



John Francis Knaup

March 16, 1936 - August 11, 2025

John Francis Knaup, 89, of Jackson, Missouri passed away Monday, August 11, 2025 at the Lutheran Home.

He was born March 16, 1936 in Cape Girardeau son of John and Clara Stehr Knaup.

He graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1954. He attended Southeast Missouri State University for two years, then graduated with an agriculture degree from University of Missouri at Columbia in 1962.

He served in the United States Navy from 1955 to 1957.

He owned Knaup Greenhouses in Jackson, Missouri till 1998 when he retired. He was known for his mum patch, spring flowers and tomato plants.

He was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Jackson, where he served as an usher and head of Social Ministry with his wife. John and his wife, Ann won Notre Dame's Bob Miller award for outstanding contribution to the booster club. He was involved with Saint Francis Medical Center Perpetual Adoration for 25 years and made Cursillo. He was a member of Cape Jaycees and Knights of Columbus in Cape and Jackson. John and Billy Joe Swan coached basketball at Immaculate Conception

during the 70's till 1981.

He and Dolores Ann Jarosik were married June 10, 1961 at St Mary's Cathedral in Cape Girardeau.

Survivors include his wife, Ann Knaup of Jackson; two sons, Todd (Gail) Knaup of Cape Girardeau and Andrew (Angie) Knaup of Bonne Terre, Missouri; five daughters, Michelle Knaup Rogers of Bonne Terre, Missouri, Susan (John) Dirnberger of Oran, Missouri; Amy Knaup (James Grounds) of Hayward, Wisconsin, Allison Knaup of Saint Louis, Missouri and Sarah (Brad) Kroll of Highlands Ranch, Colorado; 17 grandchildren, Isabel Knaup, Sydney Stein (Steven) Craze, Joshua Rogers, Matt Rogers, Melissa Rogers, Timothy Rogers, SSGT Dylan Rogers, Sam Rogers, Erica (Sammy) Santora, Brittany Dirnberger, Courtney Dirnberger, Andrea (Daniel) James, Anthony Knaup, Rowan Grounds, Helen Grounds, Aiden Kroll and Zoe Kroll; and three great-grandchildren, Carter Santora, Ella Santora and Everleigh James.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Richard (Jody) Knaup; sister, Marjorie (AD) Taylor; and a great-grandchild, Mia Santora.

Visitation will be 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Friday, August 15, 2025 at Ford & Sons Funeral Home in Jackson, with Rosary and Parish Prayers beginning at 7:00 pm..

Funeral Mass will be at 10:00 am Saturday, August 16, 2025 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Jackson with the Rev. Randy Tochtrop officiating.

Burial will be at St. Mary Cemetery in Cape Girardeau, with full military honors.

Memorial contributions may be given to Immaculate Conception Building Fund.

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

Ford & Sons Funeral Home - Jackson is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary Cemetery

1101 Perry Avenue
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 15. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Jackson
708 W. Main Street
Jackson, MO 63755

Rosary/Parish Prayers

AUG 15. 7:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Jackson
708 W. Main Street
Jackson, MO 63755

Funeral Mass

AUG 16. 10:00 AM (CT)

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
208 S. Hope
Jackson, MO 63755

Tribute Wall

AP

“*Papa John Knaup, you were truly a humble, loving, and open-minded person. In the fall of 1994, you welcomed your daughter Amy, then an undergraduate at Mizzou, to bring a foreign graduate student, Pashi (from Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of the Congo), into your home in Jackson, MO. Only a compassionate and caring parent would open their doors and heart in such a way. From that moment, my family and I felt embraced and became a part of your family.*

In keeping with Congolese cultural values, I called you “Papa,” your wife Ann “Mom,” your children “sons” and “daughters.” This bond has grown ever since, uniting us across distance and time.

In November 2024, I traveled from Washington, DC to St. Louis to join the celebration of Susan D.'s birthday. My son Joel, who lives in St. Charles, MO, drove to Chaffee not only to celebrate Susan's special day, but most importantly, to see and speak with you while you were still with us.

Sadly, due to personal health issues, I was unable to return and participate in the celebration of your life and your journey to the Almighty. However, my older daughter Rachele, her husband Charles, and my son Joel—who all live in Missouri—were able to represent those of us in Virginia at the Visitation on Friday, August 15, 2025.

