



## John R. Kreuter

July 22, 1955 - June 12, 2025

John Robert Kreuter, affectionately known to family and friends as Johnny Bob, age 69 years, a resident of rural Vienna, Illinois, passed away Thursday morning, June 12, 2025, at 5:45 a.m. at Baptist Health in Paducah, Kentucky. His precious family was gathered by his side, showing a never-ending love and respect to the man who never gave up as being their husband, dad, and grandfather. He fought a long and brutal battle with quadriplegia after suffering a tragic accident in his home over eleven years ago, but his courage and strength never once waivered, and he inspired many others how to live.

John was born on July 22, 1955, to John Delmar and Joan Eickholz Kreuter in Milan, Tennessee, and was raised in Metropolis, Illinois. He played and coached Khoury League baseball and Twin State baseball. He graduated from Metropolis Community High School in 1973 where he played football, basketball, golf, and baseball, and from Shawnee Community College in 1975 where he continued to play baseball. He then graduated from Southern Illinois University and began graduate studies at Murray State University. His whole life he was known for his exceptional and personal love of those Chicago Cubs. His hobbies included golfing, reading, working in the yard, watching his grandkids play any sport or any of their activities, watching baseball and just talking to people.

After college, John went to work at the Vienna Correctional Center in the Recreation Department. In a few years, he became the Business Manager there and then transferred to the Shawnee Correctional Center Recreation

Department where he ultimately completed eight years of employment in the Illinois prison system. It didn't take long for others to see what a driving personality he had and that he would be a success no matter what his career would be. He was truly a "people person" and prided himself in being a hard worker.

In 1987, John joined Lawrence Insurance in Vienna where he quickly became a well-known life insurance agent in southern Illinois. Being the friendly and confident person that he was, he was able to provide for his clients the insurance they would need to protect their families. He believed in what he sold and practiced what he preached throughout his career.

After nine years, John had the opportunity to become the regional leader/district manager/recruiter for AXA Equitable Life Insurance for the southern Illinois region. Again, he demonstrated his ability in training others to be successful in the profession and he continued to thrive. His colleagues from both AXA Equitable and Edward Jones positively called him "Kreuter Recruiter" because of his passion to give to others opportunities in the fields of which he believed.

By 2000, John was ready to explore another field, but this time in finance. He opened the first Edward Jones Investments branch in Vienna and served many in the region. He quickly grew his practice in his branch as his clients gave him their lasting trust with their investments. He was committed in making his clients' best interests come first as if he were managing his own family's money. After his injury in 2014, his desire was to return to his office, and he was able to do that for a year and a half until his health no longer would allow. His clients remained faithful to him through it all, and he finally retired from the firm in 2016.

On December 20, 1980, Johnny Bob, a Metropolis Trojan, married Brenda Darlene Burris, a Vienna Eagle in the Gilead Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Simpson, Illinois. They made their home in Vienna, and soon you would find him involved in the local school systems supporting the Vienna Rams band, softball and basketball teams, followed by the Vienna Eagles

basketball (“Pitiful, Ref!”), cheer, dance, and golf teams. He coached Khoury League girls’ softball (“Everybody hits!”) and Vienna Rams basketball. He was very supportive in the community by leading and participating in the Vienna Civic Club and as President of the Chamber of Commerce. He donated to many various causes. Vienna was now his home, and he wanted to make it the best it could be.

Church was always the most important, and he had a very strong faith and belief in Christ confessing this during his final hour. He directed many toward Christ as he spoke to numerous churches with the Gideons and individually in various other instances as any opportunities arose. He loved to sing, and he sang loudly. The family knows without a doubt where he is, and that he is now walking again with Jesus free from his bondage. He was raised in the First Baptist Church of Metropolis and was very active in his churches by serving on numerous committees and singing in the choir. Most recently, he was an active member of Ozark Baptist Church.

John is survived by his wife of 44 years, Brenda Kreuter; his son John Russ and wife Jenny of Tunnel Hill, Illinois; and daughter Beth Ann and husband Jeff of Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. He is also survived by his loving grandchildren, Ella, Silas, Lucy, Pierce, Reese, and Evie of which he was so deeply proud. He is also survived by Uncle Lindell Eickholz, Aunt Tish Kreuter Lewis and Aunt Dea Kreuter Burton, and several cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents John and Joan Kreuter and his brother Greg Kreuter.

