



## John Houston Siebert

March 15, 1948 - April 9, 2018

John Houston Siebert passed away on Monday, April 9, 2018, nine days after suffering a massive heart attack from which he never awakened. His loving wife, Ruthann was gently holding him as he took his last breath.

John was born March 15, 1948 in North Kansas City, MO to Lloyd and Dorothy Siebert. He grew up in North Kansas City, the middle of their three sons. He graduated from high school in 1966 after which he earned B.S., M.S. and Specialist Degrees in Education at Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg. John was a lifelong learner and avid reader—in fact, loved writing personal, bound reflections on all the books he read. He amazed friends and family alike with the wealth of information he stored in his head.

John's career path included media specialist and audio-video writer/producer/editor. Among his many professional accomplishments, John worked diligently for more than 20 years to provide research to influence and reform the transportation industry and legislation. After retirement he discovered great joy in teaching--working full-time as a substitute teacher for the Oak Grove School District. He came home every night, sharing entertaining or touching stories about his interactions with his students.

John loved wood carving and created many beautiful pieces, mostly to share with the extended family he loved so dearly. The quality of his work was outstanding and he enjoyed fulfilling custom orders as more people became aware of his craft. John loved to hunt with bow and arrow, knew the art of Atlatl, and had a standing Friday night date playing pool with his good friend

Alex.

John married Ruthann in 1979 and the two blended their families. Ruthann survives him. He is also survived by his children Alice (Andrew) Merlino, Elizabeth (fiancé Kirk Chritton) Demas, Andy Collins Siebert, and Nancy (Steve) Casey, eight grandchildren, brother Lane (Barbara) Siebert, and many in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins, Aunt Elinor Stewart, and scores of friends who loved him like family. His parents Lloyd and Dorothy and his brother Martin preceded him in death.

John was a man of deep moral character and a loving spirit. Through all of life's setbacks he persevered and held the course. He will be remembered for his ready laugh and playfulness. Always eager to jump into mischief-making, his bawdy, raucous, irreverent, no-nonsense style helped everyone keep it real. His big personality and ready engagement made him the life of the party. On his more serious side, he loved a good philosophical conversation, always holding tight to his values and impressing all with the breadth of his knowledge. Not overtly religious, John had a deep spirituality that he held close. On occasions that John might be asked to pray, all present were deeply moved. John's life was a blessing to his family, his students, and his friends. The world has lost an amazing person.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations in John's name to the Oak Grove School District Education Foundation, 601 SE 12th Street, Oak Grove, MO 64075 or online, <https://www.thcf.org/Your-Giving/Give-Now?fn=Oak+Grove+School+District+Education+Foundation+Fund>.

In Celebration of John's Life, we will share in a potluck picnic Saturday, June 9th, 4-7pm (Dinner at 5:30) at Shelter #3, Lake Jacomo (first drive on left inside the Woods Chapel and West Park Road entrance.) Please bring your favorite dish to share. Dinnerware and drinks will be provided.

# Tribute Wall

MF

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



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**Meyer Family** - May 12, 2018 at 09:31 PM

MF

“ Meyer Family lit a candle in memory of John Houston Siebert



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**Meyer Family** - May 12, 2018 at 09:04 PM

FB

“ *My Brother--Big John. This is difficult to write but I wanted folks to know that as an "outlaw", as it were, to this wonderful Browne family that we were both very fortunate enough to marry into; it was my absolute joy to know you. Your ready laugh, your passion, your irrelevance and most of all your soulful sensitivity to the plights of others less fortunate was always an inspiration to me. And, my God, how did you know so much about so many things. I have learned recently about what an avid reader you were in so many areas--so now I know. I thought I could keep pace with most topics and conversations about lots of things but you put me to shame, my brother. And I loved every minute of it. My daughter Abby just adorned you and Ruthann. Those raucous family gatherings, all the hubbub, all the noise, all the laughter, all the games were solace to her and my soul. Thank you. We still giggle as we remember you stumbling down the stairs at one of those gatherings, picking yourself up--barely missing a beat--and ready to go for another round of mischievous making just as nothing had happened. So, Big John, you have made your transition. I firmly believe you are now bathed in absolute light and love and are probably, even now, scheming as to how to stir things up. But, I hope that occasionally you will have the sense of how much you were deeply loved and how much you are now missed. Your "outlaw" brother, Fred*

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**Fred Besthorn** - April 20, 2018 at 10:19 AM

LB

“ *Laura Bixby lit a candle in memory of John Houston Siebert*



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**laura bixby** - April 20, 2018 at 08:21 AM

AM

“ Oddly enough, I never had Mr. Seibert as a sub in my room, but loved seeing him with other classes and hearing about the notes he left other teachers. He was one of the brave souls that would sub in kindergarten and was so patient with these little kids. One of my favorite memories of him this year was from the beginning of the year and I was in my room, on my plan time working. He was across the hall and it was just the sweetest thing to hear him sing the ABC's with these kindergarteners. I also loved how he would always sit with the class at lunch and carry on conversations with them.

My son also loved Mr. Seibert and was always thrilled when he would be their sub. He said he had funny stories and liked listening to him read.

Mr. Seibert will be greatly missed!

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**Ashley Murray** - April 17, 2018 at 03:42 PM

JC

“ I loved it when Mr. Siebert subbed in fifth grade. The teachers all wanted to read his notes because he was always so insightful and funny, not to mention his beautiful handwriting! I still have a note he left and I will treasure it always. The kids loved having him for their teacher for a day! We will all miss him but know that he brightened the lives of many children. Prayers of peace and comfort.

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**Janice Clark** - April 17, 2018 at 01:02 PM

TC

“ I always loved seeing Mr. Siebert in the building! He was my substitute several times over the past few years, and I absolutely adored the notes he would leave about my students--such humor and insight! The students and teachers will miss him dearly...his jokes, his stories, and the way he would always eat lunch with them. Such a gentle soul. We were blessed to know him.

Toni Carter - April 17, 2018 at 10:09 AM

AS

“ Thank you for sharing Mr. Siebert with us here at Oak Grove Primary. I always enjoyed when he was here to sub and loved even more listening to him tell the kids stories. He was a wonderful man and will be greatly missed

alli scully - April 17, 2018 at 08:04 AM

RR

“ Renee Rau lit a candle in memory of John Houston Siebert



Renee Rau - April 16, 2018 at 09:35 PM