when I think of all the fun I had with him."

Alexine Carlson - August 27, 2014 at 12:34 AM

 Dawn
Miller

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dawn Miller - July 23, 2014 at 12:29 AM

 Dawn
Miller

“ another one from Dawn. John surprised me fairly often, and one of the times he did was once when he gave me green M&M's. Early on when we were dating his sister Amber and I were talking about the "aphrodisiac" properties of green M&M's. I don't remember how the conversation started. John wasn't familiar with the story, so Amber explained, much to John's embarrassment. At our next date John gave me a cute, little apothecary jar with green M&M's and explained how it came to be. He bought a couple of bags of M&M's and was sorting out the green ones at his mom's table. She came by and asked about what he was doing. Also too embarrassed to tell her the real story, he just said that "the green ones are Dawn's favorites". She helped to finish sorting and added a pretty ribbon, some little flowers, and a little string of pearls to the jar. I have always thought it was sweet that he was uncomfortable discussing the real deal with his mom and sis. I still have the jar and M&M's 24 years later. tomorrow--the 23rd--would have been our 20th wedding anniversary. I'd like to think he would have given me M&M's.

Dawn Miller - July 23, 2014 at 12:27 AM

 BJ

“ Dawn and family so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Bonnie Jeffery - July 19, 2014 at 12:48 AM



Thanks Bonnie

Dawn Miller - July 19, 2014 at 11:19 PM

MF

“ *Dawn, Lexi and Oz. Ken and I are so saddened of your loss. I especially know just how close you were to John. My prayers are with you all. We love you very much , please let me know what we can do.*

I remember how much John loved working with wood! He carved me a Santa that I have and will a ways treasure. I so loved the way he touched my mom's heart, that means so much to me. She talks so much about the BBQ's you invited her to. We will forever be thankful for how he cared for my mom.

Love you very much

Let me know what we can do to help you.

Mary Falconer - July 17, 2014 at 02:26 PM



We owed your mom a bbq so maybe we'll just all have to get together. Love you and your mom.

Dawn Miller - July 18, 2014 at 12:13 PM

 Judy
Lopez

“ This is Judy, John's sister. I have to share the story of John, Arnie and the Cheech and Chong mobile.

Arnie is always trying to save a buck. One day he saw this old dilapidated truck on the side of the road, decided it was a good deal, so he bought it. This thing was all rusted out on the bottom, the upholstery was shot and was one of the ugliest trucks I'd ever seen in my life! But Arnie was determined to revive it.

One day John came over and Arnie was "upholstering." True to form, Arnie, trying to save a buck, chose some blue furry material and was gluing it to the dashboard, headliner, and inside the doors. When he was finished it looked like he had skinned a stuffed animal and pasted it inside that ugly old jalopy. All John could do was shake his head and say "damn beaner". but not before he dubbed it the Cheech and Chong mobile. John would say all it needed was a bobble head chihuahua on the dash board for the finishing touches. Together John and Arnie worked on that truck and made it road worthy. Tuning up the motor, replacing the windshield. Yes, instead of paying to replace the windshield, Arnie and John did it themselves!

That's not the best part. Tune up or not this thing was not going to pass emissions. We ended up skirting the law, buying a P.O. box out of town, where emissions weren't necessary and getting the tags that way.

To complete the tag process, it had to be driven to the dmV. In they hopped and off they went . One small detail. It would have probably been a good idea to fix the hinges on the hood before they took off! John kept asking Arnie, "are you sure that the hood isn't going to fly off?" Arnie assured him there was no problem.

The rest of this story John would tell with tears in his eyes and a belly laugh I will never forget. I will try to tell it like John would have. The hood kept flopping up and down and I kept asking "are you sure its not going to fly off?" No sooner than I said that and the wind caught it just right, All we could do was watch it fly over our heads and land upside down behind us. We both jumped out ran behind us, picked it up and threw it in the bed of the Cheech and Chong mobile. Right out there on 51st avenue. (a very busy road) Damn

Beaner!!

Judy Lopez - July 17, 2014 at 01:53 PM



I LOVE that story. I lost track of the number of times he told it. Thank you for sharing. Love you bunches.

Dawn Miller - July 18, 2014 at 12:16 PM



“ *Dawn again. I have another favorite story to share. John was always reeling in his mom and sister Judy. They were a little gullible when it came to John's stories. His mom got him back one day, and I was there to watch. He was washing his car in the driveway at his parents' place when we lived in Phoenix and it was really hot. His mom came out with a glass of water for him. He said after the fact he noticed it was warm, which it wouldn't have been because they had a water cooler so he knew something was up. She escorted him over to the shade and said she was concerned about him. He finally asked her what was up, because this wasn't a normal reaction for his mom. She said she'd just heard on the radio to keep your pets in the shade and give them plenty of water. She was laughing and running as John tossed the glass of water at her back. He told that story over and over, and got such a kick out of it.*

Dawn Miller - July 17, 2014 at 11:38 AM



He always got the best of me. I would fall for his pranks every time. I never learned!

Judy Lopez - July 18, 2014 at 12:47 PM

MD

“ My ornery brother in law who gave me such heck and expected me to dish it right back. My sister loved you so much. I could see it in the notes she left you and the I love yous. Always as I left to drive home you sent my favorites. Super salsa. Salmon and always with a come back sooner. Your carving was incredible-what a talent. These are the things I will always remember. Once I heard I got to thinking that I hope you and Greg are on a bench talking. Nothing would make me happier than you two watchin' out for each other. I will miss you. I love you.

