



John Paul Heisserer

December 3, 1956 - August 5, 2021

John Paul Heisserer, 64, died peacefully at home with his family by his side Thursday, August 5, 2021 after a courageous battle with cancer.

John was born on December 3, 1956 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri to the late Glennon (Bud) and Frances Heisserer. John married Jerrie Gerlach on August 3, 2003 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

John graduated from Notre Dame Regional High School in Cape Girardeau in 1975. He then received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Southeast Missouri State University in 1978. He continued his education and earned his Juris Doctorate in 1981 from Loyola University School of Law in New Orleans, Louisiana. While attending law school, he was a member and editor of the Loyola Law Review having authored both a case note and an article.

John was admitted to the Missouri Bar on September 19, 1981. John joined the law firm of Rice, Spaeth, Summers & Heisserer as a partner in 1982.

He was appointed as Circuit Judge of the 32nd Judicial Circuit comprised of Cape Girardeau, Perry and Bollinger counties in Missouri in 2003. During John's tenure, he quickly established a reputation for impartiality and respect for the litigants and their attorneys appearing before him.

With the exception of his time on the bench, John has had an active trial practice for over 40 years. He played a vital role in the implementation of the mediation processes in the 32nd Judicial Circuit. John provided extensive leadership and service to his profession. He served the 32nd Judicial Bar Association as Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President and President; he sat on the Child Support Guidelines Review Subcommittee (Family Court Committee, Jefferson City), and was a board member of the Association of Missouri Mediators Inc.

John's community involvement has been extensive. He is the immediate past treasurer of the Cape County Democratic Central Committee, and a member of the Missouri State Democratic Committee. John has provided service and leadership as a past board member of the Family Resource Center, Gibson Recovery Center, Scott County SB40 Board, and as past president and board member of Kenny Roger's Children's Center in Sikeston, Missouri. He also served as a board member for the Boys and Girls Club of Cape Girardeau.

John's faith has likewise formed a fundamental cornerstone of his character. He was an active member of his parish, St. Mary's Cathedral. He is a member of Old St. Vincent's Catholic Church and served as a lector and Eucharistic minister. John was a member and past president of the Church's parish council. He also served as a member of the school boards of St. Mary's Cathedral School and Notre Dame Regional High School.

Survivors include his wife, Jerrie of Cape Girardeau; children, Jed Heisserer of Cape Girardeau, Tess (Webb) Heisserer Barringer of Chattanooga, Tennessee, Merritt (Gabe) Keys, Erin (Brandon) Holzum both of Cape Girardeau, and Sam Gerlach of Denver, Colorado; and five grandchildren who lovingly called him Johnny, Lucy and Palmer Holzum and Reid, Miller and Vida Keys; brothers: David (Patricia), Michael, Mark, Dan (Tanya); and sisters, Paula (Dennis) and Becky Heisserer as well as several nieces and nephews.

John was preceded in death by his father and mother.

Visitation will be 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm Sunday, August 8, 2021 at Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home in Cape Girardeau, with Knights of Columbus #1111 Rosary at 7:00 pm.

Funeral Mass will be 10:00 am Monday, August 9, 2021 at Old St. Vincent's Catholic Church in Cape Girardeau.

A private burial will take place at Old Guardian Angel Church Cemetery in Oran, Missouri.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Order of the Most Holy Trinity and of the Captives, P.O. Box 1828, Sykesville, MD 21784-1820 or St. Louis Children's Hospital, PO Box 955423, St. Louis, MO 63195-5423.

Ford & Sons Funeral Home in Cape Girardeau is in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Guardian Angel Church Cemetery

604 Church Street
Oran, MO 63771

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 8. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Knights of Columbus Rosary

AUG 8. 7:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Funeral Mass

AUG 9. 10:00 AM (CT)

Old St. Vincent Catholic Church
119 South Spanish Street
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703

Tribute Wall

KB

“ *My heart-felt condolences to John's family and friends. I worked with John while he served on the Board of the Association of Missouri Mediators. He was always engaged, eager to spread the good news about non-aggressive negotiation strategies, and committed to helping people resolve disputes. John was a friendly and gracious man, and so obviously talented. We were fortunate to have him share his expertise and excitement for helping others. He will be well remembered.*

Kathleen Bird, AMM Executive Director



Kathleen Bird - September 22, 2021 at 04:36 PM

WP

“ *William Pollack purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Paul Heisserer.*



