

John Craig Kirby

November 14, 1949 - April 21, 2017

John Craig Kirby, age 67, graduated from this life's experience on April 21, 2017 in Provo, Utah from complications of liver failure. He was born November 14, 1949 in Blackfoot, Idaho to James and Julia Kirby. He married Susan Finnigan on December 23, 1971 in the Idaho Falls LDS Temple. Together they have 4 children and 14 grandchildren. From 2009-2013, he was married to Annette Taylor. For the last 3 years of his life he was lovingly cared for by Susan and their children.

John had a wonderful childhood shared with his two older brothers, Jim and Joe. Delivering the Blackfoot News for many years, he served and knew many residents. He played baseball, football and basketball. Being 6'7" tall, he was a natural for captain of the Blackfoot High basketball team. One of his favorite songs was Big John and he enthusiastically adopted this nickname.

After graduating from high school, he served an LDS mission in the Dallas/Fort Worth Mission making lasting friendships. He loved his mission president, Carlos Asay, and brought home a 10-gallon hat and cowboy boots. He was part Texan from then on.

John served his country and was first stationed at Little Rock Air Force Base in Arkansas. During the end of the Vietnam War, he was stationed at Pusan Air Base in Korea.

After returning from war, he attended and graduated from BYU with a degree in business management.

John was a real estate broker for many years in the Provo/Orem area. For 4 years he and his family moved to Toronto, Canada where he was employed by Computerland Canada. In his later years, he drove for UTA between Orem and Salt Lake.

John loved gardening and growing fruit trees. He was always ordering plants and trees and fun gadgets to use. He shared his love and skill of gardening with his children and grandchildren. They will all remember his green thumb and the way he enthusiastically shared the fruits of his labors.

His Santa parties at Christmas were a favorite with the grandchildren. They looked forward to these each December and he came up with the most unique gifts for each of them.

John was an active member of the LDS Church and served as athletic director, elders quorum president, Sunday School president and counselor in two bishoprics.

Survived by Susan Finnigan Kirby, Children: Rebecca Nielsen of Orem, Kimberly (Jared) Spataro of Seattle, Trent (Misty) Kirby of Hurricane, and Taylor (Rachel) Kirby of Orem. He loved his 14 grandchildren and they will always remember his \$2 birthday bills: Drew, Jacob, Aubrey, Aaron, Matt, Taylor, Megan, Sam, Kennadi, Preslie, Wes, Eden, Eliza and Jack. His two brothers, Jim and Joe live in North Dakota and Mapleton, respectively. He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Julia Kirby and son-in-law, Dr. Gregory Nielsen.

The funeral will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2017 at the LDS chapel located at 1200 E 600 N, Orem. A viewing from 9:30 to 10:30 will be followed by family prayer at 10:30. The service will begin at 11:00. Burial will take place at the Orem City Cemetery with Military Honors at 12:30.

The family wishes to thank the health care professionals who looked after him so well these past 18 months: Horizon Home Health (Von, Vic and Kylie), Stonehenge of Orem, Legacy Village and Utah Valley Hospital.

Please share memories and condolences at www.serenityfhs.com

Previous Events

Viewing

APR 29. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (MT)

LDS Church
1200 E 600 N
Orem, UT

Funeral Service

APR 29. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (MT)

LDS Church
1200 E 600 N
Orem, UT

Graveside Service

APR 29. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM (MT)

Orem City Cemetery
1520 N 800 E
Orem, UT

Tribute Wall



“ *John Craig Kirby*

October 05, 2023 at 07:49 PM



“ *John was a great realtor - business partner who got me off to a great start. I just learned of his passing as I attempted to reach out to him to say hi. He was a great man who really benefitted me. Thanks so much John. I'd really love to say hi to Sue. Larry Ruff
801 376-2788*



Larry Ruff - January 24, 2023 at 02:24 PM



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of John Craig Kirby.*



May 04, 2017 at 01:53 PM

KI

“ So saddened to read of John's passing. His Mom and my Mom were sisters. I remember John as this sweet, tall, gentle guy. An amazing basketball player. I last saw him at my Dad's funeral five years ago. He hadn't changed much. Still a sweet, kind man. May your hearts be comforted by the memories you shared together.

Kathy Ivanoff - May 03, 2017 at 12:56 AM

JE

“ We are sorry to hear about John's passing and send our sympathy and love to the family.
You are all fondly remembered and we pray for your comfort at this time.

Jennilyn and Keith Mauerman

Jenny - April 30, 2017 at 08:23 PM

LS

“ John and I were good friends in high school and I'm saddened by his passing. He obviously raised a beautiful forever family that he can be proud of. He was a loyal friend with a great personality. I hope your family can have comfort and peace during this difficult time.

Lynda Sponenburgh - April 30, 2017 at 12:28 AM

JA

“ John was a high school friend who was admired and adored by all who had the privilege of knowing him. He was gentle, kind and soft-spoken. We were all in awe of his athletic skills and grateful he was a leader on the basketball team. Of all of our high school friends he stands out as one of the best examples of humility in the midst of being very popular and talented. I will never forget him.