We will deeply miss you, beloved Papa. Yet, you will always be present among us, living on in the hearts of the large and loving family you leave behind.

Arthur K Pashi, Ph.D.

Arthur Pashi - August 16, 2025 at 12:10 PM

BW

“ *Never a sweeter man. He was the best walking talking customer service representative. I trusted him completely with all our deliveries to ND. Loved the lil stories and jokes he would share. It was evident of his love for his family❤️. Heaven has gained another great one! Thanks to Anne and kiddos for sharing your great man. Rest in peace dear John!!!!*

Bonnie Westrich - August 15, 2025 at 04:52 PM

PT

“ *John always greeted me with a big smile and a hug. Of course he always made a funny comment afterwards that had us laughing. May you rest in peace in the arms of our Lord. My heart and prayers are with his family.*

Pam Thompson - August 15, 2025 at 04:34 PM

ES

John was one of the friendliest people that I've ever known. He always has a smile and usually a joke. Period so sorry to hear of his passing and I heard about it too late to visit our attend the funeral. So sorry. My sincere condolences go out to Ann, and especially in the rest of the family. May God bless and keep him.

Ellen R Shuck - August 16, 2025 at 12:52 PM

DC

“ *I treasure and celebrate the life of my first cousin John. May he rest in peace with GOD forever!!*

Dave Compas. Temecula, California

Dave Compas - August 15, 2025 at 03:20 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of John Francis Knaup.*



August 14, 2025 at 01:36 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of John Francis Knaup.*



August 14, 2025 at 01:21 PM



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

August 14, 2025 at 01:21 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Francis Knaup.*



August 14, 2025 at 12:41 PM



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

August 14, 2025 at 12:41 PM

IA

“ *Ida Avritt purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of John Francis Knaup.*



Ida Avritt - August 14, 2025 at 12:38 PM

BM

“ *Hugs and prayers to Ann and the family. Whenever I asked John how he was feeling, he would answer, “with my hands.” A smile would always follow! Never did find out how he was feeling or doing. Love and prayers, Barb*

Barb McKeon - August 13, 2025 at 07:49 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of John Francis Knaup.*



August 13, 2025 at 03:42 PM

DS

“ *The reference to John coaching with Billy Swan brought back fond memories of basketball in the church basement; they coached the first team IC had. Ann, you and John have always been a spiritual inspiration to me. John wore the graces of God on his shirtsleeves. If you brushed up against him you were surely the better for it.*

Deacon Al Stoverink - August 13, 2025 at 03:12 PM

JT

“ *Jim and Pam Thompson purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of John Francis Knaup.*



Jim and Pam Thompson - August 13, 2025 at 10:06 AM

JL

“ *So sorry to hear of the loss of your father Michelle. May you feel the prayers for you and your family and may you feel Gods loving peace. May his soul rest in peace.*

Joyce luten - August 13, 2025 at 09:51 AM

BW

“ *I have many fond memories of John and his wonderful family. I pray that the family finds comfort in knowing that he rest in peace with God.*

brad wittenborn - August 13, 2025 at 09:49 AM

BG

“ *I will be forever indebted to this kind man, who ushered on Sundays at IC. I often arrived in a frenzy toting my 6-8 children, John would always hold the door with a smile, greet me by name and assure me that my presence at Mass was worth the stress of arriving. Not gonna lie, it made a difference, and calmed me. I am praying for John and know that he is at peace with Christ.*

Barbie Gibbs - August 13, 2025 at 09:29 AM

LF

*Ann, so sorry for your loss.
I remember all the great card games at your house.
Lou Flood.*

Lou Flood - August 13, 2025 at 02:27 PM

FH

I celebrated Mass today for eternal rest for John and comfort for you all. Love & prayers, Fr. John

Fr. John Harth - August 15, 2025 at 02:43 PM

FT

“ *So sorry to hear this about John. I can still hear him when he was walking down the back steps at Hazel’s Flowers on Broadway delivering our pot mums! Always had a friendly hello and time to chat. Frank Trankler*



Frank Trankler - August 12, 2025 at 11:55 PM

IR

“ *Isabel and Sam Rogers purchased the Pretty Ple ase for the family of John Francis Knaup.*



Isabel and Sam Rogers - August 12, 2025 at 08:05 PM

IR

“ *Isabel and Sam Rogers planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Francis Knaup.*

Isabel and Sam Rogers - August 12, 2025 at 08:05 PM