Marilyn Miller Davis - July 17, 2014 at 07:56 AM



I suspect as we write John is talking with Greg Parker and having a beer with his buddy Charles Renn. Love you, Marilyn.

Dawn Miller - July 18, 2014 at 12:21 PM

 Dawn
Miller

“ *this is John's wife Dawn. I wanted to share a little about how we met and when I fell in love with him. One of a multitude of stories I love to tell about John. I was offered a job over in the Tacoma area at the same time as I was offered the job in Phoenix, where I met John. I opted to take the job in Phoenix. I was down there for a business trip in May of 1990 prior to moving there, and met John one evening at a bar called "Mr. Lucky's". I know it doesn't sound like it could be true, but it is! John nudged the guy sitting next to me at the bar and asked if he was with me. When the guy said no, John told him to move over and sat next to me. He was talking with me and my female co-worker, and talking more to her than me. I asked if he wanted to take my seat, and he said "no, darlin', you're the one I'm interested in. I'm just trying to be nice". After that night he called me a few times while I was still in WA and we set up a date for shortly after I moved down to Arizona. I moved down with two of my co-workers, one of whom didn't have family. The first two dates, we took Peggy along because John didn't want her to be lonesome. The third date, we finally went on our own. We went to a movie in July in Arizona. Monsoon season. I wore a full skirted sun dress and came out of the theater into monsoon strength winds. John was so busy helping me to hold my skirt down so I wouldn't be embarrassed, he didn't see the other guys walking by and smiling. I decided at that point he was absolutely the guy for me. We moved in together about a month later, and married on July 23, 1994. We had Alexine on Sept 16, 1998. His daughter Rebecca's son Austin--our grandson--moved in with us on June 7, 2007. So many good things happened because of my relationship with John. His big heart, generous spirit, and wonderfully silly sense of humor were the qualities that drew so many people to him. Me included. I thank God for the "Lucky" opportunity that allowed me to share my life with John. I will forever miss my love, my husband, my soul mate.*

Dawn Miller - July 16, 2014 at 04:08 PM



Karen
Parsons

What a great story, Dawn. Thank you for sharing. I'm so sorry for your loss.

Karen Parsons - July 17, 2014 at 08:40 AM

CH

Beautiful story of how you two met... His personality was a joy and a blessing to all who knew him. My heart is sad but we continue to pray for you to keep all the good memories close in your heart and he will keep you smiling forever... Much love to you and your wonderful family...

Christy` - July 20, 2014 at 04:08 PM

BA

*“ Dawn - The passing of John has brought sorrow deep sorrow to friends and family. I can hear John right now telling us to just calm down because he has only rediscovered the 'Eye in the Sky" and that time will heal. His spirit will be with us forever.
God Bless to you, John and family.*

Brian

Brian Aklin - July 16, 2014 at 12:35 PM



Dawn
Miller

You, Greg, and his other hunting buddies were like brothers to him. He spoke of you often, and so looked forward to spending time with you. I am thankful for your friendship.

Dawn Miller - July 16, 2014 at 03:42 PM

RK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ronda Kayser - July 16, 2014 at 09:00 AM

CM

Dawn and family, I'm so sorry for your loss. Looking at this picture reminds me of all the times I tried to figure out if his story was true or if he was pulling my leg. His Mom and sister Judy were not the only gullible ones. He is missed.

Cheryle

Cheryle Matheson - July 29, 2014 at 05:02 PM

JG

“ *Dawn.. there are no words that describe our heavy hearts. John was a brother to Greg, and a dear friend to both of us. He brought us joy and many laughs early in the morning crossing the lake. Greg thought of him as a brother, and Joni thought of him as someone who had her back. Our world and hearts will have a huge void without John... we will always have him in our hearts as we launch the boat and shoot birds... God Bless you John we know you are looking down on us! Love Greg and Joni*

Joni and Greg - July 15, 2014 at 06:57 PM

 Dawn Miller

John treasured his time with you. Many of his pictures on his "wall of shame" in the garage are of hunting trips with the group of you, and were some of the happiest times for him.

Dawn Miller - July 16, 2014 at 03:44 PM

JP

“ Dawn and family so sorry for your lost. He was a great friend.I enjoyed talking about the fish tales and stories of friends that went duck hunting .He always helped and made you feel better when you were having a bad day..I will miss him a lot . Jp

jp - July 15, 2014 at 05:06 PM

JG

Dawn and kids..... We will miss John ever so much. He was so much part of our lives. Back to the day when Charles and Greg were hunting and John joined them on his days off. John was so much part of our lives... and the early days Greg and John headed out to hunt together for years... there are no words to describe the void that will be there this next year...but we all know he will be there crossing the lake and in the blind. John will be greatly missed, and loved by us all!!!

Joni and Greg - July 15, 2014 at 06:47 PM

 Dawn Miller

He had a way of getting people laughing that was like no one else I have ever met. thank you for sharing.

Dawn Miller - July 16, 2014 at 03:45 PM

GS

I knew John before he was the eye in the sky, when ever I came to bowl he would come out of his camera place and we would chat about many things mostly about our open heart surgeries . I will miss those chats and his super sense of humor. Gary Stemhagen

Gary Stemhagen - July 16, 2014 at 07:57 PM

 Dawn Miller

Thanks Gary Stemhagen

Dawn Miller - July 21, 2014 at 12:37 AM