



John R. Russell

August 9, 1942 - July 23, 2025

John R. Russell, age 82, of Kankakee passed away Wednesday, July 23, 2025 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee. He was born August 9, 1942 in Montgomery County, IL, the son of Harold & Elsie (Bramel) Russell. John married Shearon Schwab in 1968 in Assumption, IL. She preceded him in death on September 14, 1998. John married Charlene Stark on April 29, 2000.

John was a court reporter for the Kankakee County Courthouse for over 40 years. He was a very devoted father and husband who adored his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. John enjoyed crossword puzzles, playing Euchre, and neighborhood card club.

He was a veteran of the United States Navy, having served during the Vietnam conflict.

John was a parishioner of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church and later St. John Paul II Catholic Church.

Surviving are his wife, Charlene Russell of Kankakee; his children, Sandy Cheffer of Russellville, AR, Scott (Tracie) Russell of Kankakee, and Stuart Russell of Kankakee; four grandchildren, Jacob (Lindsay) LeCount, Trever LeCount, Courtnie Russell, and Taren Russell; four great-grandchildren, Jaxson, Dakota, Evelina, Penelope; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. In addition to his first wife, Shearon Schwab, John is preceded in death by his parents; one son-in-law, Larry Cheffer; and brothers, Melvin, Harold "Rusty", George, and James Russell.

Visitation will be held from 9 a.m. until the time of the 10:30 a.m. funeral Mass on Saturday, August 9, 2025 at St. Rose of Lima Chapel in Kankakee. Rev. Michael Powell will celebrate the Mass. Interment will follow at All Saints Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Uplifted Care (www.upliftedcare.org).

Arrangements by Schreffler Funeral Home in Kankakee.

Cemetery Details

All Saints Cemetery

1839 W. State Rte. 102
Bourbonnais, IL 60914

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 9. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church
486 W Merchant St.
Kankakee, IL

Funeral Mass

AUG 9. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church
486 W Merchant St.
Kankakee, IL

Tribute Wall

ES

“ Over the years I enjoyed the privilege of appearing in various courtroom roles where John was the assigned official court reporter. John’s professional demeanor and quiet patience, many times in the midst of heated argument, were his personal traits well-respected throughout the legal community. He was a quiet standout among the oftentimes unsung support personnel without whom the system simply wouldn’t work. With deepest sympathy, Ed Smith

Ed Smith - August 09, 2025 at 03:15 PM

KT

“ John started working at the courthouse shortly before I was hired and the two of us spent many years working together in Judge Dyer’s courtroom. John was such a kind, soft spoken guy and I enjoyed the years we spent together hearing all kinds of cases. He was very proud of his family and was always willing to offer a helping hand. My condolences to his family.
Kathy Thomas

Kathy Thomas - August 06, 2025 at 09:43 PM

DA

“ Uncle John, I’ll never forget how you helped me on my Bill of Rights project. I got an A because you took the time to go over each & every one with me & explain in detail what they meant.

Darren - August 04, 2025 at 09:01 AM

MM

“ *Mary Logullo-Moran And Bruce Moran lit a candle in memory of John R. Russell*



Mary Logullo-Moran and Bruce Moran - August 01, 2025 at 04:14 PM

JS

“ *Janice Shenk lit a candle in memory of John R. Russell*



Janice Shenk - July 31, 2025 at 09:16 PM