William Pollack - August 10, 2021 at 01:09 PM

LE

“ *So sorry to hear of John's passing. I lived in Chaffee and knew his brothers and sisters. John also was my attorney for a few years and was the kindest and most compassionate man. His family is in my prayers.*

Lisa Eaker

lisa eaker - August 10, 2021 at 10:40 AM

PB

“ *John was one of my best students. I remember him well. RIP.*
Peter J. Bergerson

Peter Bergerson - August 09, 2021 at 11:39 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of
John Paul Heisserer.*



August 07, 2021 at 12:01 PM

MM

“ *It is difficult for me to put into words how much of an honor and
pleasure it has been to know such a wonderful, generous and
empathetic man as John. His physical absence will surely be
mourned by those who knew him. RIP my friend.*

michael masterson - August 07, 2021 at 10:58 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for
the family of John Paul Heisserer.*



August 07, 2021 at 10:07 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Paul Heisserer.*



August 07, 2021 at 09:32 AM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Paul Heisserer.*



August 07, 2021 at 07:52 AM



“ *Don't go gentle into that good night
..... Dylan Thomas*

lane migielicz heisserer - August 07, 2021 at 03:19 AM



“ *Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Paul Heisserer.*



August 06, 2021 at 10:52 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of John Paul Heisserer.



August 06, 2021 at 09:25 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet* was purchased for the family of John Paul Heisserer.



August 06, 2021 at 08:25 PM



“ *He may have never known, but John made a huge impression on me with his patience and kindness, and he will always have a place in my heart.*

Andrew Thompson - August 06, 2021 at 08:13 PM



“ *Benjamin Gray* purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of John Paul Heisserer.



Benjamin Gray - August 06, 2021 at 06:38 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Paul Heisserer.*



August 06, 2021 at 05:55 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Paul Heisserer.*



August 06, 2021 at 04:42 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of John Paul Heisserer.*



August 06, 2021 at 03:40 PM



“ *Julie and Mark Martin purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of John Paul Heisserer.*



Julie and Mark Martin - August 06, 2021 at 12:09 PM

JW

“ I got to know John during my High School years at Notre Dame. He was so kind, always smiling and cared so much for others. Me in particular. I don't know if he thought I felt like a fish out of water, which I did, or if he just realized I needed someone to reach out and say how are you doing. Which he did and we became instant friends. My best memory of John came when he assisted me in getting a summer job at Thorngate Limited, where for some strange reason, he had been working there. Along with being a photographer, John had this secret life as a factory worker. I never got the connection, but there he was. It was there that we solidified our friendship. It was one of the best summers I ever had. As we worked together we laughed, talked, shared future plans and lots of family stories. I'll never forget his smile, his kindness and how he was always looking out for his fellow man.

Joseph Williams

Joseph Williams - August 06, 2021 at 09:56 AM

LI

“ I am so saddened by this news....I went to school with John....our thoughts and prayers to the family

LindaZieglerDickey - August 05, 2021 at 04:52 PM

PS

John was my neighbor and friend many years ago. He was also my attorney. He will be missed. Prayers for his family.

Pam Schultz - August 06, 2021 at 08:34 AM

FF

I never had the pleasure to meet John but I know he was a fine person since he was married to my cousin , Jerrie. Prayers to the family during this time.

Fred Fenimore - August 06, 2021 at 03:51 PM

JJ

I met John during the Sowers campaign a few years ago and we have crossed paths sporadically in the intervening years at the Democratic event. He treated me as though we were lifelong friends, a nice guy. May the perpetual light shine upon him and may he rest in peace.

John Jones - August 07, 2021 at 02:38 PM

LL

Jerrie & Family....I am extending my sincere condolences to you and your children in the passing of your husband/father.

Lynne Loveless - August 08, 2021 at 07:02 PM

LL

Dear Jerrie & Family..... I am extending my sincere condolences to all of you in the untimely passing of your husband/father.

Lynne Loveless - August 08, 2021 at 07:05 PM

DK

Jerrie and family, condolences for loss of John.

Dean Kirn - August 09, 2021 at 07:36 AM

PB

So sorry to hear about John. Prayers for family and friends.

Pam Buchheit

Pam Buchheit - August 09, 2021 at 02:03 PM

BA

John was a warrior. Voice of the voiceless. Fighter for the working class. Met John many years ago at a Democratic event and admired his passion for his fellow men and women. That contagious smile will live forever. Was proud to call him a friend.

Barry Aycock

Barry Aycock - August 09, 2021 at 11:36 PM