



John Herr

August 15, 1948 - February 29, 2012

John Herr was born on August 15, 1948 to John and Frances Herr at Wesley Hospital in Wadena, MN. He lived his entire life in Wadena, graduating from the Wadena Public School. On June 10, 1972, John and Barb Handt were married in the Trinity Lutheran Church in Hewitt. Many will remember him when he worked at the Shell Station, Homecrest Industries, and later when he owned and operated the City Dray Line, all in Wadena. John was a friend to all, whether he met them at work, at auctions, or while having coffee at his “office” at John’s Car Care. Horses and buggies often caught his interest. He lived his favorite quote, “Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass, it’s about learning to dance in the rain.” John passed away unexpectedly on February 29, 2012, doing what he loved, working. He was 63 years old. John was preceded in death by his parents John and Frances; sister Irene Goodman; niece Kim Williams; nephew Michael Plautz; and brother-in-law Wilfred Schwartz. He is survived by his wife Barb; son Joel (Stephanie) of Moorhead; daughter Jolene (Eric) Herr of Burnsville; two grandchildren; brother Tom (Donata) of Alexandria; sisters Nancy Williams of Minneapolis, Margaret Schwartz of Wadena, Sharon (Ervin) Muellner of Burtrum, Ethel (John) Becker of Wadena, sister-in-law Henrietta (Bob) Brady of New York Mills; brother-in-law Bill (Mary) Handt of New York Mills; and a host of friends. Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. on March 5, 2012, at the St. John Lutheran Church in Wadena, with Pastor Stephen Meltzer presiding. Honorary pallbearers were John Wegscheid, Norm Ohrmundt, Vern VanOrsdel, Vern Matthiesen, Gordy

Aagard, Les Thorstenson, Rick Wegscheid, Kevin Paulson, and Rick Youngbauer. Active pallbearers were Martin Schwartz, Jason Plautz, Joe Muellner, Bill Brady, Bill Handt, Jr., and Michael Bengson. Burial was in Wadena Cemetery.

Tribute Wall

JH

“ My deepest sympathy to you Barb and your family. John was a very special guy; always friendly and a good sense of humor. He will be missed by all-what a great guy!

jane hieb - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

VB

“ My deepest sympathy to John's family. He was a "gentleman and a scholar" as my Dad would have put it. He will be dearly missed by all. Viv

Vivian Brahmer - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ Barb & Family - Our deepest sympathy for your loss. When John was asked to do something he always went one step further. The community has lost a great person, but heaven has gained one! Our thoughts & prayers are with you and your family.

Carol & Dick Dertinger - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Barb and Family,
We were so sad to hear the news of John's passing. Our heart's are with you in this moment of pain. We couldn't have asked for a better neighbor. He always had a smile on his face when we got to talk, even if it wasn't about a good topic. John was always so good to us and our boys. We will remember him always waving hello with a smile mowing the lawn or passing on the way to work. He was a special soul that we will miss alot. Gone from our sight but never from our hearts. Rest in peace John. Until we meet again maybe we will be neighbors in heaven.

Darryl and Pamela Chick - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ Our condolences to John's family. We haven't lived in Wadena for over 40 years and we remember John from our High School years and the times at Vern's Shell. When we visited Wadena and saw John it was like old home week. What a wonderful and special person. He was one in a million!

Ray & Peggy Rentz - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ Our deepest sympathy to Barb and family, John was true friend we will really miss his smiling face.

Richard&Gladys Kaufman - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ Since moving from Wadena a few years ago, we have never had the great service provided by John in his business. Regardless of weather or street conditions, John always got the job done with a great degree of efficiency and always doing so without charging high rates. His work ethic was to be admired by all and he was just a really nice guy. We extend our sympathy to John's family.

Marilee and Will Domier - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

VK

“ John was a very wonderful man, a very good friend and always easy to talk to. whether it was work related or just to pass the time of day, always willing to lend a hand and never expect anything in return. John will be missed around Wadena, not by just a few, but by everyone who knew John. Rest in Peace my Friend, until we meet again.
Everyone will remember John's stories, his laughter and the joy John brought by entering the room.

Vern & Jean Kemper - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ *Barb & Family:*

Dave & I would like to send our deepest sympathy to you and your family. Not only has your family lost a loved one, but the entire community has lost a good friend. John was always so friendly, funnny and would give the shirt off his back for anyone. What a great guy. He was alway so good to our boys. They just loved him. Whenever John's name was brought up, they would both have a smile on their face. John treated our boys as if they were his sons. Our boys really enjoyed being around him. Our family thought of John as a very generous, giving, loving person with a great sense of humor. We share your pain. If we can help you in any way, please let us know. We will keep you and your family in our thoughts and prayers.

