



## John D. Kayser

October 2, 1957 - November 9, 2024

John Damian Kayser, 67 of Ballwin, MO, formerly of Highland, IL, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Saturday, November 9, 2024 at his residence.

He was born on October 2, 1957 in Highland, IL to James and Gladys (nee Loebel) Kayser.

John grew up in Highland and attended St. Paul High School, graduating in 1975. He attended Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, 1975-1976.

John had a vast, proud, and loyal work record in the construction and management industry. A leader by nature, and with a gift for conversation and ability-to-charm, John easily grew into his self-assigned role as large scale project management, "the bigger-the-project-the-better". John was a well-known name in the Midwest construction industry, particularly expert as a commercial property specialist, having been involved in building construction for Target, Macy's, Von Maur, Lowe's, and Kohl's stores, as well as for college and hospital buildings, and industrial warehouses.

John was a past member of the Carpenters Union.

His career started at The Korte Company in Highland in 1976.

4 years later he joined Melvin Price Lock & Dam # 26, Alton, IL, one of the largest locks on the Mississippi River.

His longest length of work of 32 years was conducted at St. Louis-headquartered construction company S.M. Wilson & Company, from 1982 - 2014. It was here that John was drawn to the supervisory and management side of the construction industry.

From there he joined Brinkmann Constructors, Denver, CO, working for 2 years as a Senior Superintendent.

His most recent work was Senior Superintendent at Opus Design Build LLC, in Clayton, MO, John worked here for 5 years from 2016 until 2021.

At Opus, John contributed greatly to an award-winning project to build the headquarters for BUNGE, North America in Chesterfield, MO. This large-scale 15 acre, 149,000 square foot structure and campus was one of his most proudest projects.

Besides working in building construction, John was devoted to keeping in touch with his friends. He built enough friendships to cover the USA. His big heart often opened to giving money to a stranger in need.

John was most happy being with his beloved daughter and son, and gathering with his large family spending time laughing and telling stories.

John was an all-around athlete in his youth which segued into being a spectacularly dedicated sports fan in his later years. He organized legendary croquet tournaments strategically scheduled when his parents were away, and

hosted impressive Super Bowl parties. Besides rooting for his favorite Saint Louis Cardinals, he would rather be fishing than almost anything else in the world. His treasured fishing spots were in Florida; Sanibel and Captiva, but he also loved fishing locally with his dear cousins, family and friends. John treasured many big trips to the Caribbean as well as Hawaii, Tahiti, and Moorea in the South Pacific, but he was equally happy with small float trips in nearby rivers. He greatly enjoyed both playing golf and the post-game clubhouse atmosphere.

John stressed the importance of making his bed every morning and no matter the day's activity, he insisted on wearing a sharp, fashionable outfit, and always wore designer cologne.

Upon retirement he attended to landscaping projects and his well-manicured yard filled with abundant annuals and perennial plants. He watched over and dutifully fed his many fine-feathered friends, especially the other local-favorite red bird cardinals. John was masterful at building a fire and adored sitting by his fireplace. He would remark that all he needs is "family, friends, fishing, and a fire in the fireplace."

John is survived by his daughter Erica Racquel Kayser, Highland, IL, and son Jack Anthony Kayser, Ballwin, MO.

He is also survived by:

Brother- James W. Kayser, Jr., Glen Carbon, IL

Brother- Jeffrey S. (Tammy) Kayser, Wentzville, MO

Brother- Joseph E. Kayser, Glen Carbon, IL

Sister- Kristine M. Kayser-Bermudez (Juan David Bermudez, M.D.), Wall Township, NJ

Sister- Carrie A. (Michael) Hindes, Collinsville, IL

Sister- Elizabeth J. Kayser, Honolulu, HI  
Sister- Camille S. Steward, (James) O'Fallon, MO  
Sister- Patricia L. Russo, Saint Louis, MO

Additional survivors include 10 nephews, 4 nieces, 8 great-nephews, and 3 great-nieces

John was predeceased by his parents James and Gladys (Babe) Kayser. He was also predeceased by brother-in-law Ross Russo in 2023.

Arrangements are being handled by Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, IL.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Friday, November 22, 2024, and 8:00 am to 9:45 am on Saturday, November 23, 2024, at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home.

Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 am on Saturday, November 23, 2024, at St. Paul Catholic Church in Highland, IL, with Rev. Fr. Pat G. Jakel, officiating.

Interment will be at Saint Joseph's Catholic Cemetery, Highland, IL.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, and the Saint Paul School Educational Foundation.

