



## John Frederick Stephens Jr

April 1, 1963 - June 15, 2022

John F. Stephens, Jr. WEST PEORIA - John “Johnny” Stephens passed away on Wednesday, June 15, 2022. John was born in Peoria on April 1, 1963, to John “Jack” and Carole Akers Stephens. He married Kimberly Persich on October 15, 1988, and together they had five beautiful children. He was preceded in death by his father, Jack Stephens.

John unexpectedly passed away surrounded by family and loved ones. Survivors include his wife, Kim Stephens; children Krista (Andre) Stephens, Kandice (Josh) Roberts, Jacob (Kaileigh) Stephens, Jimmy Stephens, and Kendra Stephens; as well as seven beautiful grandchildren Charlie Stephens; Carter, Logan, and Riley Roberts; and Reagan, Theodore “Teddy”, and John Lincoln Stephens. Also surviving are John’s mother, Carole Stephens, and three sisters; Cathy (Mike) Molchin; Jackie (Tom) Bowers; and Sandy (Mike) Price and his in-laws that he loved as much as his birth family, Tom and Mennie Persich; as well as Kim’s sisters Debbie (Gib) Leach; Tammy (Bruce) Crothers; and Kim’s brother Tommy Persich.

After three girls, Jack and Carole Stephens desperately wanted a boy. Born on April Fool’s Day, his dad was understandably skeptical! Johnny continued with that ironic sense of humor throughout life as a compassionate, hardworking man. He will forever be known for his impact on the local community. It was not uncommon to find Johnny volunteering as a coach at

St. Mark's Parish or giving his time to anyone who needed a helping hand. He graduated from Eastern Illinois University. He was employed by Renewal by Anderson. He loved to watch his grandkids play and would have gladly spent every day on a lake with a fishing pole in his hand. He was his kids' number one supporter and never hesitated to put his family first.

Schmidt-Haller Burial & Cremation Service is assisting the family with arrangements. John will be dearly missed by all who knew him. The family has chosen to honor him with a celebration of life which will be held at a later date.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JUN **25**. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

St. Mark's Catholic Grade School  
711 N. Underhill St  
Peoria, IL 61606

# Tribute Wall



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of John Frederick Stephens Jr.*



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June 25, 2022 at 12:07 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Frederick Stephens Jr.*



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June 19, 2022 at 01:09 PM



“ *Cathy & Family, When you opened your eyes this morning, the Lord had already gone before you anticipating just what your heart will need as He walks with you during this time of loss. I am keeping you all close in thought and prayer.*  
~Angela Herold Molleck



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**Angela Herold Molleck** - June 17, 2022 at 10:40 PM

GH

“ I got to know Johnny mostly through our love of Bradley basketball and family members. John was a very loving and caring husband and father. He will never be forgotten. Condolences to all family and friends.

*Gregg & Sue Hidden*

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**Gregg Hidden** - June 17, 2022 at 03:47 PM

DK

“ Carol and family,  
We were so sorry to hear about Johnny. You all are in our thoughts and prayers at this sad time. We love you.

*The Denice (Terrell) Kester family*

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**Denice Kester** - June 17, 2022 at 01:34 PM

BG

“ I'm so sorry, all my prayers and thoughts. Johnny was a very special guy and his family was everything. Love you all

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**Bonnie Gavin** - June 17, 2022 at 10:58 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**t** - June 17, 2022 at 09:48 AM