



John Adam Oellerich

April 16, 1936 - May 23, 2025

John Oellerich, 89, of Burnsville, Minnesota, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family, on May 23, 2025. A devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, John's soft-spoken, logical, and thoughtful nature touched everyone he met. Born on April 16, 1936, in Appleton, Wisconsin, to John and Katherine Oellerich (Kromm). John grew up with a strong sense of integrity, ethics, and morals, that guided him throughout his life. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering in 1965 while working two jobs and fathering 4 children. After moving to Minnesota, a 5th child was added to complete the family. His personal motto: "God first, then family, then hard work, then fun."

He married his beloved wife, Sharon Brandenburg on August 30, 1957. Together, they shared a happy life raising five children. Their life together was filled with adventures and special drives to new places. He loved golfing, fishing, bicycling, restoring antique outboard motors and reading. John's inventive spirit and quiet wisdom earned him deep respect among family and friends.

John is survived by his wife, Sharon, of Burnsville, Minnesota; his children, Laurie (Mike Vork) of Clearwater, Florida, Daniel (Nancy Oellerich) of Aiken,

South Carolina, Lisa (Brian Kuznia) of Rosemount, Minnesota, Julianne (Dean Lichty) of Eden Prairie, Minnesota, and Claudine (John Moon) of Saint Paul, Minnesota; his grandchildren, Erika Winning of Baltimore, Maryland, John (Lauren Kuznia) of Somerset, Wisconsin, Monika Kuznia of Rosemount, Minnesota, Erin (Chase Drill) of Graham, North Carolina, and Kate Oellerich of Aiken, South Carolina; his great-grandchildren, Ruth and Oliver Kuznia; his sister-in-law, Dana (Ray Norville) of Arkansas; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Katherine Oellerich, his brother Robert Oellerich, brother-in-law and sister-in-law John and Dale Van Alstyne, numerous aunts, uncles, two nephews and cousins. John's memory will live on through the love and values he instilled in his family, friends and community.

A visitation will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 29, 2025, at Grace Church in Eden Prairie, followed by a memorial service at 11 a.m., a reception at noon, with burial at 2 p.m. at Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Tom Kromm, Dennis Kromm, Randy VanAlstyne, Jeff Horvath, and John Kuznia and Eric Spieler.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorials to be sent to Wounded Warriors Project or to Grace Church Memorial fund.

Cemetery Details

Pleasant Hill Cemetery (EP)

12390 Pioneer Trail
Eden Prairie, MN 55347

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 29. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Grace Church (Eden Prairie)
9301 Eden Prairie Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55347

Funeral Service

MAY 29. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Grace Church (Eden Prairie)
9301 Eden Prairie Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55347

Graveside Service

MAY 29. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

Pleasant Hill Cemetery (EP)
12390 Pioneer Trail
Eden Prairie, MN 55347

Tribute Wall

SA

“ I will never forget Uncle John’s action on the night of my dad’s funeral, after the funeral service. My family and I had arrived in town just in time for the viewing and the immediately-following service, and we were “booked” to stay at the family hiuse with my mother; Sis and Uncle John were there, too. After we’d gotten the kids tucked into bed, we adults relaxed downstairs in the living room, reminiscing about events in Dad’s life. At one point, Uncle John came in from the kitchen carrying one of my dad’s screwdrivers, which he had found in Dad’s basement workshop. He had been working on the door latch of the door between the kitchen and the stairs to the basement, and he was coming to announce that the latch was fixed, and to ask if there were any other repairs that needed to be made. At that moment, the thought struck me that he was my dad’s clone; had the whole situation been reversed, my dad would have done the exact same thing. 😍

Scott M. Van Alstyne - May 29, 2025 at 09:35 AM

JH

“ I’ll always remember John as “being there” for his family, regardless of where or what “there” was or meant. John took care of changing door locks when his sister-in-law’s husband passed away to ensure her safety, provided a family-away-from home for our oldest son when he struck out on his own after college, and John took the “side trip” to the Chicago area to celebrate birthdays with his niece, Jennifer. John demonstrated the importance of family by “being there” for family!

Jeff Horvath - May 28, 2025 at 07:30 PM

JH

“ Uncle John prioritized family, happily making the long out-of-state trips for every family event. It was extra special that he came all the way to the Chicago area for my surprise birthday bash in 2021. As a kid, I remember him just being so kind. He always engaged me in conversation, making me feel like I mattered.

In 2011, when Trey was preparing to move to Minneapolis, Uncle John made the time for us, opening their home and serving as our "tour guide" to familiarize Trey with the city, giving fatherly advice along the way.

While living there, the Oellerich home was Trey's "home away from home", as the whole family included him in their holiday gatherings. It gave us great peace to know that Unc was just a phone call away, should Trey have any issues.

Uncle John showed great love to family, in his quiet way.
He will be greatly missed!

Jennifer Horvath - May 28, 2025 at 12:02 PM

TL

“ A very kind and loving man who will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

Trisha Lichty - May 26, 2025 at 07:38 PM

WD

“ With much love, Bobbi and Dave Decker planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Adam Oellerich.

With much love, Bobbi and Dave Decker - May 26, 2025 at 10:38 AM

WD

“ *With much love, Bobbi and Dave Decker purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Adam Oellerich.*



With much love, Bobbi and Dave Decker - May 26, 2025 at
10:38 AM

SA

“ I only heard Uncle John raise his voice one time in my life. It was when I was 14, my brother and I had spent a week visiting and hanging out with our cousin, Dan at the very end of the summer, just before a new school year started. Uncle John took the three of us to a place along the St. Croix River to go boating in his speedboat. Once we got going on the river he gave each of us boys a turn driving the boat. We had spent much time before that day talking about cruising through choppy water and feeling the boat rock to and fro in the waves.

Well that day, during a time when I was at the wheel, a large tug boat came down the river, pushing a barge. I immediately noticed that the tug was creating a sizeable wake as it chugged down the river, so I decided that here was our chance to get some real rocky riding. I turned the boat square into the tug’s wake, and pushed the throttle to full speed. As we approached the wave, Uncle John, in his typical mild-mannered voice, said, “Slow down.” In response, I pulled back slightly on the throttle (to about 2/3-speed) as we continued straight toward the “monster” wave. In another couple of seconds the bow of the boat was beginning to ride up onto the swell and we were still going pretty fast. At that moment, Uncle John yelled, “Slow down!” At that very moment, though, the boat was completely airborne. A second later we hit the surface in the middle of the tug’s wake, and I pulled back on the throttle, slowing us to a crawl.

That was the only time I ever heard him, or knew of him, to raise his voice above his quiet, mild-mannered tone.

Scott M. Van Alstyne - May 25, 2025 at 11:50 PM