



## Lonnie Charles John

March 4, 1949 - November 10, 2023

Lonnie Charles John at the age of 74, passed away peacefully on Friday, November 10, 2023 at the Nebraska VA Hospital in Grand Island, NE, surrounded by his family after an 18-year fearless and courageous battle with cancer. Lonnie's wishes were for cremation. All Faiths Funeral Home is assisting the family. The family wishes to thank Dr. King and the third-floor staff at the VA Hospital, for their kindness and care during our last moments with Lonnie. A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, November 17, 2023, from 2-4pm, at the United Veterans Club in the Liberty Room on Capital Ave. The Celebration will kick off with Military Honors at 2 pm. Dress casual but remember Lonnie's dress code – sweats, t-shirts, and flannel shirts.

Lonnie was born March 4, 1949, in a farm house in Valley County Nebraska to Lumir and Ruby (Layher) John.

After graduating from Ord High School, he started working at Sperry New Holland which lasted 34 years until his retirement.

He was drafted into the Marine Corps in April of 1969, serving a tour of duty in Vietnam, and honorably discharged on December of 1970.

Three months after returning home, Lonnie married his senior prom date and the love of his life, Connie L. Wajda, in Ord, NE. Lonnie always said he'd pluck her out of the hills in Valley County. To this wonderful union their daughter Erin Lou and son Adam Charles, joined them in their ventures through life.

Lonnie was a great father, coaching his kids in all sports on the field and in the stands. The John's house, was the gathering place for the neighborhood kids

because Lonnie was a player as well as a coach.

After retirement, he was an all-weather walker with his four-legged companion, Lexi. "Papa" was also a full-time chauffer on-call to help with his eight granddaughters. His greatest joy was cheering for his granddaughters at dance recitals and sporting events. Lonnie and Connie Shared a life time of family and friends and memories traveling, camping, and riding ATV's.

Lonnie was a member of the Grand Island United Veterans Club and the Saddle Club.

He is survived by Connie, his wife of 52 married years; daughter Erin (Chad) Ackerson and their daughters, Emily, Rylee, and Payton all of Clarks, NE; son Adam (Jolene) John and their daughters, Maly, Lauryn, Annaston, Maddi, and Ellie all of Kearney, NE; mother-in-law, Vivian Wajda of Grand Island; sister, Lana (Larry) Blair of Shreveport, LA; brothers, Gordie (Linda) John of Brady, NE, and Danny (Jennifer) John of Sun Valley, AZ; sister-in-law, Rowena Wajda of Elba, NE; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Lonnie never met a stranger and would always talk to anyone.

Lonnie was preceded in death by his parents; father-in-law, Louie Wajda; brother-in-law, Larry Wajda; nephew, Eric John; and some close friends of the "basement boys."

In honor of his love for his granddaughters, and in lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to St. Jude Children's Hospital to fight childhood cancers.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Gathering

NOV 17. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

United Veterans Club  
1914 W. Capital Ave  
Grand Island, NE 68803

# Tribute Wall

CF

“ Charles Fox would like to give condolences to his lovely family. I wanted to be there on Friday & was absent minded' I have felt badly the joy of being there and seeing the family would have been a treasure for both me & my sisters Judy & Janet- love & good wishes from Charlie & Mary.

---

**Charles Fox** - November 21, 2023 at 11:11 AM

HC

“ Connie and family,  
  
I ran across Lonnie's obit by chance and wanted to send my heartfelt condolences to you, your kids and grandkids. Although it's been many years since I left GI and we lost contact, I can still see Lonnie's mischievous smile and hear his infectious laughter. I also remember how he used to clean me out at poker : )

*Lonnie was certainly one of the good ones!*

*Blessings to you and your family at this difficult time.*

*Bill Carter*

---

**Hurley Carter** - November 19, 2023 at 03:03 PM

ML

“ Miner Ltd. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lonnie Charles John.

---

**Miner Ltd.** - November 16, 2023 at 09:14 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Lonnie Charles John.*



---

November 16, 2023 at 09:14 AM



“ *Connie-my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. I am so sorry. Marv and I were blessed to have known Lonnie and you and had some fun times. Lonnie and Marv are together again.*

---

**Sharon Van Dyke** - November 14, 2023 at 11:44 AM



“ *Oh Connie, I am so sorry to read of Lonnie's passing. I know you both lived life to the fullest and I'm so happy you had many fun filled years in retirement--traveling and grandparenting. Please know my heart goes out to you. Wishing you and your family comfort and peace! Jacalyn Ayoub*

---

**Jacalyn Ayoub** - November 14, 2023 at 10:26 AM



“ *Rowena posted this on Facebook. I'm so sorry to hear about your loss.*

---

**Debra Mathewson** - November 13, 2023 at 02:01 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lonnie Charles John.*



---

November 12, 2023 at 01:11 AM



“ *Connie, Erin, Adam and girls,  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time. He will be missed.*

---

**Meg Moellenberndt-Trout** - November 11, 2023 at 07:08 PM



“ *A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Lonnie Charles John.*

---

November 11, 2023 at 11:40 AM



“ *Lonnie's joy for him & his family was the loup river. He spent much of his time enjoying the resort on the loup river near Genoa - every summer him and his family would return to the resort family and ride the sands, water, trails. He will be riding now on his new trails . Prayers to Connie & family - great memories and great laughs & rides*

---

**Monty Walker** - November 11, 2023 at 11:36 AM



*He grew up close to where I lived in Ord, close to the Fair Grounds !  
Always liked him !*

---

**Steven Turek** - November 12, 2023 at 09:37 AM

GF

*Lonnie always had a smile and a kind word for everyone he met. He had an upbeat and positive demeanor. He loved his family and laughed often. We can all learn from his example in the way he lived his life. We loved him and will miss him.*

**Gary Goldfish & Family** - November 12, 2023 at 10:22 AM

GJ

*My big brother,,, always there, always positive,,, always supportive! The most admirable thing about Lonnie, in my opinion, was his love, respect and admiration for Connie, he told me several times he would never make it without her. What a wonderful life they had together! RIP my brother!  
Love You Always!*

**Gordie John** - November 13, 2023 at 11:00 PM

LB

*I'm late in sending these thoughts but I think of my brother every day. He loved his family SO much and was devoted to Connie, the love of his life. My heart still aches for him; I'm is him so much.*

**Lana Blair** - April 01, 2024 at 02:39 PM

SG

*Connie and family. I just heard of Lonnie's passing. I now have no doubt that when I hear the rolling thunder, it is Lonnie, Uncle Benjie, my Dad (Leonard L John~'Uncle Pete') and my Mom (Kaye) playing cards and laughing heartily! My prayers with you all, and have proudly made a donation in Lonnie's honor. My folks loved you all deeply and I thank you for your love in their lives as well. We decorate all the "Johns" graves every Decoration Day in Ord. Love to you all. Sheri (Sheri Lyn John) & Greg Gillham, Gretna, NE*

**Sheri Lyn Gillham** - August 31, 2024 at 03:38 PM