Janet Arave Aikele

Janet Arave Aikele - April 25, 2017 at 12:20 PM

GW

“ We would like to offer our deepest sympathy to the family. John was a special person to our family. He was the missionary who taught us the lessons in 1971 which changed my life and our family. We joined the LDS Church and became friends forever. We will surely miss him.

Gary Wood



Gary Wood - April 25, 2017 at 12:32 AM



“ Big John was a gl camper before it was a thing. 😊 He would set up a tent in the house back yard, run an extension cord to the tent, set up a TV, and spend the night there with his kids. If it got too cold or wet or uncomfortable, they'd head back in to the house. A great way to camp!

Stu Finnigan - April 24, 2017 at 08:38 PM

SH

“ Sincerest condolences to the Kirby family during this time of mourning. May your grief be comforted by God's word and promises; may your spirits be lifted by fond memories of your loved one.

*Prayerfully,
Sharma Henderson
Paparazzi Family*

Sharma Henderson - April 24, 2017 at 04:52 PM

LP

“ I am sorry to hear of John's Death. I've only met him as an adult since 2012. He was a nice man. He had a nice family, as well. Our condolences and prayers are with you.

Lois Kirby Parry - April 24, 2017 at 02:29 PM

GW

We are sorry we will not be able to attend, due to a friends passing here at home. We Enjoyed our visit with John last Summer at the Kirby cousins reunion. Always appreciated his HAPPY Smile.

Gale Willmore - April 24, 2017 at 04:33 PM

DL

“ Trent, Misty and Family, I am sorry to hear about the passing of your loved one. I pray God's strength and comfort on you in the days ahead.

*Many blessings to you,
Jim and Dena Lamb and boys.
Paparazzi family*

Dena Lamb - April 24, 2017 at 02:16 PM

TC

Trent, Misty and family...our sincerest condolences. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Tim& Debra Cochran

Timorhy & Debra Cochran - April 24, 2017 at 07:39 PM

 Katie
Kellner-
Smolek

“ *Trent, Misty, Taylor, Rachel and the whole Kirby family... we are sending our deepest condolences and love during this difficult time...*

Kurt & Katie Smolek and family

Katie Kellner-Smolek - April 24, 2017 at 12:44 PM

MG

So sorry for your loss.my prayers go out to the whole Kirby family.

Mary Gates - April 24, 2017 at 01:04 PM



“ *My sincere sympathy to Trent, Misty and the entire Kirby family. Love and prayers to you all.*

Shannan Holland

Paparazzi family

Shannan Holland - April 24, 2017 at 12:34 PM

KG

“ *Spent a lot of time at church with John. He was my home teacher for a while. Also, spend a long day in the doctors office once and got to know him. He is a good man. He will be missed.*

Kels Goodman - April 24, 2017 at 12:31 PM

CD

“ Trent I am so very sorry for your dad's passing. Knowing what an amazing person you are shows what an inspirational person he was. His legacy lives on in you. My prayers are with you and your family

Cindy Duit - April 24, 2017 at 10:11 AM

MS

“ I am so very sorry for your loss :(may God grant you and your family strength and comfort during this very hard time! You all are in my thoughts and prayers

molly schaidle - April 24, 2017 at 10:11 AM

 Theresa Mura

“ Marc and I are so very sorry for your incredible loss. Please know you are all in our thoughts and prayers. ❤️

Theresa Mura - April 24, 2017 at 09:30 AM

RC

“ My deepest condolences to you and your family. Prayers for strength today tomorrow and always.
#northernvapaparazzifamily



Rachel Cavalier - April 24, 2017 at 09:16 AM

GM

“ *My condolences to the Kirby Family. Trent your dad sounds like a great guy who has completed his assignment on earth. Once you complete yours you will see him again. Until that time I pray God's Peace for you and your family.*

Gernise Mayberry

Gernise Mayberry - April 24, 2017 at 08:07 AM

MC

I'm so sorry for your loss. You and your family are in my prayers.


Margie crim - April 24, 2017 at 09:00 AM

MI

“ *Millie lit a candle in memory of John Craig Kirby*



Millie - April 24, 2017 at 06:38 AM

 Kristin Young

“ *So sorry for your loss. Families are forever! Until you meet again. Your memories and faith will help your family through this rough time!*

Kristin Young and family



Kristin Young - April 24, 2017 at 12:34 AM

KW

John holds a spot in our hearts for the kind person he was. We met him in December 1970 and took the lessons for our Church. We stayed friends all these years. May he be at peace.

Katie wood - April 24, 2017 at 09:13 AM

JP

*John will always hold a special place in our hearts. We enjoyed our time together in the Orem Ward and have such fond memories of our shared time with him and Sue. May the Lord comfort you at this time.
Love, Judy and Kent Peay*

Judy Peay - April 27, 2017 at 09:24 AM