



John (Johnny Claire) Kunkle

September 19, 1953 - April 30, 2023

John (Johnny Claire) Kunkle passed away April 30, after a brief illness with his children surrounding him. John was born September 19, 1953 to Claire & Betty Kunkle in Freeport. He graduated from Rockford East High School, Class of 1971 and attended Rock Valley College. John worked in his earlier years as an auto mechanic and later as a local truck driver, finishing his career with YRC. John was a talented athlete in baseball while an E-RAB; eventually earning a pitching tryout in the minor leagues. He later enjoyed slow pitch softball, bowling (once bowled a 300) and eventually found his decades long passion for golf. He greatly enjoyed going on cruises, driving his latest Corvette, keeping up with his favorite shows (especially The Three Stooges and Judge Judy) and following the Ice Hogs & NASCAR. Survivors include daughter; Miranda (Jason) Kenyon; sons, Adam Kunkle and Dan (Dana) Kunkle; grandchildren, Tyler & Hayley Kenyon and Milana & Archie Kunkle; sister, Kathie (Chris) Gossett; nephews, Chad (Jenna)Trank and Matthew Plomos; and his "favorite child" Jake the 30 lb cat. Predeceased by his parents. The family wishes to thank Serenity Hospice and Home in Oregon for their care for John in his final days. Memorial Open House Saturday, May 6, 2023 from 2 pm to 5 pm at Grace Funeral & Cremation Services, 4301 N. Main St. Rockford. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Serenity Hospice and Home in John's memory, 1658 IL 2; Oregon, IL 61061. Share a memory or condolence at www.graceFH.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Open House

MAY 6. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Grace Funeral & Cremation Services
4301 N. Main St.
Rockford, IL 61103

Tribute Wall



“ Grace Funeral & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of John (Johnny Claire) Kunkle



Grace Funeral & Cremation Services - May 10, 2023 at 11:20 PM

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“ I know my dad will never forget the decades of golf he played with his best friend. We are all so sad that this beautiful soul was taken away too soon and he will be greatly missed. We are all thinking of you. Heather (Ludlum) Alvarado

Heather Alvarado - May 03, 2023 at 08:17 PM

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“ We worked together for over 25 years and kept on touch all the time John would help me with cruise 🚢 questions and my retirement questions no what time or day I will miss him

steve j Cabrera - May 03, 2023 at 12:53 PM