



John Kester Knighton Jr.

February 17, 1945 - May 27, 2026

John K. Knighton was born in Chicago, Illinois on February 17, 1945. He left us to greet his new heavenly friends on May 27, 2026.

John was affectionately known as John Boy, Mildred, Mayor of the Square, No, among many others. John never met a stranger. He spoke with everyone he met, whether they wanted to talk or not. John enjoyed visiting and wanted to make everyone he met feel important. He loved being a greeter at 9:30 mass at Queen of Peace Church. He spent his Sunday mornings there enjoying all the friends he made every week. He was always happy that someone managed to save him two blueberry donuts every Sunday. During a long traffic stop he was known to get out of the car and enter the home of a stranger for a cup of coffee. John always had a dad joke and was ready to share it.

John loved to be dramatic. As a child, he shot an arrow in the house and put a hole in the wall.

As a United States Marine, he once called in an area for bombs and ended up, exploding a

water buffalo as he sang happy birthday to himself.

Fussy is a word that describes John in many ways. His hair was always perfect. His clothes closet was marine training regimented. His cars were perfectly clean. His gentleman Jack was always poured with a twist, not a slice of lemon. John could be opinionated, and once he made his stance clear he seldom changed.

John had his favorite people he likes to relax with. Taking cruises with his wife Bobbie was one of his favorites. Visiting with his mother-in-law, Katherine and ganging up on Bobbie with her brought him great joy. John and his mother had a close relationship. John was known as “the chosen one” because his parents did choose him. He was adopted from The Cradle in Evanston Illinois in time for his first Mother’s Day. John enjoyed spending time at Harrys whether it was for dinner with friends or a lunch Bunch day. He collected model cars and each car had a story.

John loved music and loved going to concerts. His favorite artist was Elvis Presley. One of his memorable concerts was seeing Elvis in Houston with his daughter when she was 6.

Many people filled John’s close circle. First was always his wife of 37 years, Bobbie. He was survived by only daughter Kristine (known to him as Pumpkin) that he deeply loved, her husband John Wahr and beautiful grandchildren Katherine and Erik. He had two goddaughters whom he loved Elisabeth and Val (to whom John was always known as “The

Godfather”). He had a very special “adopted granddaughter” Nicole. He leaves behind a large Engstrom clan from Bobbie’s side of the family and many good friends. Mass to celebrate John’s life will be in the place he has chosen to rest eternally, Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 6455 SW State Road 200, at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, June 9, 2026. John requests that the celebration of his life continues by asking everyone to come dressed in a Hawaiian shirt (which he owned and owned and owned and owned several). If you don’t have a Hawaiian shirt, please wear some bright and cheerful clothing. He wants his life to be celebrated, not mourned. Surely he will continue to celebrate his new life as we say, from the heart, it’s bedtime for Bonzo. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to k9sforwarriors.org or Hospice of Marion County Florida.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

JUN 9. 8:30 AM - 9:15 AM (ET)

Queen of Peace Catholic Church
6455 SW State Rd 200
Ocala, FL 34476

Interment

JUN 9. 9:30 AM (ET)

Queen of Peace Catholic Gardens
6455 SW State Rd. 200
Ocala, FL 34476

Military Honors

JUN 9. 9:30 AM (ET)

Queen of Peace Catholic Gardens
6455 SW State Rd. 200
Ocala, FL 34476

Tribute Wall

DP

“ John was so nice to my Mom "Patty" and greeted her every Sunday making her feel welcome and always with a smile. He had a huge impact on the patrons at Queen of Peace.. May he rest in the arms of the lord. 🙏

Donna Prince - June 09 at 09:09 AM

WF

“ John was a very nice man. When we were new to Queen of Peace he went out of his way to welcome us. Since then he was a permanent fixture at Queen of Peace and in our hearts. He was kind and always mentioned how much he liked my hair. Little things like that meant so much. We are incredibly saddened by his passing and wish the family our deepest sympathy. Rest in Heavenly Peace , John.



Wayne and Michelle Finelli - June 06 at 12:14 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Kester Knighton Jr..



June 05 at 05:10 PM

GV

“ Gail Yoss , Chesterfield, Virginia purchased the S imply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John Kester Knighton Jr..



Gail Yoss , Chesterfield, Virginia - June 04 at 10:16 AM

GY

“ John was always a delight to be around with his funny jokes and statements. He always kept the conversation light and airy with questions that he would like to discuss with you. Although he was a long distance friend, I had the opportunity to be around him and Bobbie was always entertaining. My condolences to Bobbi and the family. May God give you strength and peace during this difficult time. Gail Yoss

Gail Yoss - June 04 at 10:08 AM

RB

“ To say that I'm going to miss you Buddy. Doesn't quite sum it up. I'll never forget you JohnBoy you are truly one of a kind. And I know that you are smiling down on us all.



Rick Barnes - June 03 at 02:46 PM

LO

John, you leave a most living and loyal wife, family members, and friends. Your life was a blessing to so many, in ways large and small - intended or unintended.
Lindley

Lindley Orr - June 04 at 11:33 AM

BO

You were his brother from a different mother. He loved you.

bobbie - 13 hours ago

CF

“ *Carmel Team 3 Tennis Friends purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of John Kester Knighton Jr..*



Carmel Team 3 Tennis Friends - June 03 at 07:17 AM

NC

“ *I will never forget JOHNBOY making sure he had garbage bags in his beautiful Porsche just in case I went into labor!! He was POSITIVE he could get me to the hospital the quickest but didn't want the seats “messed up”!!!! Btw. This was over 28 years ago! What a wonderful man. I will always love him.*
Nancy

Nancy Clark - June 02 at 01:45 PM

LL

John was a very special person and he always gave a great more than he got. I will miss him every Sunday and so will many others. Maybe I will be blessed enough to see him again in a better place.

Larry little. - June 02 at 06:19 PM

LO

John, you leave behind a loving, loyal, and beautiful wife. Your family and friends will forever miss you. Yours was a life that was a blessing to many, many people who are forever indebted to you for your kindnesses, whether intended or unintended.
Lindley Orr

Lindley Orr - June 04 at 11:40 AM



As a servant of God, John can be seen in my eyes as God's shining "pearl." As a faithful doorkeeper at Sunday Masses at Queen of Peace, he made no distinctions, loving ALL who passed through with his spontaneous Irish wit and warm personality. He loved taunting me because I would leave the 7:30 a.m. Mass, only to return for the 9:30 a.m. Mass for choir. He was a big fan of our choir and therefore was excited to see my return. He also always enjoyed greeting my daughter Lisa, who has long, curly hair to which he would say when she wore it down, "I see you have crunchy hair today!" John was full of life, full of joy, and full of love. To John, you remain in my prayers and may God's light be brightly shining upon you, my charming friend! Thank you for bringing happy moments into my life! You've been such a blessing!

Leona LaMotte - June 14 at 12:57 PM