



John Johnsen

June 19, 1952 - March 1, 2015

On June 19th, 1952, the world was blessed with the most gentle, loving soul to walk this Earth.

Born to Lois and John Andrew Johnsen, Sr., John Johnsen, Jr., was a husband, father, brother, son, Papa and friend to so many.

Raised in Tiny Town, CO, John loved 4-H and rode his horse, Cassie everywhere. He enjoyed golf and photography; crafting beer and wine; and displaying his Christmas Villages every year. He liked Good & Plenty candy and collecting neck ties.

John was a Sheriff's Deputy for the Weld County Sheriff's Office from 1977 until 1991. He then became a UNC Police Officer from 1991 until the end of 2002 when he was forced into a medical retirement. On December 21, 2001, John married the love of his life, Dawn and at the same time, became Nikki's father. John and Dawn enjoyed traveling, camping, fishing and just spending time together. John liked to play Sudoku and solve crosswords. He read the newspaper (the printed version) every day and he worked and volunteered at Blevins Middle School impacting so many students all these 14 years. On July 17, 2012, John's destiny was truly realized when he became "Papa" to Rory Andrew Lyons. Rory loved his Papa and looked to him with everything he did.

John is survived by his wife, Dawn; daughter, Nikki (Sean) and grandson,

Rory Andrew Lyons; parents, Lois and John; sisters, Christie (Donald) Schaad, Terry (Randy Romanin and Elaine (Bill) Bills; along with so many other family members and friends who have become family... You will always be our Johnny.

John passed away unexpectedly on March 1, 2015 at home. For those who would like to celebrate John's life and the incredible person he was, a service will be held at 1:00 PM on Saturday, March 7th at Timberline Church. The reception location will be announced after the service. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made payable to the John Johnsen Memorial Fund at Security Service Federal Credit Union, 1025 E. Swallow Road, Fort Collins, CO 80525.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 7. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (MT)

Timberline Church - Fort Collins Main Campus
2908 S Timberline Road
Fort Collins, CO 80525

Tribute Wall



“ *John Johnsen*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *To the mountain family, the ones I knew so very long ago, I am deeply saddened to learn of John's passing. We were in horse 4-H together, he and Cassie kind of long and lankly, loping along, never seeming to be in a terrible rush. He had that goofy kind of sideways smile, and his hair looked like he'd just ridden for miles, which he had.*

I never remember him mad or mean. Just a good ol' country boy through and through.

I apologize for taking so long to write, but it's a hard thing, trying to think of the right words and not saying too many. I hope it is enough to know that he was always a favorite of mine, and many others too.

Wherever he is, I hope he's having fun, because he made plenty of it for others.

*With fond memories,
Meg*

Meg Moeller Worth - August 11, 2015 at 04:11 AM

MW

“ Dawn and Nikki and family,

Ron and I were so sorry to see that John had passed away! I was looking for your phone number to get a hold of you not long ago because we hadn't seen you for such a long time but that number was no longer in service, and then we noticed in Sunday's bulletin that John had died.

We are so sorry for your loss and want you to know we are praying for all of you at this difficult time.

We were in a Tables of 8 with you guys way before Nikki went to college at UW. We sure have fond memories of our times with you guys!

Love,

Marcie and Ron Woolworth

Marcie Woolworth - March 14, 2015 at 01:55 PM

PT

“ Dawn and family, I am so sorry to hear about John's passing. I met him through work in 1979, and worked with him for a few years. We would run into each other occasionally and it was always good to catch up. It seemed he had finally found where he belonged, with you and your family. My heart goes out to you for your loss.

Pam Teasdale

Pam Teasdale - March 06, 2015 at 02:19 PM

KA

“ Dawn and Nikki, my heart goes out to you both. John was always so great to my kids and he was loved by many. May you cherish the memories and big hugs to you both.

Dean, Karen, Andrew and Maddy Bennett

Karen - March 06, 2015 at 09:13 AM

RH

“ Dawn and family,
I was saddened to learn of John's passing. Please accept my sincerest condolences. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Rose Anne Von Hollen (Webber)

Rose Anne Von Hollen - March 05, 2015 at 06:42 PM

NC

“ Nate, Lynn, Grace, Allison and Kerri Carsrud purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Johnsen.



Nate, Lynn, Grace, Allison and Kerri Carsrud - March 05, 2015 at 03:35 PM

MG

“ John was a wonderful volunteer for Restorative Justice Services. He will be truly missed. I had many opportunities to work with John in RJ Conferences. He had a wonderful way of talking to the youth in the RJ program. When he spoke, people listened. He genuinely cared about the youth and the families we worked with.

