



John D. Story

May 16, 1934 - April 9, 2020

John D. Story Sr. 85, of Kankakee, went to be with the Lord after complications of congestive heart failure. John was born on May 16, 1934 in Black Oak, AR; the son of Samuel and Fannie (Hill) Story. John proudly served our country in the Navy from 1956-1960; during this time he married Sandra McCrary on July 12, 1959. John would go on to earn his Masters of Theology from Olivet Nazarene University; after completing his education John worked for many years as a minister in the Nazarene Faith. He was the full time pastor for Kempton Church of the Nazarene for 10 years, Kankakee Westbrook Church of the Nazarene for 5 years, Gilman First Church of the Nazarene for 19 years; and was employed by Olivet Nazarene University as the Director of Public Security from 1986-1996. John's strong faith led him to many witness trips around the world with the Church of the Nazarene traveling to Haiti, St. Lucia, Dominican Republic, Spain, Kenya, and Africa. He had a talent for upholstery which he started a side business for many years. He used his upholstery talents to spread God's word; handing out thousands of hand sewn hearts stamped with the words "God loves you/Kankakee, IL." Handing out hearts to everybody he met earned John the nickname "Heart Man." His hearts can be found all over the world in places like The Great Wall in China; Tokyo, Japan; and St. John, USVI. He also enjoyed photography and fishing.

John is survived by his wife of 60 years Sandra Story, his children John (Diane) Story Jr. of Indianapolis, and Tina (Bryan) Woodcock of Phoenix, 4

grandchildren: Taylor, Laura, Krystan, and Kaitlyn, a brother Samuel Lee Story of Orion, MI, as well as several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

John was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers James and Lloyd Story, and a sister Loretta Carlson.

John will be laid to rest at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL. A memorial gathering and celebration of life will be held at a later date after the covid-19 restrictions have been lifted

Cemetery Details

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

20953 W. Hoff Road
Elwood, IL 60421
(815) 423-9958
<http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/abrahamlincoln.asp>

Tribute Wall



“ *John D. Story*

February 03, 2023 at 04:30 AM



“ *Reverend Story was our pastor at Kempton Church of the Nazarene during my teenage years. He was always an inspiration. A kind and gentle man who always offered hope and encouragement. He set an example through words and deeds. My God bless and give comfort to his family.*

Mark Youngblood - August 16, 2020 at 12:29 PM



“ *I met John thru Paperback Reader. He loved his westerns. A very generous man with his time and his talents. He lived his faith everyday.*

Paula Goodwin - April 18, 2020 at 09:07 PM



“ *I was blessed to know John. He was my prayer warrior and showed up right at the exact time I needed prayers. No matter where we were at, he would pray for whatever was going on in my life. I always called him my prayer angel. I know he is going to be missed by so many people. He was loved by so many. My family's condolences to his family.*

Dee Bess - April 16, 2020 at 10:31 AM

TZ

“ He had given me a faith flower last year when i needed a little push, i thanked him and went on my way. I didn't know him except that he was emily's neighbor across the alley. I wish i had. When i read his obituary i realized what a full and wonderful life he had lived. Hoping that i have the grace and faith when my time is done to really meet him.

Thomas Zirkle - April 15, 2020 at 10:06 PM

BM

“ Sorry for your loss. He was a great man. I first met him in December of 2008 when I was working at Speedway in West Kankakee. He was a very kind a caring man. He never met a stranger. We would talk about anything and everything everyday when he would stop in. As time passed I changed jobs and still continued to see him almost daily and in October 2014 John officiated my wedding. I will be reminded of him and his story everyday he always paid it forward and handed out his homemade keychains, they are everywhere .

Bobbie Sue Morrow - April 15, 2020 at 08:24 PM

LB

“ John Store was a very kind man, He worked at Olivet with Larry and we got to know him from there. He was so special. He always had a kind word for everyone. He will be missed.

Larry and Cathy Breeck - April 15, 2020 at 08:14 PM

TS

“ So sorry to hear of your loss, especially during these trying times. Pastor Story was such a good man, especially toward my brother, Dan Butzirus, while Dan was growing up. Like a second dad. Rev. Story will be missed, but we will see him in Heaven.



Tammy Strachan - April 15, 2020 at 07:24 PM

KP

“ I send my deepest sympathy to Sandy and family. I have so many memories of John and I setting in his garage having great conversations over the years. John and I served in the Navy and we both served on a Aircraft Carrier in the Pacific. We sheared so many stories about our time in the Navy. John was a wonderful neighbor and had a hart of gold. I will miss my neighbor and friend. Kenneth Presley

Kenneth Presley - April 15, 2020 at 07:00 PM

WH

“ Rev Stiry was our pastor at Kempton Nazarene Church. He was a wonderful friend and man of God. He will be greatly missed! We are sending our thoughts and prayers for Sandy and the family. Andy & Wanda Holmgren

wanda holmgren - April 15, 2020 at 06:34 PM

NM

“ Rev. Story was a wonderful pastor who would do anything he could for you. He preached our moms funeral and it was such a blessing as he and Sandy was a close family friend to my sister and her family. Glenda Wells. So sorry to hear of this loss.

