



Joel Ray VanNatta

August 5, 1959 - June 27, 2020

Joel Ray VanNatta, 60, of Central City, passed away on Saturday, June 27, 2020 at his home.

He was born August 5, 1959 in Independence, Missouri, the son of Floyd Gene VanNatta and Agnes J. (Daniels) VanNatta. He married Roberta L. Schackmann on October 6, 1995 in Salem and she survives in Central City. In addition to his wife of 24 years, Roberta VanNatta of Central City, he is also survived by his children: William Rhodes and wife Jami of Nashua, New Hampshire, Andrew VanNatta and wife Kendra of Nashville, Illinois, Leslie Rhodes of Centralia, Amber Worlds and husband Shamal of Centralia, Rita Lusch of Centralia, Ambour McClelland and husband Brandon of Junction City; twenty-five grandchildren; two brothers: Randy VanNatta and wife Valeda of Nashville and Rodney VanNatta and wife Barbara of Centralia; three sisters: Pam Morton and husband Jim of Iuka, Sandy Martin and husband Jim of Salem, and Shelly Lyons of Centralia; special family friend: Bob Mays of Centralia; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Joel was preceded in death by his parents: Floyd VanNatta and Agnes (Daniels) Overturf, step-father: Robert Overturf, and two brothers: Vernon VanNatta and Raymond VanNatta.

Joel worked for Wheaton Plastics for 14 years. He then became a truck driver which was his dream job. He drove a semi until he became ill with Myasthenia Gravis Disease and could no longer drive. He was an avid Chicago Cubs Fan. He loved playing softball at Wamac Ballpark and he was a licensed umpire for

many years. He bowled in the bowling league at Banks Bowl and he was also in a Pool League for many years. Joel enjoyed fishing. He attended the First General Baptist Church in Central City. Joel cherished the time he spent with his family, friends and his special friend: Bob Mays.

Per Joel's wishes, cremation rites will be accorded and a private family Celebration of Life Service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 9, 2020 at the First General Baptist Church in Centralia with Pastor Bryan Bennett officiating. A visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the church on Thursday, July 9, 2020 before the Service. Family and friends who are planning to come to the visitation will be required to wear face masks and social distancing will be followed with a limited amount of people entering the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the family and will be accepted at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home and Cremation Services at 235 North Sycamore Street Centralia, Illinois 62801, (618)532-3523, who is honored to be of service to the VanNatta Family. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall

CB

“ Great man, and mentor, Joel you will be sadly missed by all that had the honor to meet you. And I was blessed for being one of those people. Thank you for everything , you will be missed but not forgotten.

Craig betti - July 09, 2020 at 01:50 PM

PH

“ Met Joel when I first started working at the Straight Shooter in the mid-70s, when Catfish owned it. Joel would stop by nearly every day to shoot some pool and visit. He was so open, kind, and friendly to everyone; I doubt that he ever met a stranger. Lost contact with him when I switched jobs and moved. He and I reconnected a few years ago at the hospital – shared a few old memories and then filled each other in and got all caught up to date on those “missing” years. Discovered we had both been drivers during that period of time, which gave us another bond in our old friendship. We saw each other a few times after that, and he always had a smile and kind words for everyone – always. Am so grateful that he and I were able to reconnect and update our friendship. Love to the VanNatta family; and, prayers for comfort and peace for all who loved Joel.

Pam Harrington - June 29, 2020 at 09:47 PM

SM

“ So sorry. Wow, memories take me back. Grade school and stories in high school that you told me. Who was driving when we played freeze out? And when we opened the door and water running under the car?

Prayers

Love Sarah

Sarah Merrick - June 29, 2020 at 01:48 AM

RA

“ Joel was an amazing man. When i think of him i remember going to a ball tournament and he was driving that big blue van with the ladder on the back and his ball shirt hanging on it blowing in the breeze to dry. There were so many more. He will be missed by Billy and I. My prayers go out to you all.

Raylee Altom - June 28, 2020 at 01:46 PM

LP

“ My condolences to the VanNatta family. Sorry for your loss.

Len Piasecki - June 28, 2020 at 11:19 AM



“ JOEL WAS A VERY GOOD GUY. HE WAS A STAR BASKETBALL PLAYER AND BASEBALL PLAYER AND TRACK N POLE VAULTING. HE WAS MY 1ST BF IN 7TH N 8TH GRADE. WE WENT TO DIFFERENT HIGH SCHOOLS. HE MARRIED A BEAUTIFUL N WONDERFUL WOMAN. ROBERTA. IF U NEED TO TALK PLEASE FR ME. I HAVE CHANGED ALL MY STUFF. IM SOOOO SRY. HE WILL BE IN GODS ARMS NOW N NO PAIN N CAN RUN N POLE VAULT AGAIN. HE WAS A GREAT GUY. HIS SMILE WOULD LIGHT UP A ROOM. THATS WHAT MADE JOEL JOEL.

Kayla Ryan - June 27, 2020 at 09:43 PM

DB

Sincere condolences and prayers to all his family.

DH and Julie Bryant - June 28, 2020 at 12:42 PM

SH

“ *Sally Heyduck lit a candle in memory of Joel Ray VanNatta*



sally heyduck - June 27, 2020 at 09:31 PM

CH

“ *Im in shock. Im so sorry for your loss. He was a sweetheart. Ill miss seeing him around. Prayers to all*

Cyndi hall - June 27, 2020 at 09:30 PM

JF

“ *To The VanNatta Family, So very sorry for your loss. Joel will be missed by so so many. You all are in our thoughts & prayers. God Bless.*



Janet Finley-Huffman - June 27, 2020 at 09:00 PM

RB

“ *I will miss you dear friend. You always had a wonderful smile. God will take care of you now. All my love*

Ruby Berry - June 27, 2020 at 07:26 PM

JA

“ *Coming to mac's, part of our crew, will miss you Joe, RIP*



jane - June 27, 2020 at 07:00 PM

BL

Joel was a wonderful person and a great umpire.

Betty Langhauser - June 27, 2020 at 08:08 PM



“ *Love this guy. So many memories on the ball field. Enjoyed the days when you,Hoss,Timmy , an so many more played benefit after benefits. You was the 1st one to come and the last to leave on those benefit weekends you are loved and will be missed by many my friend. Love ya. Barb. Hoss and Timmy*

Barbara Berry - June 27, 2020 at 06:27 PM

DD

“ *Jow is absolutely one of my favorite cousins and all around good guy. I will forever treasure our times together with Rod running through the woods and acting crazy as kids. You taught me how to catch a turtle, how to snag a frog, how to "dangle", inspired me to try pole vaulting, and just gave me a sense of freedom and belonging whenever we were together. I love you cousin and will miss you terribly.*

David Daniels - June 27, 2020 at 05:46 PM

JL

“ *Jerry And MaryAnn Long lit a candle in
memory of Joel Ray VanNatta*



Jerry and MaryAnn Long - June 27, 2020 at 12:52 PM