Sharon & Dave Folkestad - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DU

“ *Our sincere sympathy to all of John's family, we will all miss him and the kindness and friendliness he always shared with those around him. John was a giant of a man in every way but especially in the way he treated people. His passing is a huge loss for the people of Wadena but just as he was on earth, I'm sure he is now one of the nicest guys in heaven!*

Dean & Cindy Uselman - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TT

“ *Barb-My heartfelt sympathies to you during this very sad time of John's passing. Heaven will be a better place with him there. May God surround you with his peace and mercy.*

Theresa Topp

Theresa Topp - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GW

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family Barb. John was such a great guy---loved by many. He was a good friend and neighbor. My folks(Bernard and Marian Kern) often said they could not have asked for a better neighbor--they said he was the best!! He was such a hard worker and always willing to help out if anyone ever needed it. He will be missed by many. Heaven is now blessed with his presence as we here on earth were for the time he had with us.

Ginger and Vern

Ginger & Vern Wiederich - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Barb and family, I am so saddened to read of John's passing. He was a good man with many fine qualities. His treatment of others and the time he always took to chat with you will be truly missed. I will never forget what wonderful neighbors you were to my parents and it was always good to see you both and the kids when our kids shared the Roberts as our babysitter. May God be with you today and in the days ahead.

Deb (Peters) Dague - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ John was simply put a nice guy with a big heart. You sincerely have my heartfelt condolences.

Jim Stoneman

jim stoneman - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Our deepest of sympathies. We will miss John. I remember all the fun times we had over the many years of knowing him. The times at the auctions, there was his quirky smiling face, always happy to greet anybody. The World has truly lost a precious soul. John was such a hard worker, dedicated, but yet he helped anybody when they needed help. God has decided to give him rest now. Keep the memories of the fun and good times and he will always be in our hearts. No more suffering in this world. He is at peace. We thank God for giving him to us for as long as he did. It was a pleasure to know him and all of you. May God grant you peace and strength. With sympathy's and love. God Bless you all. Jackie, Jay, Jacob and Jayson.

February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Barb and Family: So very sorry to hear of John's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Diane Stroot - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ John will certainly be missed by all not only his family but the community. So many people were touched by his kindness. I think anyone that ever met him will remember him even if they only met him once. We are sending our condolences and prayers.

Janet Eckman - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RO

“ We were shocked to hear the news about John. He was the one of the nicest and most kind individuals we have ever met. John was the type of person who cared more about others than he did himself. He has touched our lives forever. John will be deeply missed by all whose lives he has touched. Barb, all of our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this time.

Ryan and Sarah Ohrmundt - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SN

“ Truly one of the nicest guys in the world. John was and will always be a great example for all of us on how to treat others. While we will miss his smile, heaven will now see it every day. God bless you, John.

Steve & Jan Nelson - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Rest in peace John...your work is complete. Heartfelt sympathy to all the family and friends. We were happy and so proud to know John and our memories will keep him alive. Such a hardworker and thoughtful man. Our days will be a bit darker without his bright smile.

Len Siegler,Sally Schaffhausen - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ My deepest sympathy to the whole family.

Kirsten Hansen - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ *My condolences to John's family. My family was acquainted with John years ago and I always found him to be very friendly, very considerate and just a nice man. God rest John!*

Cheryl Suhl Whiley - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BE

“ *We have never known a harder working man than John. He always took time to say hi and tell a joke when we would see him at John's having coffee or on the street.*

He will be deeply missed by many.

Bruce & Judy Erdahl - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ *So shocked and sorry to hear of John's passing. We enjoyed talking with him so much. He would always stop to chat and never passed us by. You are in our thoughts and prayers, Barb. We enjoy you very much, as well. Sure will miss John as one of our auction sale "buddies". It won't be the same without him in spring at auction time!*

Rich & Mavis Kendall - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ *Barb and Family, Our thoughts, prayers and deepest sympathy to all of you. John is a very special man and friend. He will be greatly missed.*

Lee and Lee(Eileen) Meyers - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ I was so sorry to hear about John's death. I have known him since our days at district 14 in Bluegrass. our families have been friends for many years. He was one of a kind, always there to help if he could, so kind hearted. He will be missed by everyone who knew him. God has truly taken home one of his angels. My heart goes out to all of his family. May God bless all of you and help you remember all the good times you had with John.

