



John Martin "JR" Roberts

October 29, 1968 - December 7, 2025

John Martin "JR" Roberts, 57, of Kansas City, Missouri, passed away peacefully on December 7, 2025. Remembered for his bright spirit, kind heart, and love of laughter, John brought joy to all who knew him.

Born on October 29, 1968, at McGuire Airforce Base in New Jersey, John was the beloved son of the late John Keith Roberts and the late Mary "Lynn" Martin Roberts, and the cherished son of Margaret Roberts of Kansas City. He is survived by his devoted sisters Katy Roberts, Mylinda "Mindy" Morris, and Carla Stratton; his brothers Kelly Scott Roberts and Patrick McGuckin; and many extended family members and special friend Michael Dugger. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, John B. and Geneva Roberts.

John's accomplishments were many and filled with pride. He graduated from Margaret K. Lewis School in Panama City, Florida, and competed in numerous Special Olympic events, winning the gold medal in the Maryland Downhill Ski Event in 1988. His image as a proud champion was featured in Special Olympics promotions for years, inspiring countless others. In October 2023, he was honored at Arrowhead Stadium as the eldest Down Syndrome Champion to complete the 5K, and he went on to graduate from the Down Syndrome Innovations Adult Continuing Education Program (ACE) in 2023.

John would be quick to tell you, he was a 'Christian man' and active member

of Calvary Lutheran Church in Kansas City. John radiated kindness, humor, and a pure spirit. He loved bowling weekly with the Special Olympics Lone Jack bowling league, watching movies, and enjoying 80s music and donuts. He also took pride in caring for the environment as a passionate anti-littering advocate. A memorial service will be held on Friday, December 12, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Calvary Lutheran Church. 7500 Oak Street Kansas City, Missouri, 64114. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Down Syndrome Innovations kcdsi.org

As we honor John's memory, let us find comfort in these words:

Don't grieve for me for now I'm free, I'm following the path God laid for me I took his hand when I heard him call, I turned my back and left it all

I could not stay another day, To laugh, to love, to work or play Tasks left undone must stay that way, I've found that peace at the close of day

If my parting has left a void, Then fill it with remembered joy A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss, Ah yes, these things I too will miss Be not burdened with times of sorrow, I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow My life's been full, I've savored much, Good friends, good times, my loved one's touch If my time seemed all too brief, Don't lengthen it now with undue grief

Lift up your heart, rejoice with me, God wanted me now, He set me free.

- Anne Lindgren Davison

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC 12. 11:00 AM (CT)

Calvary Lutheran Church
7500 Oak Street
Kansas City, MO 64114

Tribute Wall

CF

“ Chris Black & family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Martin "JR" Roberts.

Chris Black & family - December 11, 2025 at 12:26 PM

CF

“ Chris Black & family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of John Martin "JR" Roberts.



Chris Black & family - December 11, 2025 at 12:26 PM

YF

“ Your Francis Tuttle Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of John Martin "JR" Roberts.



Your Francis Tuttle Family - December 10, 2025 at 04:40 PM

YF

“ Your Francis Tuttle Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Martin "JR" Roberts.

Your Francis Tuttle Family - December 10, 2025 at 04:40 PM

PM

“ One of my many favorite stories and vivid memories of John was right after his father Keith passed. He and I worked to get an ole pickup truck running and after it finally started we needed to take a drive to charge/test battery. About 15 min into trip (after telling me to be careful several times) he began to sob - it was the 1st time he expressed this much emotion regarding his dad’s passing. I pulled over on the side of interstate and we just talked about his feelings and how he was struggling. This was the inception of the “I’m tired of this crap” famous expression of John’s. As he stopped crying and we began to talk he stated that he was tired of feeling lousy and depressed since Kieth’s passing so he told me that he was simply “tired of this crap or just feeling miserable”. I so I laughed and so did he - he made me go from tears to laughter and we kept repeating the whole way home - I’M TIRED OF THIS CRAP” and we both laughed the whole way home!! I think he needed to vent and appreciated assurance that mom, Katy, and I loved him so much and we were not going anywhere!

Patrick McGuckin - December 10, 2025 at 10:39 AM



“ Condolences to you Margret, I’m not sure if you’d know who I am but I worked at DSI and loved being able to support JR there, he is truly one my favorite people and I was heartbroken to hear of his loss. To know him was to love him, and I’m so glad I got that opportunity☐
-Emylee



Emylee Oswald - December 10, 2025 at 09:20 AM

MR

Of course, I remember you well Emylee! Thank you 🙏 so much for all you did on John's behalf!

Margaret Roberts - December 11, 2025 at 01:48 PM

RR

“ I remember clearly the day I got a call on October 29 th 1968 that I had my first nephew. “JMR” as I called him, loved to receive and give hugs. I loved hearing him call me Uncle Roger. We would laugh and joke as he would like to say phrases like “cut that out” with a giggly smile. He exuded a sweet innocence that represented love in its truest form. Now he is with family that’s passed and in paradise with our Lord and Savior.

Roger Roberts - December 09, 2025 at 09:48 PM