The family expresses gratitude for those who took time to visit with John or give him a call during the last eleven years to help lift his spirits. You hold special places in their hearts. Extra special appreciation to those ladies who lovingly cared for him as their own.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday afternoon, June 18, 2025, at 1 P.M. at Gilead Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 4385 Gilead Church Road, Simpson, Illinois. Pastor David Michael Webb and Pastor Kevin Owen, a cousin of John, will officiate. The obituary will be shared by John Pruett.

Burial will be in the Gilead Cemetery. John's son, Pastor John Russ Kreuter, will conduct the committal service.

Visitation will be conducted Tuesday evening, June 17, 2025, from 5 P.M. until 8 P.M. at Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna. There will also be a time of visitation Wednesday, June 18, 2025, from 11 A.M. until the time of the service at 1 P.M. at Gilead Church.

Memorials may be made to the Gilead Cemetery, 540 Gum Springs Road, Simpson, Illinois 62985 or to Gideon's International, P.O. Box 511, Metropolis, Illinois 62960, or to the India Gospel Ministries, c/o Bethel Baptist Worldwide Mission, P.O. Box 153, Hays, North Carolina 28635.

# Cemetery Details

## Gilead Cemetery

4385 Gilead Church Road  
Simpson, IL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 17. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Bailey Funeral Home  
705 North First Street  
PO Box 695  
Vienna, IL 62995  
(618) 658-2311  
baileyfhinc@hotmail.com  
<https://baileyfh.com>

## Visitation

JUN 18. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Gilead Church  
4385 Gilead Church Rd  
Simpson, IL 62985  
(618) 695-2653

## Service

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JUN 18. 1:00 PM (CT)

Gilead Church  
4385 Gilead Church Rd  
Simpson, IL 62985  
(618) 695-2653

# Tribute Wall



“ *Bailey Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John R. Kreuter*



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**Bailey Funeral Home** - June 18, 2025 at 05:59 PM



“ *Janis Tapley lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter*



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**Janis Tapley** - June 19, 2025 at 12:22 AM



“ *Brenda, so sorry to hear of John's passing.*



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**Nancy Heisner** - June 18, 2025 at 03:53 AM

SF

“ Susan & Aaron Jaller & Sara Wing family purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of John R. Kreuter.



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**Susan & Aaron Jaller & Sara Wing family** - June 17, 2025 at 09:49 PM

SF

“ Susan & Aaron Jaller & Sara Wing family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John R. Kreuter.

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**Susan & Aaron Jaller & Sara Wing family** - June 17, 2025 at 09:49 PM

JM

“ Justin & Jennifer Mount lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter



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**Justin & Jennifer Mount** - June 17, 2025 at 08:01 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of John R. Kreuter.



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June 17, 2025 at 02:04 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John R. Kreuter.

June 17, 2025 at 02:04 PM



“ Margie Smith lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter



Margie Smith - June 17, 2025 at 10:34 AM



“ To the family of John, I was blessed meeting John in 1978. He worked with my husband at the time, Jay Merchant, at Vienna Correctional Center. John was one of his best friends, and John frequently joined us for cookouts. I was a young bride and mother, but I ALWAYS saw John smiling. He was so very kind, and I never heard him speak ill of anyone, he always saw the best in every single person. I moved away from Vienna, but I always remembered the times John was a part of the company at our home. Brenda was a teacher of mine at VHS, and I was overjoyed when I found out they were married. I had the pleasure of meeting their son, Pastor Russ at my Dad's funeral in 2012. To the family of John, what a beautiful memorial you wrote, and shared with us all. I am sad and heartbroken for your loss. Prayers, hugs, and love to you all. We are all blessed by knowing John.

