



## Johnny G. Cansler

December 20, 1925 - September 7, 2017

Johnny Guinn Cansler was born December 20, 1925, north of Bolivar, in the rural Huron area, where he lived much of his life. His parents were Ernest and Della Cansler.

Johnny attended Goodson High School, along with his future wife, Iva Mae Lightfoot. The night of their high school graduation, after the power went out in the school gym, they walked out of the gym and into life by the headlights of a car that had been parked at the front door, hand in hand, as they lived for 73 years after their marriage in 1944.

Johnny and Iva Mae spent the first years of marriage often apart, he in WWII serving in the Merchant Marines, she along with other family members in Santa Paula, California, riveting airplanes for the war effort and picking oranges since the men were gone to war.

Johnny by coincidence was in both New York for the joyous festivities of V-E day and San Francisco for V-J Day. But the lure of big city life and the sunny warmth of the West Coast proved no bar to returning to rural Bolivar shortly after the birth of their first son Ronald Lee in 1947. Johnny and Iva Mae had three more children born while living in Bolivar: Patricia Faye, Randall Eugene, and Debra Mae.

Tragedy struck when Randy, in the U.S. Army during the Viet Nam era, developed lymphoblastic lymphosarcoma and, after years of the best medical care the army could give, accompanied by his family throughout the United States, died in 1976. He still lived in Johnny's heart at his death.

Son Ron and wife Debbie live in Joplin. The grandchildren are Molly Dates and husband Jason, Gabe Cansler and wife Colleen, and Adam Cansler, all of Denver and five great-grandchildren: Treyson, Addison, and Josselyn Cansler, Eleana and Penelope Dates.

Daughter Patsy and husband Larry Hofstetter live in Bolivar. The grandchildren are Sarah Parrott and husband Sam of Knob Noster, Jennifer Noteware and husband Todd, and John Hofstetter and wife Melanie of Bolivar. Great grandchildren are Rylee, Levi, and Reagan Parrott in Knob Noster; Hannah Noteware and Avery Hofstetter in Bolivar

Daughter Debi and husband Steve Koelkebeck live in Joplin, with their son Benjamin Koelkebeck.

Johnny worked at several occupations including farming, trucking, garment factory supervisor, real estate and auto sales and owned the "Corner Store" bait shop.

Most important in Johnny's life were faith and his family. He was a life-long Methodist, first at Fairview church in Huron, then 54 years at Bolivar United Methodist where he served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Family meant the world to Johnny and he treated Iva Mae and their family to many wonderful vacations and created beautiful memories that will never be forgotten. Holiday celebrations, especially Christmas and the 4th of July, were Johnny's favorites. Johnny was a lifelong fisherman and had the pleasure of fishing all over the country. He was well known for his bountiful vegetable

gardens and fruit orchard.

Johnny died Thursday, September 7. After kissing his wife good night on her 92nd birthday, he suffered a devastating health event that led to hospitalization at CMH where he passed away 3 days later.

Friends may come by the funeral home to sign the guestbook from 1:00 - 5:00 pm, on Saturday, September 9, and 9:00 - 2:00 pm, on Sunday, September 10.

A visitation will be held on Sunday, September 10, 2017, at the Butler Funeral Home, in Bolivar, from 2:00-4:00 pm.

Services will be held Monday, September 11, 2017, at 10:00 AM in the Butler Funeral Home Chapel in Bolivar. Officiating are Rev. David Collum, of Bolivar United Methodist, Rev. Rex Warren, of Fairview Methodist, and Elder Donnie Lane.

As the poet said, when the funeral bell tolls from the steeple, "Send not to ask for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee." No one gets out of this place alive. But Johnny had a good run of it—a good life, lived well.

Services are under the care and direction of the Butler Funeral Home in Bolivar.

# Cemetery Details

## Greenwood Cemetery

S. Dunnegan Ave.  
Bolivar, MO 65613

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 10. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Butler Funeral Home - Bolivar  
407 E. Broadway  
Bolivar, MO 65613  
(417) 326-5233  
<https://butlerfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral Service

SEP 11. 10:00 AM (CT)

Butler Funeral Home - Bolivar  
407 E. Broadway  
Bolivar, MO 65613  
(417) 326-5233  
<https://butlerfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ Johnny G. Cansler

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ Johnny G. Cansler

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ Dr Tom Harrison, Shreveport, LA purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Johnny G. Cansler.



Dr Tom Harrison, Shreveport, LA - September 09, 2017 at 04:28 PM

HS

“ Dearest Iva Mae, Ron, Patsy, Debi & Families,

*I've been Blessed to know Johnny & his family my entire life. He & Iva Mae always sat either beside or behind my Mom, LaurNell (Blackburn) Strack & Aunt Neva Titus in church. Johnny always had a smile on his face & a kind word for everyone. Johnny will be truly missed by all who knew him.*



*I Salute You Johnny for your military service & sacrifice for our freedom.*

*I shed tears of joy knowing Johnny & Randy are celebrating together in Heaven! Until we meet again my friends.*

*Sending Prayers & Loving Thoughts to all of you!*

*Helen Ann Strack*

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**Helen Strack** - September 09, 2017 at 04:20 PM

LT

*Ron, I am sorry that you lost your dad. I did not know him, but I am sure he was a great man! Prayers for you and all the family. Linda (Ankrom) Thompson*

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**Linda Thompson** - September 09, 2017 at 04:50 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Johnny G. Cansler.*



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September 08, 2017 at 09:12 PM

CH

“ *Cathy A. Haralson sent a virtual gift in memory of Johnny G. Cansler*



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**Cathy A. Haralson** - September 08, 2017 at 02:27 PM

CH

*Was saddened to hear of Johnny's passing. I have known them since I was 15 and would always enjoy my visit with Johnny and Iva when in Bolivar. I Will have Iva, Ronnie, Pasty and Debra in my prayers. Cathy A. Haralson Bleggi*

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**Cathy A. Haralson** - September 08, 2017 at 02:41 PM

DK

*Thank you so much Cathy. You have always been special to them as you were to Randy. We appreciate your prayers for us at this time*

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**Debi Koelkebeck** - September 08, 2017 at 11:04 PM

JW

“ *I hadn't seen Johnny for a long time but have many good memories from the past. please accept my condolunces. James Whitman*

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**James Whitman** - September 08, 2017 at 11:38 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Johnny G. Cansler.*



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September 08, 2017 at 09:58 AM

KD

“ *I have great memories of growing up with Johnny. I sat by them many Sundays at church and it was always great to visit with him and Iva Mae. He was a wonderful person.*

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**Kathy Drake** - September 07, 2017 at 09:06 PM