



## John Cannon Merrill Jr.

December 17, 1944 - August 30, 2021

John Cannon Merrill Jr., 76, passed from this mortal plane on Monday, August 30, 2021.

John was born on December 17, 1944, in Bartlesville, Oklahoma to Jeanne Ernst and John Cannon Merrill Sr.

John graduated from Bartlesville High School in 1963. He graduated from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma in 1967 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in History. John continued his education at Oklahoma State University through 1968 to complete his teaching certification.

John was a career educator with the Bartlesville School System for 38 years from 1968 to 2006. The children were always his passion, as much as the history that he imparted to them throughout his career. John's entire career was spent teaching from the same room at Central Middle School, Room #114. John's areas of expertise were Oklahoma History, World History, American History and American Civics.

John was responsible for founding several extracurricular programs during his tenure at Central Middle School. The Central Middle School Television Engineers was a passion for him, imparting the ideas of television production into an early era school news program during the 1980's. One very notable participant of the program was Ree Drummond of the Pioneer Woman. He also had one of the first motorcycle instruction programs in the state, the purpose of which was to teach young riders how to ride safely.

John founded an open/no-try-out Central Middle School Cheerleading Program and oversaw its operation for 25 years until his retirement in 2006. Some of the young women who graduated from the award-winning program went on to cheer/dance in professional sports organizations, such as the Seattle Seahawk Dancers. Dr. Holly Lindholm Fouts was both a participant and a coach during his tenure with this program.

John is survived by his wife of 56 years, Dolores Ann Merrill, and his two sons, John

Daniel Merrill of Utica, Michigan and Michael Lynn Merrill of Bartlesville, Oklahoma. He is also survived by his two sisters, Allison Moore of Denver, Colorado and Lindsley Hartman of Nevada, Missouri, as well as multiple grandchildren, nieces and a nephew.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to Animal Rescue Foundation, PO Box 3292, Bartlesville, OK 74006, in his memory.

Funeral services will be held 2 p.m. on Saturday, at the Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory – Walker Brown Chapel, with Pastor John Tisdale officiating. Services are under the direction of Carter Davis and the Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory – Walker Brown Chapel. Online condolences and remembrances may be shared at [www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com](http://www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com).

# Previous Events

## Service

SEP 4. 2:00 PM (CT)

Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory - Walker Brown Chapel

4201 Nowata Rd

Bartlesville, OK 74006

(918) 333-7665

davisfamilyfuneralhome@gmail.com

# Tribute Wall

JK

“ I had Mr Merrill for Oklahoma History in 72 and also was in his motorcycle safety class. A very good and memorable teacher. Sorry to hear about his passing.

John King - September 12, 2021 at 06:52 PM

EB

“ we will miss our favorite teacher



Elizabeth & Curtis Booth - September 08, 2021 at 11:51 AM

HS

“ My daughter Tabitha was in cheer at Central and helped coach after she left Central. Mr. M. Was one of her heros!  
This world is a better place because of this man! He will forever be missed.  
Prayers of peace and healing to his family and friends and all that knew him.

Hazle Straley - September 06, 2021 at 01:29 AM

KI

“ Mr. Merrill will always have a special place in my heart. I had the honor to be on his cheerleading team and also having him as a history teacher. You will be missed dearly.  
Condolences to his amazing family.



Kim - September 05, 2021 at 11:57 PM

JS

“ Jeanne Shepherd lit a candle in memory of John Cannon Merrill Jr.



Jeanne Shepherd - September 05, 2021 at 10:47 AM



“ Mr. Merrill holds a dear place in my heart, as well his loving wife. I first met him as I entered 8th grade at Central middle school. This man has a heart of gold and someone that gave any time he could. He always took consideration of others. He did not hold try outs for the the 8th grade cheer squad, because he believed everyone should have a shot. It didn't matter their skill or parents income, he wanted everyone that wanted to be on the CMS cheer squad to have that opportunity. This man has had a huge impact in my life and I am so fortunate to have that opportunity. Rest In Peace Mr. Merrill. Sending hugs to your family.

Rachel Dodd - September 04, 2021 at 01:17 PM

KH

“ Kimberly Henshall lit a candle in memory of John Cannon Merrill Jr.



Kimberly Henshall - September 03, 2021 at 07:49 PM

RK

“ Muffie and I send our sincere sympathy and good wishes for peace, even amid the tears, to Dolores and all the family. As John's sister Lindy has noted he is now at peace. I attach a few photos that bring back memories and smiles from long ago. The first is of John alone as a young boy. The second is of all three of my Merrill cousins, with John again as a youngster. The third is of a 1958 visit to my family in New Jersey by John, Lindy and their mom – including the family Ford that had driven them from Bartlesville, and on which John, then of driving age or close to it, lavished attention and care – washing, waxing, checking oil and tires and so on. To describe him at that time as an automobile enthusiast would be a large understatement. May his road ahead now be wide open and wonderful.

Cousin Rob Knox



Robert Knox - September 03, 2021 at 02:03 PM

PJ

“ I remember Jim Smith and I helping Mr Merrill plan out bus trips to different historical sites around the state. Somewhere I still have a photo from the Examiner Enterprise with the three of us standing behind his desk. Good times! He was a good teacher and a good man. I'll miss him.....

Paul Scott Jackson - September 03, 2021 at 01:25 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of John Cannon Merrill Jr..



September 02, 2021 at 10:46 PM

BH

“ Bill Autry,Chris & Holly purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of John Cannon Merrill Jr..



Bill Autry,Chris & Holly - September 02, 2021 at 06:13 PM

LH

“ Miss you, little brother, but joy knowing you are at peace. We will stay close to your family now and in the future. with love, Lindy

Lindsley (Merrill) Hartman - September 02, 2021 at 04:14 PM