



John Joseph Wolkerstorfer

December 14, 1942 - July 20, 2025

John Joseph Wolkerstorfer, a nearly 60-year resident of Coon Rapids, MN, passed away at home on July 20, 2025 following a sudden and brief illness, surrounded by his family. He was born in St. Paul, MN on December 14, 1942 to Jeanne and Ted Wolkerstorfer, and was a proud graduate of Cathedral of St. Paul Catholic School, Cretin High School (Class of 1960) and St. John's University (Class of 1964). He met his wife Marilyn during the first week of their senior year at St. John's and St. Ben's, and were married at the Cathedral Church in Crookston, MN on April 24, 1965, and joyfully celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this spring. John spent his 35-year career at Unisys, where he made many lifelong friends and retired in 2000. In retirement, he was able to enjoy travels with Marilyn and his family and friends. Most enjoyed were European Viking River cruises and time spent at his daughter's and his friends' lake homes in northwest Wisconsin. John was known for his good humor and laugh, with a smile and a knowing twinkle in his eyes. He was a loving husband, dad and grandfather, who always showed up in just the right way. He was a man of deep faith, and he demonstrated generosity to his family and to many non-profit organizations. He was a passionate Democrat, and an avid Sudoku and cribbage player. He was a voracious reader and life-long learner. He enjoyed golf and tennis, camping and canoeing trips in the Boundary Waters, and volunteering throughout his life. After joining the Church of the Epiphany in Coon Rapids in 1965, he and Marilyn were active in the church community, including through singing in the

funeral schola for many years.

John is survived by his wife Marilyn, his daughters Beth Hommes, Susan (Joe) Hommes, and son John (Shannon) Wolkerstorfer, and his six grandsons Beau (Katy), Michael (Hannah), Peter, Sam, David and Martin, and three great-grandchildren Henry, Kit and Ben. Also survived by his sister Marree Boland, brother-in-law Don (Carol) Pink, sister-in-law Meredith Wolkerstorfer, and many other beloved family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his brother Ted and son-in-law Jeff Hommes.

Celebration of John's life will take place on Wednesday, July 30th from 4:00 - 7:00 PM at Washburn McReavy Coon Rapids Chapel (1827 Coon Rapids Blvd. Coon Rapids, MN 55433) and Mass of Christian Burial at the Church of the Epiphany (1900 111th Ave NW Coon Rapids, MN 55433) at 10:30 AM on Thursday, July 31st, with one hour of visitation prior to Mass, and luncheon to follow at church. In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to St. John's University, Collegeville, MN for the Class of 1964 Scholarship or Cretin-Derham Hall, St. Paul, MN for the Cretin Class of 1960 Scholarship Endowment.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 30. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Coon Rapids Chapel
1827 Coon Rapids Blvd.
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Visitation

JUL 31. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Church of the Epiphany (Coon Rapids)
11001 Hanson Boulevard Northwest
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 31. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Church of the Epiphany (Coon Rapids)
11001 Hanson Boulevard Northwest
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Tribute Wall

TM

“ Having lived in the same neighborhood for decades it has not been until the last several years John, myself and our lovely brides all became friends as we would sit on the patio at their corner house and share stories, talk politics, religion and of course the weather along with many other topics. We all enjoyed each other’s company so much that as we would drive around the corner we would look to see John and Maryln were outside and stop in or if we did not stop as we drove by John and Maryln would say you drove by yesterday and did not stop. We shared many laughs as one of us would have a funny story and John had many of them. John you will be missed but your legacy will continue in the many lives you touched. Our thoughts and prayers to the entire family and John’s many friends.
Love, Tom and Joni Miller

Tom Miller - July 27, 2025 at 09:53 AM

BS

“ John discovered the Selim Center for Lifelong Learning at the University of St. Thomas shortly after he retired. He has been a regular student there for the past 25 years. In fact, he might hold the record for having taken the most classes in the center’s 52 year history. He never let us forget that he was a Johnnie, bringing his joyful presence to St. Thomas. We will miss his smiling face and thoughtful questions, especially about St. Paul history. May he rest in peace.
Bob Shoemake, recently retired director of the Selim Center.

Bob Shoemake - July 26, 2025 at 06:41 PM

DJ

“ John and I always had a great phone chat waiting for Marilyn to walk into the door from her long walk or bike ride. Marilyn and I have been blood sisters since adolescence. My deepest condolences to the family and friends. John was such a good man and I loved him like a brother. Dottie Gagner/Dorothy Jardin

Dorothy Jardin - July 26, 2025 at 05:39 PM