Leanne(Merchant) Stoner - June 17, 2025 at 06:07 AM

BR

“ Bobby Rentfro lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter



Bobby Rentfro - June 17, 2025 at 05:33 AM

RJ

“ John led bible study at Gilead many times , good man he WILL be missed by many , thoughts and prayers are with Brenda and Family

Randy Jackson - June 17, 2025 at 01:57 AM

RM

“ Rich Marose lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter



Rich Marose - June 16, 2025 at 11:49 PM

RJ

“ Randy Jackson lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter



Randy Jackson - June 16, 2025 at 09:42 PM

KS

“ So very sorry for your loss. Prayers and comfort to all of your family.



Kelly Shires - June 16, 2025 at 09:42 PM

SG

“ So sorry for your loss. Prayers for your family. No matter his problems of the day, he always had a big smile and happy greeting for you.



Sondra Goins - June 16, 2025 at 07:43 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of John R. Kreuter.



June 16, 2025 at 04:47 PM

ID

“ Isobel and David purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of John R. Kreuter.



Isobel and David - June 16, 2025 at 03:37 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of John R. Kreuter.*



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June 16, 2025 at 02:14 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John R. Kreuter.

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June 16, 2025 at 02:14 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of John R. Kreuter.*



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June 16, 2025 at 02:09 PM

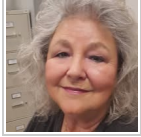


“ *Aleatha Wright lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter*



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**Aleatha Wright** - June 16, 2025 at 01:58 PM



“ *Sheila Merideth lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter*



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**Sheila Merideth** - June 16, 2025 at 11:58 AM

SL

“ *Prayers to Brenda, Russ, Beth Ann and Family.*

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**Steve&Kathy(Whiteside) Lay** - June 16, 2025 at 11:49 AM

CW

“ *Cathy Warmack lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter*



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**Cathy Warmack** - June 16, 2025 at 06:42 AM

JM

“ *Jeff And Linda Mathis lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter*



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**Jeff and Linda Mathis** - June 15, 2025 at 08:09 PM

KA

“ *Kathy(Black)Holt lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter*



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**Kathy(Black)Holt** - June 15, 2025 at 05:06 PM

JE

“ *I have known Johnny Bob most all my life. He was a really nice guy. Condolences to his family.*

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**James & Marita Estes** - June 15, 2025 at 04:46 PM

JT

“ *Jane Treece lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter*



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**Jane Treece** - June 14, 2025 at 08:16 PM

MM

“ *Margaret Mathis lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter*



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**Margaret Mathis** - June 14, 2025 at 04:09 PM

CC

“ *To My Santa,  
Thank you for making every Christmas magical.  
Love you forever.  
Cyra*

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**Cyra Coscarelli** - June 14, 2025 at 03:03 PM



“ *Prayers of comfort to the family from my husband and me! We know  
he will be sorely missed.*

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**DEBBIE HORN** - June 14, 2025 at 12:06 PM

VH

“ *Brenda, I am sorry for your husband and friend, Johnny Bob. I have  
many fond memories of the time we spent together and our years of  
friendship. We have a long history. Love and prayers for you, Russ  
and Beth Ann. Vicki Hamann*

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**Vicki L Hamann** - June 14, 2025 at 11:38 AM

SE

“ *We are so sorry to hear this, Praying for  
peace and comfort over the family.*



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**Shane Elms** - June 14, 2025 at 11:04 AM

BT

“ *Becky Turley lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter*



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**Becky Turley** - June 14, 2025 at 09:27 AM

SL

“ *Steve&Kathy(Whiteside) Lay lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter*



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**Steve&Kathy(Whiteside) Lay** - June 14, 2025 at 09:02 AM

TR

“ *Teresa Richerson lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter*



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**Teresa Richerson** - June 14, 2025 at 08:26 AM

GH

“ *Gary & Janet Hacker lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter*



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**Gary & Janet Hacker** - June 14, 2025 at 07:47 AM

NB

“ *Nancy Breeden lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter*



Nancy Breeden - June 14, 2025 at 07:08 AM

MP

“ *Matthew, Jenny, Katie And CJ Prewitt lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter*



Matthew, Jenny, Katie and CJ Prewitt - June 14, 2025 at 12:59 AM

KB

“ *Karen Brumley lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter*



Karen Brumley - June 14, 2025 at 12:32 AM

KB

*RIP thy good and faithful servant*

Karen Brumley - June 14, 2025 at 12:33 AM

LC

“ *Very sorry to hear of John's passing. He was a wonderful man. Praying for his family.*

Larry Choate - June 13, 2025 at 11:21 PM

SM

“ So sorry to hear of Johnny Bob’s passing.  
Prayers for Brenda,Russ and Beth Ann.



