



John T. Tarrell

November 21, 1940 - August 16, 2022

John T. Tarrell, age 81, of Kearney, passed away Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at C.H.I. Health Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney. A private celebration of life service will be held at a later date. Memorials can be made to the family for a later designation. Please visit www.hlmkfuneral.com to leave a tribute or message of condolence. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney are in charge of arrangements.

John was born in Winner, S.D. on November 21, 1940 to Alvin and Gladys (Eagleton) Tarrell. John grew up in Winner and enjoyed the benefits of a small-town culture and rural lifestyle. South Dakota offered many opportunities for a young man to enjoy the outdoors and John told many tales of “packed lunch” pheasant hunts over the school noon hour with his dad and the then very liberal limit of 7 birds was almost a given – provided you could shoot proficiently, which John claimed, “was never an issue”.

John earned his undergraduate degree from Dana College. He graduated from Creighton University with a Juris Doctor Degree and was admitted to the Nebraska Bar Association in 1966.

John was united in marriage to Joan Coffey on August 27, 1960 and they raised three sons, Alvin, Everett (Ev) and David. On April 2, 1993, John married Cindy Reimers Williams. One of John’s greatest pleasures was serving on the Central Platte NRD board for many years.

John will always be recognized as a “small-town” style lawyer, very approachable and always willing to lend a helping hand. His good nature and small-town upbringing translated into an open willingness to “horse trade” on fees which further translated into a lifetime accumulation of a very interesting array of items that still makes all that knew him smile while slightly shaking their heads. John will continue to remain famous for his many “treasures”, outdoor memorabilia and numerous collectables of possible “future value”. John loved the outdoors, hunting, fishing, his dogs, and spending time with his grandkids. He believed and practices that “every moment is a teaching moment”.

John is survived by his wife, Cindy Tarrell of Kearney; sons Alvin (Kena) Tarrell of Elkhorn, Ev (Jana) Tarrell of Sydney and David Tarrell of Lincoln. Stepsons, Jason (Stacey) Williams of New Ulm, MN, and Andrew (Tiffany) Williams of Lopez Island, WA; sisters, Rosalie Elder of Costa Mesa, CA, and Dorothy (Terry) Hokenstad of Shaker Heights, OH; 14 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

John was preceded in death by his parents.

Tribute Wall

PP

“ I just learned of John's passing today, more than a year later. I am sorry, I know he is missed. I grew up in Winner, too and got to sit across from John at our last class reunion dinner and teased him a little about his "barely" cooked (just how he liked it) steak....I am glad I got to see him then and again, I am sorry to hear of his passing.

Patricia K. Palmer - September 27, 2023 at 02:39 PM



“ John T. Tarrell

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM

DA

“ Just learned of John's passing. John was a great friend to our family. Loved his stories. Sympathy to Johns family.
Dorothy Anderson

Dorothy Anderson - September 24, 2022 at 05:51 PM

MK

“ I just learned of this sad news a couple days ago. I had one case where I assisted John with a complicated wrongful death claim when he required an Iowa attorney. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting and working with him to achieve a favorable result under difficult circumstances. He was a kind, caring fellow and completely professional in his manner with me and his (our) clients. As I usually say upon the passing of a traditional attorney, "He was one of the good guys." May he rest in peace and may his family be comforted in the joy of the memories and lessons he left behind in this world.

Marv Kieckhafer - September 01, 2022 at 12:51 PM

GB

“ In my mind, I appreciate John for many virtues. His professionalism. His friendship. His humor. A month or so ago we happened to be parked next to each other at the Post Office. He struggled a bit and got out of his vehicle and said to me, "It is so great to see you again!" We chatted for many minutes telling each other stories...and a joke or two. He is missed. Rest in Peace, John.

Greg Barney - August 26, 2022 at 10:39 PM

AW

“ Grandpa John always told us 1. Life is too short, eat good bread. 2. Always check your tire tread. 3. There is always time for fishing.
We love you and miss you grandpa!
Cal, Drew, Reese

Andy Williams - August 26, 2022 at 07:11 PM

BS

“ We rarely got together, anymore, but whenever we did, one of the first things we would laugh about was the time he rode his Harley 125 up our steps onto the front porch -- showing off his skill!

Boyd Simonson - August 25, 2022 at 12:49 PM

ML

“ To the Family,
Our Thoughts and prayers are with you.
The Lantis Family,
Mary Ellen, Cammy, Wendy, Leah and Travis

Mary Ellen Lantis - August 24, 2022 at 04:21 PM