I saw how much he loved Dawn, Nikki and Rory. His eyes would light up when he spoke about them. He was one of a kind. My thoughts and prayers go out to Dawn, Nikki, Rory and his family.

Mary-Claire Geiss - March 05, 2015 at 10:57 AM

GW

“ Dawn - We can't even begin to understand what you're going through right now. Our hearts go out to you and your family at this difficult time.

Greg With and Sally Knauer

Greg With - March 05, 2015 at 08:51 AM



“ A few years ago, Dawn, John, Phil, and I hiked to Gem Lake . . . a great day and a great hike. At one point, John arranged colorful autumn leaves in a little rivulet and took pictures . . . it was so pretty, I took pictures, too. Then we sat by the lake eating gorp with M&Ms (yum!) and enjoying the quiet beauty.

Later on, John stopped, pointed down the trail, and told me there was a rare and endangered animal right there on that log. I crept up on it, all excited and expectant . . . and this is what I saw!

Ever since, I take pictures of the endangered single mitten . . . which, believe it or not, is not rare at all.

Bye Son, I miss you.



Lynn Stockton - March 04, 2015 at 11:08 PM

MK

“ Dawn,
Darin and I wish we could be there to celebrate John's life with you!
John was such a wonderful man! We loved spending time with both
of you and just talking!! John always made me feel so welcome!!!
He will truly be missed!!! My heart goes out to you and Nikki!!!
Sending lots of love and hugs from Nebraska!!!
Monica Kauffman

monica kauffman - March 04, 2015 at 05:32 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Johnsen.*



March 04, 2015 at 11:34 AM



“ *John was an incredible joy in the lives of his family and friends. Nikki and Dawn are so special to myself and to my mom, and my heart aches for their loss. I wish I was able to attend the memorial, but I will be sending my loving and supportive thoughts! Much love always, Nikki #2.*

Nikki - March 04, 2015 at 08:55 AM

LM

“ I send my thoughts and prayers for Dawn, Nikki and their family. John will be truly missed but forever remembered for his great smile and caring compassion he shared with our youth in our community and their families. I have been blessed to have shared many RJ Conferences with John and his knowledge, dedication and passion to help support our youth and families came so natural. John was the person you wanted to be a part of our healing and accountability for the conferences that he was involved with. He brought incredible insights and always a willingness to listen. John was the smile in the halls or lunchroom at Blevins that would make your day. He truly cared about the students at Blevins and the entire staff. He took time to share stories about his family and the joy and love that they shared. His grandson Rory was such a gift for him and Dawn and you could see with both of them as a couple the love they have for family and our community. Thank You John for your willingness to always help out. You will be missed but never forgotten. God Blessings always. Linda Maher

Linda Maher - March 04, 2015 at 12:05 AM

NK

“ Sad to hear this news of Johns passing. What a good guy..sending prayers of comfort. Nomie ketterling

nomie ketterling - March 03, 2015 at 09:10 PM

KB

“ JJ was one of my firearms instructors when I went through the academy in 1994. I have the up most respect for him and his amazing wife. God Speed- we have the watch!

ken Balltrip - March 03, 2015 at 06:06 PM

BH

“ I can't think of a more caring and positive person than John. He loved all of the children at Blevins and made each one feel important. He did that with the adults as well. My heart and prayers go out to Dawn and all of John's family. He will be greatly missed.
Becky H

Becky Hauser - March 03, 2015 at 04:18 PM

Jl

“ Every time Dawn talks about her amazing husband her eyes twinkle and she smiles. I am so sorry for your loss but grateful for the time you had with such a wonderful person. My thoughts and prayers go out to you and yours. Love always! Jill

Jill - March 03, 2015 at 02:32 PM

“ *My son, Joshua and I, were very blessed to have known John.*

I want to share a couple of JJ stories that others will also remember. While John was kind, considerate & a wonderful man - he also had a very good sense of humor. One night after a softball game, several of us from the Sheriff's Office all went to have an adult beverage. We were in an old country bar with a country band playing. John was dancing with a chair & yelling for the band to sing 'Purple Rain' & explaining why a chair was a perfect date since you did not have to buy it any drinks & you could sit on it when you were done dancing!

Another time, several couples that would take turns hosting game nights at each others' homes, decided to attend a Halloween Party at the Eagles in LaSalle. John came dressed as a little old man. (He won first place by the way.) But he had a walker that he had attached a mirror to. This mirror faced upwards so he could follow girls around to be able to look up their skirts.