Nancy Money - April 15, 2020 at 06:21 PM

RM

“ Thoughts and prayers to Brother Story’s family. He and his family was such a big part of my childhood and he will not be forgotten.



Rebecca (Wells) Midkiff - April 15, 2020 at 05:41 PM

VC

“ My deepest sympathy to Sandra and the family. He was a wonderful man

Vicki Culkin - April 15, 2020 at 03:21 PM

SF

“ Mr. Story was our neighbor and a dear friend of my parent's when I was growing up. Countless times, I took a bike or ball down to him asking if, "Mr. Story could please give me some air." And every time he smiled and gave me a hug. He was one of the many neighborhood grandparents my sister and I were fortunate to grow up with and he will be greatly missed.

Sarah Faford-Johnson - April 15, 2020 at 02:48 PM

RK

“ Randy & RoseAnna Knickerbocker lit a candle in memory of John D. Story



Randy & RoseAnna Knickerbocker - April 15, 2020 at 02:23 PM

KA

“ I remember every time John visited us in the office at Sodexo he always left us smiling. Such a kind man. Glad that I had the pleasure of meeting him.

Kris Arthur - April 15, 2020 at 01:56 PM

SP

“ He was a long time patient and someone I considered to be a friend. I will miss his gentleness and wisdom. My prayers go out to Sandra and the family

Sharon Perkins - April 15, 2020 at 12:04 PM

CC

“ Carla Chase-Earles lit a candle in memory of John D. Story



Carla Chase-Earles - April 15, 2020 at 08:56 AM

TM

“ Pastor Story was the Minister present when my late parents, John & Hannah McNeil accepted Christ into their hearts. They had been invited to church by my mother's brother, Richard Taylor. Many others came to know Jesus because of Pastor Story. ❤️

Tim McNeil - April 14, 2020 at 08:10 AM

BL

“ *Many Years ago at the Gilman, IL Nazarene church i met John Story when dropping my daughters off at teen night each week. He would rush out to the van and give me a huge hug and instant friendship. I had never met such an open true Christian in my life when it came to just sharing so much love to everyone he met. My whole family became addicted to the church because of John and Sandy's warmth. We witnessed many blessings and miracles. You left a mark on this world....and all who ever met you.*



Barbara Lubben - April 14, 2020 at 12:27 AM

DW

“ *I have so many memories of John Story. One memory is of the many times he and my late husband Eldon White shared that John was Eldon's Sunday School teacher when John was an Olivet student and Eldon was 11 years old. John also gave me one of my earliest preaching assignments while I was still an Olivet student. He was director of Boys' Camp out at the campground in Aroma Park, and he asked me to be the speaker for the week. I preached, John gave the altar calls, and the Holy Spirit moved among the boys at that camp!*

Debora White - April 13, 2020 at 10:11 PM

RK

“ I remember him from high school when I went to the Nazarene church for youth group. When he said prayer over us he would get so emotional and filled with the Spirit and it showed so well in this man! He was like a grandpa to some of us and was always a great one to talk to if we needed someone who would listen. God was greatly manifested by the Spirit in him. Will definitely be missed. Warmest comfort to his wife and family and pastor at the Nazarene church. Heaven is rejoicing and welcoming him now. Love you in Christ!

Rachel (Benjamin) Koenig - April 13, 2020 at 09:58 PM

FP

“ I first met him when I joined the Nazarene I was sceptical at first but he made it so easy to get to know our lord he was the most kind hearted soul I ever came in contact with , it was such an honor to have met him and have him in our lives he will be forever loved and truly missed forever!

Felicity Pelton - April 13, 2020 at 09:41 PM

LM

“ Laura Mitchell lit a candle in memory of John D. Story



laura mitchell - April 13, 2020 at 09:35 PM

LM

pastor john story, was a really good person,,really a nice man,,and a good friend of my dads,,now they can hang out together in heaven,,,R.I.P. Pastor Story

laura mitchell - April 13, 2020 at 09:39 PM

S(

“ He was nicest person all the time, never cross and I enjoyed when he was the pastor at Westbrook. He gave my mom, my neice and myself a heart that he made when my dad passed away going on 3 years. Rest In Peace

Sue Dickson (Settle) - April 13, 2020 at 09:15 PM

LY

“ I have a lot of great memories of John when he coordinated the trips to Coal City (I believe) for Skate Night! Such fun we had!!!! And also when he worked security at the District Campground! He was definitely a man of God!!

Lynn Hanners Yates - April 13, 2020 at 06:43 PM