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of John Kayser please visit our Sympathy Store.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home & Dauderman Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of John D. Kayser*



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**Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home** - November 20, 2024 at 02:26 PM

DS

“ *Rest in Peace John You will be missed. When you entered heaven you probably learned that the wonderful beliefs that we were taught in Sister Alma's religion class at St Paul School were true. Donna Stoff*

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**Donna Stoff** - November 23, 2024 at 11:10 AM

DS

“ *Donna Stoff lit a candle in memory of John Kayser*



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**Donna Stoff** - November 23, 2024 at 11:02 AM

GS

“ Grace Sugg lit a candle in memory of John Kayser



Grace Sugg - November 22, 2024 at 04:32 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John D. Kayser.



November 21, 2024 at 03:19 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of John D. Kayser.



November 19, 2024 at 10:21 PM



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

November 19, 2024 at 10:21 PM

SG

“ So sorry for your loss. Always had a good time with John....

*Not sure if many people knew John could not hear out of his left ear and we shared a joke about that often. We both signed up for the draft, because that is what you did back then. John asked me if I had to sign up and i told him i did, but i would not be taken until they got desperate for bodies since i could not legally see out of my right eye. John was quick to point out that if they just tied us side by side and I was on the left, I could hear for him and he could see for me on the right! We always shared that little joke between us...RIP Rexie!*

*Stan Gunter*

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**stan gunter** - November 15, 2024 at 01:35 PM

KF

“ We loved Johnny K so much; everyone he interacted with left a better person because of the positive impact he had on people. He was genuinely the friendliest, most positive, helpful, go-getter... and he always smelled so good! :) No matter how bad things may have been going with his health, he would never once complain, he always chose to see the bright side and hope for the best outcome. Our Opus team is deeply saddened the world lost such an incredibly special man - he was one of the good ones!

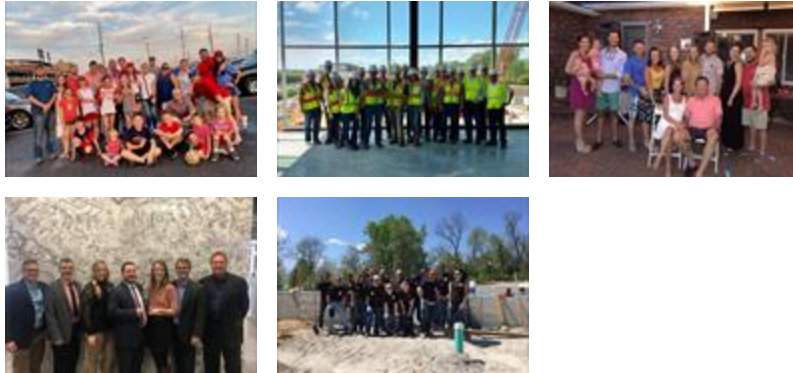
*- Kristin Flanery*

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**Kristin Flanery** - November 15, 2024 at 11:02 AM

KF

“ 15 files added to the album *The Opus Group - memories with John*



Kristin Flanery - November 15, 2024 at 10:55 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of John D. Kayser.



November 14, 2024 at 08:01 PM



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

November 14, 2024 at 08:01 PM

WH

“ I spent a lot of time in my youth around the Kayser household east of Highland. John was an absolute stud at everything. John sometimes wound up being the voice of reason, and sometimes he wasn't. Accidentally ran into John over at a restaurant in St. Louis several years ago. We were quick to talk about each other's families and stories that cannot be repeated like it was yesterday. Kris, Carrie, Liz, Cammie, Trisha, Jim, Jeff and Joe, please know that you have my deepest sympathies in the loss of your brother. RIP John

Wes Holzinger - November 14, 2024 at 05:40 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John D. Kayser.



November 14, 2024 at 12:03 PM



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

November 14, 2024 at 12:03 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John D. Kayser.



November 14, 2024 at 10:04 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John D. Kayser.*



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November 13, 2024 at 02:42 PM



“ *My condolences and prayers for John's family.*

*Quick story.*

*At the beginning of my freshman year at St. Paul, John was my Senior big brother for class initiation. The big thing back then was making the freshman eat persimmons. Well, when I was supposed to eat one, I faked it and John thought that I did (I think). Later in that evening, the senior and freshman classes had a bridge party (you know what happens at bridge parties, right?). Well, the rest is history. That was the best part of the initiation process and a life experience with friends that makes memories last forever.*

*When I think of John, my brain takes me straight back to that experience. He was a very good man and treated everyone with respect and dignity.*

*RIP Rex.*

*Mike Cygan*

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**Mike Cygan** - November 13, 2024 at 09:35 AM

JH

“ Thinking about you Erica and the family. I know how close you were to your dad and how much you love him...always talked about memories you guys had built and most of the time there was good humor in the memories you shared..you always loved and cherished any and all time you spent with him....and always had a blast on the vacations you went on with him. I am thinking about you and said a prayer for you and the family. ❤️ Jen



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**Jen Harvey** - November 13, 2024 at 02:46 AM