During one of our game nights, hosted by Jill & Mark Johnson (& no Mark & John really aren't brothers - despite John trying to convince every one otherwise) we were playing a bluffing game - most of John's bluffs began with, 'This is a small coastal bird....' none of which were true or accurate.

On Valentine's Day 2015, Mike & Theresa Ornelas, Kelly O'Brien, Dawn & John, Linda (Plante) & Darrell Perssons and myself shared dinner and many laughs remembering our Sheriff's Office days. We are so blessed that we were all gathered to have seen John. It was a very good time. It was fun to laugh so much with all the great memories.

Something that I took as a huge compliment, will always be with me now as a very fond memory. John was looking at Joshua's picture as a Marine. He made the statement, '& to think I held him as a baby & watched him grow up into a very handsome & good young man, I am so proud of him!'

*John, you made all of us happier & so blessed just knowing you!
Joshua & I will miss you so very much. Remember to hug your
loved ones every day! We love you guys Dawn!*

Leah Vanarsdall - March 03, 2015 at 02:19 PM

CS

“ *Chad And Tania Stender lit a candle in
memory of John Johnsen*



Chad and Tania Stender - March 03, 2015 at 02:07 PM

MG

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Mike Goecke - March 03, 2015 at 02:06 PM

MG

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Mike Goecke - March 03, 2015 at 02:05 PM

MG

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Mike Goecke - March 03, 2015 at 02:03 PM

MG

“ I was fortunate to know John both as a law enforcement partner and close friend. I worked with him at the Weld County Sheriff's Office and also at the University of Northern Colorado Police Department. I was also the best man when Dawn and John were married.

John was the type of officer who was always there when you needed him. While at the UNCPD in 1996 we were both involved in a case involving an armed suspect who had just killed his three roommates in southern Colorado and then came to UNC where he confronted several girls in their residence hall, shooting one of them. John and I were the first officers on the scene and confronted the suspect. We contained the suspect in one of the residence hall rooms where he was holding the girls. We kept him pinned in the room until backup and SWAT arrived. The suspect was eventually killed by a SWAT sniper and all of the girls were released safely.

John and I were later awarded the Medal of Honor. Although we were close before this case, events of that day made us even closer. Even though our friendship continued and we kept in contact throughout the year, we made it a special point to contact each other on the anniversary date of that case every year to touch base and to make sure we were still doing OK.

John also really liked kids. He was a juvenile officer at the sheriff's office and worked in the school system in Ft. Collins. One of the best pictures I have of John is of him holding my daughter, Michaela when I took her to a Christmas party when she was a baby at UNC about 19 years ago. He was a natural with kids. One of the happiest times of his life was when he became a grandfather. Everytime we talked he would brag about his latest grandfathering experiences.

The news of John's passing has been a sad shock to many and like most of you, I am having a hard time processing it. I will always remember him as a true friend who always gave more than what he asked for in return.

My wife, Pat and our family will be keeping Dawn, Nikki, and the rest of John's family in our thoughts and prayers.

*Mike Goecke
Johnstown, Colorado*

Mike Goecke - March 03, 2015 at 12:29 PM

CM

“ *Chrissy McCollom lit a candle in memory of John Johnsen*



Chrissy McCollom - March 03, 2015 at 10:57 AM

PC

I was blessed to have Johnny and Dawn as next door neighbors for 9 years. I loved watching the two of them together sharing chores, yard work, walking their pups, and just enjoying each others company. Johnny was a huge help to me, one time I had to interrupt their dinner party to help me get my husband, who has MS. He had gotten in the tub and I could not get him out. Johnny and a friend came over, got him out, dried him off and got him into bed, just like it was a request made all the time. He tilled my garden twice a year, among other wonderful things he did for us. We spent a lot of time "chatting over the fence". I missed them both like crazy when they moved! Dawn, you truly were the love of his life, when ever we talked he was always saying "Dawn and I ", I know you and your family must be broken hearted and I am so very sorry for your loss!

Pamela Chance - March 05, 2015 at 08:08 AM

TR

I worked with John on many Restorative Justice cases! John was one of my favorite go to community members. He had such a heart for kids. He was one of those gifted people who could really hold someone accountable with his mindful (sometimes painfully direct) comments, low steady tone and sweet presence. His sincere concern for each young offender was obvious and usually set the tone for other participants in the circle. My heart goes out to Dawn and his family, you are in my prayers as you move forward and deal with the void he has left in your lives. I am deeply saddened and sincerely sorry for your loss! John, I will miss working with you and our community has lost a great partner! Tammy Reck

Tammy Reck - March 05, 2015 at 01:32 PM