Love

Anne Rigsby and Family

Anne Rigsby - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ Barb and family, John will be missed, we were friends for over 50 years, he always made you smile and they didn't come any harder worker than John.

Bob & Jan Tubandt - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ Johnny was my ...all of the above...depending on the day! We laughed EVERY day pulled jokes on each other giggled at anything and everything and told each other our hopes dreams and sadness's. He was at our station at our side and in our hearts...and will be forever. I still see him every time I enter the gas station (open the door and to the left..as someone else described to me). I knew his family and relatives like the back of my hand...but only through his eyes. Now that line is severed and not easy to catch again. So please give hugs and lots of phone calls...our Johnny is the reason for THIS season. I LOVED YOU SOOO JOHNNY!!

Lisa Wegscheid - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ We have lost a good man. I got to visit with John either at John's Car Care or at auctions with his wife. He was such a caring, understanding, considerate man and a hard worker. His laughter of life was so good to hear. Now to watch him "Dancing In The Rain"-gonna miss that guy.

Ron and Nancy Walz - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ Our deepest sympathies to Barb and family. John was always so kind and friendly. When I would see him on my trips back to Wadena, he always had time for a kind word and ready smile. We were neighbors growing up and classmates. John was truly a kind and gentle man.

Renee Reece-Murray - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ My sympathies to Barb and John's family. I've known John for a long, long time and he was one of the greatest. Its hard to find someone who is kind and considerate all the time. He shared good-will with everyone and will be missed.

February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

ME

“ My sincere heartfelt sympathy in the loss of John. May you be reunited one day in paradise! God's Blessings to his family and friends at this very sad time.

Marilyn (Braith) Eggers - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JV

“ John was the kinda guy that would give the shirt off his back and never think twice about it, and always have a quick come back to what ever you said to him. We lost a good person that day. R.I.P.
John

jeff veronen - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Barb and family,
My deepest sympathy for your loss.
John was a very special person, so kind and thoughtful, willing to lend a helping hand when ever he was asked. He will be missed by all that knew him.

Judy Wussow - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ To all of John's family,

We are so sorry for your loss. John was always smiling and eager to help anyone out in any way he could. He will be missed by many.

Ken and Tomi Hamilton - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Rest in peace, dear classmate. You were always a gentleman during our school days, and still a gentleman until the day you died. You deserve only the best, you have earned it. God's blessings.
Joyce

Joyce (Roggenkamp) Boyne - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ *To John's family esp Ethel
We are thinking of you all - We will miss John - Wadena will seem
different when we return*

Charlie & Gladys Chase - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ *John was always smiling and happy to see you. He was a great guy
and we enjoyed speaking with him anytime we met. He will be
missed by everyone that knew him. Our thoughts and prayers to the
Herr family.*

Sharon and Vernell Roberts - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you.
My sympathies.*

Micki Reiser - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GG

“ *We will always remember Mr. Luna's English class and Mr. Luna
saying; "Keep those baby blues a blinking, Herr."
John was a good guy who did make a difference. He will be greatly
missed by the whole community.
Our deepest sympathy to Ethel and all of John's family.*

Glen and Rosemary (Rohr) Gerads - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ John's laughter will be heard in memories for ever But you knew when he was serious it was "but I tell ya" would come out first what a friend that would always stop and say Hi I worked at his office when it was Key's cafe and he was full of fun then and always working hard sun or rain. God has a good angel and he will be missed.

Dian DeYonge - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ JOHN WILL BE TOTALY MISSED. WHAT A REALY NICE GUY HE WAS. HE WILL GO WHERE HE BELONGS THERE IS NO DOUBT. WELL LOVED BY ALL. NO ONE EVER SAID ANYTHING BAD ABOUT HIM.

SCOTT & MISSY KERN - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ Our sympathy to all of you on the sudden passing of John. May the memories you have of him give you peace and May God bless you and give you strength as you face the coming weeks.

Collin & Judy McLeod - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Barb and family, I am so sorry to hear about John. Will be thinking of you all and sending prayers. Get in touch with me anytime. Love, Jackie

Jackie (Grewe) Greenlun - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

HN

“ I will never forget John Herr. He did touch me I feel he is angel. He went heaven with family. He always smile hi to me and wave goodbye. He love to say hi or goodbye to me. He good man and Garbage company.
Good Job City Dray.

Heather Noeska - February 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM