



John Henry Kleffner

May 15, 1930 - August 21, 2021

KLEFFNER, John Henry

Age 91. John was called home to join the God he so faithfully believed in on August 21, 2021, surrounded by his children and loving companion at home in Helotes. John was born in Howells, NE on May 15, 1930. He graduated from Conception High School in 1948 and studied 4 more years at Conception College, then spent a year at St. Paul's Seminary in Minnesota. He served in the Army for 2 years. John attended Creighton University where he earned his BA in Education in 1957 and his MS in History in 1959. It was at Creighton where he met his first wife, Mary Ann Janda, studying German in the library.

John began his educational career at Papillion High School. He accepted a position in Oklahoma City to be the Vice-Superintendent of Catholic schools and then served as Superintendent. While in Oklahoma, John earned an Ed.D. in Education at the University of Oklahoma. An opportunity at Our Lady of the Lake University took John and the family to San Antonio in 1970, where he very happily lived, without ever having to pick up a snow shovel again. He took a position at the UT Dental school in 1973 and for many years thrived on his work, writing, and delivering workshops to teach clinicians how to be effective instructors.

John loved being an incarnate soul on this earth. He lived life enthusiastically with a joyful, grateful heart. He loved his family, loved to read and learn, loved to visit with people and always said, "God has been so good to me." He loved

being surrounded by his kids and grandkids. He enjoyed family celebrations and appreciated the many birthday dinners with delicious meals, always recognizing the gift of family and God's many blessings.

John prayed for his family and the world daily and lived a life of service. John was also a devoted volunteer. He volunteered for 26 years at Christus Hospice, both sitting with patients so they would not be alone, and then helping as an office volunteer. He was a volunteer with St Vincent De Paul for 17 years, also serving as the president. He organized the collection of food and delivery of Thanksgiving hampers for several years, always with great efficiency and compassion.

Before John retired in 1999, he and his wife Jerry began taking two months off for the summer and would travel north in their trailer. The first summer they went to Alaska, and they went to the US northwest, the east coast, the Atlantic provinces of Canada, and to Calgary. They soon decided that full time retirement and being unconstrained with their travel was even better, and their summer adventures extended into the fall. After Jerry died John sold the trailer, bought a smaller one, and for 10 years made an annual pilgrimage that included about 4 weeks in Nebraska visiting siblings, nieces and nephews, and 4 weeks in Calgary visiting his daughter Anne and many friends that he made. He was known for his pies, his bread, and always being an interesting conversationalist, who was interested in what everyone had to say.

John is survived by his children, Eileen, Theresa Funari, Daniel, Anne, and Chris, his grandchildren, Ashli Funari, Kellie, Cory and Maggie Martin, Robert Sinfield, Carson, Madeline and Reagan Kleffner, great-granddaughter Addison Funari, brother Don Kleffner (Janelle), sister Lavina Mestl (Eugene), loving companion Barbara Bauml, and will be missed by many nieces, nephews, and friends. John was preceded in death by his parents, Margaret and Leo Kleffner, and his siblings Stan Kleffner, Mildred Knobbe and Catherine Meister, and his wife, Colleen J. Kleffner.

Visitation is at 6:00 PM on September 2, with rosary at 7:00 PM, at Mission

Park Funeral Home, 3401 Cherry Ridge. Funeral mass is on September 3 at 11:00 AM at Our Lady of Guadalupe, 13715 Riggs Rd, Helotes, with burial to follow at Helotes Catholic Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Christus Hospice <https://www.hospicewepromise.com/> or Catholic Charities <https://ccaosa.org/donate/>.