Sherry Moore - June 13, 2025 at 11:01 PM

JC

“ So very sorry for your family's loss. Prayers for the Lords Peace to  
embrace your family in this time of loss.  
Jeff and Cindy Van Cleve

Jeff and Cindy Van Cleve - June 13, 2025 at 09:04 PM

HB

“ Henry And Frances Bullock lit a candle in  
memory of John R. Kreuter



Henry and Frances Bullock - June 13, 2025 at 07:35 PM

TR

“ I was privileged to know John through his  
volunteer work at Hillview. He will be missed.



Tina Raper - June 13, 2025 at 07:29 PM

LB

“ *Linda Simmons Biethman lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter*



Linda Simmons Biethman - June 13, 2025 at 07:19 PM

LH

“ *Lorie Trovillion Hawkins lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter*



Lorie Trovillion Hawkins - June 13, 2025 at 06:24 PM

LT

“ *Lowell And Susie Trovillion lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter*



Lowell and Susie Trovillion - June 13, 2025 at 06:05 PM

PM

“ *Patricia McCann*



Patricia McCann - June 13, 2025 at 05:32 PM

PM

*Blessings and condolences to your family*

**Patricia McCann** - June 13, 2025 at 05:33 PM

JS

“ *John Slack lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter*



**John Slack** - June 13, 2025 at 05:08 PM

JM

“ *Jeannie McCall lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter*



**Jeannie McCall** - June 13, 2025 at 05:04 PM

BJ

“ *Barbara Jeffress lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter*



**Barbara Jeffress** - June 13, 2025 at 05:04 PM



“ Vera Bedwell lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter



Vera Bedwell - June 13, 2025 at 04:14 PM

BC

“ Bob And Kim Collins lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter



Bob and Kim Collins - June 13, 2025 at 04:13 PM

FH

“ Frederick And Berry Heaton lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter



Frederick and Berry Heaton - June 13, 2025 at 04:03 PM

BW

“ Bill And Barb Warmack lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter



Bill and Barb warmack - June 13, 2025 at 04:02 PM

LH

“ *Lonnie Hinton lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter*



Lonnie Hinton - June 13, 2025 at 03:36 PM

DR

“ *Diane Rainbolt lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter*



Diane Rainbolt - June 13, 2025 at 03:31 PM

EH

“ *Ernie Henshaw lit a candle in memory of John R. Kreuter*

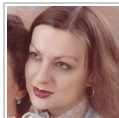


Ernie Henshaw - June 13, 2025 at 03:24 PM

EH

*Always had smile when we would talk Cubbie baseball!*

Ernie Henshaw - June 13, 2025 at 03:26 PM



*Dear beloved of John Kreuter. May you all find peace after the time of grieving. Feel so very badly for you all, but what a fine gentleman! So glad we got to know him in the community. With best wishes from France, Brian and Lynn Moore McCreery*

Lynn McCreery - June 13, 2025 at 03:38 PM

GS

*We'll miss you sorely John. I had the utmost respect for the way you handled life. Didn't even bother me that you were a Cubs fan... well not much. Our heartfelt condolences to the family. A very GOOD man!*

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**Galen Shelton** - June 16, 2025 at 05:54 PM

CR

*A full circle Johnnie Bob, from First Baptist Church & Choir to Vienna. You will always be remembered for your great care of your brother and spreading the gospel of our Lord. I loved visiting with you at your office and talking about our church family at Metropolis. You always asked about my family members and had a kind word. You have touched so many people and we can count on your meeting Jesus and him saying great job John!*

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**Carol J Racey** - June 17, 2025 at 12:56 PM