Advice for living

Learn

Work hard

Be kind and help others

Tribute Wall



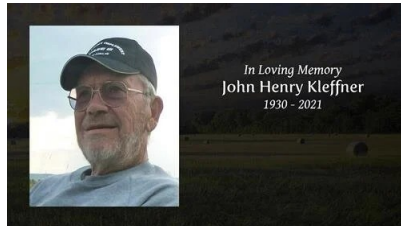
“ *Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemeteries created a Webcast in memory of John Henry Kleffner*



Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery - September 02, 2021 at 07:43 PM



“ *Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemeteries created a Tribute Video in memory of John Henry Kleffner*



Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery - September 02, 2021 at 08:12 AM

VS

To the Kleffner Family -

So sorry to hear about John's passing. I worked with him at the UTHSCSA Dental School and always enjoyed our interactions. When visiting his office, he always came from behind the desk to sit and talk, acting as if he had all the time in the world (I knew he was busy). I admired his enthusiasm for every activity he was a part of, and his efforts were admired by all. He was a real gentleman and a true professional!

Victor Sandoval - September 09, 2021 at 02:36 PM

AH

“ To my favorite republican, the memories and the conversations we shared will always bring a smile. You will be missed. ~ Alaska Ani

Ani Haubner - September 02, 2021 at 09:24 PM

KB

“ John was "one of a kind" in a most awesome way. We enjoyed spending time with him when he visited Anne, and we shared many spiritual conversations and good meals together. Every time I eat a piece of blueberry pie, I think of John. He made the best pies and when he came to visit us, you can always be sure that John would bring along one of his pies to add to the dinner menu . I specifically remember the time when he came to our house to show me how to make his blueberry pie; this includes the homemade crust. I have to say, that to this point, I cannot even come close to making a pie that tastes like John's famous pies. The whole afternoon of fellowship with John and pie making was wonderful! John will never be forgotten at our house! Love Karen & Gary

Karen Boland - September 02, 2021 at 04:29 PM

AK

Dear Karen and Gary - thank you for sharing your beautiful memories of dad. He loved spending time with you!!

Anne Kleffner - September 05, 2021 at 11:37 AM

LS

“ I enjoyed working with John at the Health Science Center and learned so much from him about how to be an effective teacher. He was a font of knowledge & example. He was a big part of my successful academic career. He was a kind man who cared for his fellow man. So glad I knew him.
Linda A. Smith

Linda A Smith - September 02, 2021 at 01:35 PM

AK

Thank you Linda for sharing your memories of dad.

Anne Kleffner - September 02, 2021 at 02:45 PM

KM

“ *John was such a great man... we used to work together at the UTHSCSA... such a kind person. John and I would sit next to each other at mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe church... he was so knowledgeable and he was such a interesting person with his Faith. Rest In Peace. May perpetual light of Jesus shine upon him and grant him eternal rest. Our Lady of Guadalupe... pray for us. Amen.*
❤️🙏🌹 *He will be missed.*
Paul and Kathy Moreno
Our deepest condolences ❤️

Kathy and Paul Moreno - September 02, 2021 at 11:29 AM

AK

“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



Anne Kleffner - September 01, 2021 at 03:12 PM

OA

“ John will be greatly missed. He was a true servant of Christ, and always a friend to many. We knew John through Bible Study, and my husband even had him as his instructor at OLLU. He invited me to join Christus Hospice, as they needed Spanish speakers. He was so gracious to display a reflection that I wrote for Gerry after her death. He showed me how he had placed it on the mantle. He was so kind and humble, and always made one feel important. Our sincere condolences to the entire family,
Olivia & Louis Alvarado 🙏



Olivia Alvarado - August 30, 2021 at 03:12 PM

AK

Olivia - thank you for your kind words about dad. We appreciate hearing these stories.

Anne Kleffner - September 01, 2021 at 03:07 PM

MM

Where do I begin...Mr. Kleffner was such an incredible man! I had the pleasure of meeting him through my longtime, dear friend, Eileen. I always looked forward to my San Antonio visits to not only visit with Eileen but to the conversations with Mr. Kleffner sitting in the kitchen. As a fellow academic faculty member, he would always ask about my professional endeavors and I always looked forward to his words of wisdom and support. He will be greatly missed but his spirit lives on in his family and everyone that was blessed to have known Mr. Kleffner!
Margo

Margo Melchor - September 03, 2021 at 11:28 AM