



John James Gross

November 15, 1947 - February 1, 2021

Written by Shawn E. Gross, his son.

John James Gross, age 73, who was born in Menomonee Falls, WI and who was living with his wife in Mooresville, NC passed away unexpectedly on Monday, 2/1/2021.

I once asked my dad when I was about 19; Dad, if you were on your death bed what would be the questions you would ask yourself to determine if you had a successful life? Without hesitation he responded, “Was I a good Catholic and did I remain faithful to the church? Was I a good husband and did I remain faithful to my wife? Finally, was I a good father, teaching my kids the importance of knowing and acting out your values?”

Johns Early life- John J. Gross was the first of many children born of the late Harold Gross and Lillian Hoffmann Gross (age 95). When speaking of his life growing up with all his brothers and sisters, he recalls nothing but fond memories. However, upon scrutiny, there is a discrepancy when lamenting his early childhood struggles of having to walk up hill in 5 feet of snow both to school and back home. It was not long before I realized that if you hopped the fence surrounding Menomonee Falls North, you were in the Gross family backyard.

John excelled in sports and earned 3 letters a year for football, basketball and baseball for all 4 years of high school. It was also during this time that the Gross family took to Boot Lake for camping trips and his love affair with fishing was born. He also caught, catalogued and displayed over 60 butterfly species

and began to enjoy collecting stamps.

His father Harold Gross, showed John how to strip furniture, then varnish and stain it to a glory hardly found in furniture. It further displayed I feel was John's greatest value, learned from his father; If you are going to do something, do it well. And that defined a large part of his life. His performance in sports gifted him with an offer to play Quarterback at University of Lacrosse in La Crosse, WI. It is also here that he made the decision to be a teacher and hopefully coach youth sports. Middle life and Career- If you are going to do it, do it well. John Gross met Arlette Koeper Gross in 1974 and having known her from high school, they started dating. Within a year John asked Arlette for her hand in marriage.

While doing so he committed himself as a father to her two children, not only taking up the father role but also adopting them. John and Arlette had one child, Tracy Lynn Gross. John was experiencing some frustrations with teaching so he made the transition into management starting at Bradley Wash Fountain, where he played on their very successful softball team. He would take me to these games and I would watch over his bats and glove. John found that he enjoyed management and soon found himself at E-Z Painter, which through mergers and acquisitions was eventually Newell Group and where he spent his entire career. However, his love for teaching and coaching did not go to waste. He encouraged, supported, coached, taught and played roles such as den masters, and all in all, stayed involved with all three of his children and their extra-curricular activities. He effortlessly utilized his propensity and his love for teaching to make sure all three children were prepared for life. John was eventually gifted with 6 grand-children that he loved dearly.

During these formative years, John and his wife committed to rummaging, remodeling, and building a life together. This career also seen him and the family move to Tennessee in 1989. It's here where he and his wife bought a house where John enjoyed remodeling the basement as a sports bar theme with a pool table so he could continue to play pool and enjoyed showing up

his kids. He also enjoyed playing darts, collecting baseball cards and fine china, and making sure all children carried his love for the Green Bay Packers. John supported any struggles his family went through, making sure all his kids had successful transitions in life. After a 5-year return to WI for John, he then transitioned into retirement with his wife in Mooresville, NC. Late life and Retirement- John and Arlette retired to Lake Norman in Mooresville, NC, where they continued to love each other and find new value in things. It is here that he made sure that the family could spend summers together through purchasing property on the lake. He joined the Golden Boys Club where he continued to craft his golfing game, played pool, fellowshiped and assisted with the organization of events.

He also enjoyed the buying and selling of stock, and as a bonus worked at Trump International where he stayed fit and met many famous people like Mr. Michael Jordan.

John faithfully went to mass every Sunday up until the pandemic. “Was I a good Catholic and did I remain faithful to the church? Was I a good husband and did I remain faithful to my wife? Finally, was I a good father, teaching my kids the importance of knowing and acting out your values?” You did it, dad. And you did it well.

The family will receive friends from 9:30 – 11 am, Saturday, February 6, 2021, at Cavin-Cook Funeral Home, Mooresville, NC, followed by a service at 11 AM in the Cavin-Cook Funeral Home Chapel. For those who are unable to attend the service, you may go to the following link for the live stream

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC864hAs96dTRLVVL1la0Qlw/videos?view=2&flow=list>

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home, Mooresville, NC, is serving the family of Mr. Gross. Condolences may be made to the family at www.cavin-cook.com.

John's Favorite Prayer: Prayer to Saint Joseph

O Saint Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires. O Saint Joseph, assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, Our Lord; so that having engaged here below your heavenly power I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers. O Saint Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me, and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath Saint Joseph, Patron of departing souls, pray for us. Amen.

Previous Events

Receiving Friends

FEB 6. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home
494 E. Plaza Drive
 Mooresville, NC 28115

Memorial Service

FEB 6. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

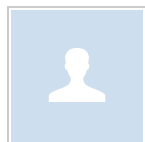
Cavin-Cook Chapel
494 E. Plaza Drive
 Mooresville, NC 28115

Tribute Wall



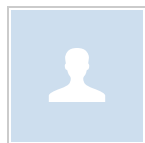
“ *It was an honor to know John. The best of the best and humble too.
What a guy.
I'm sorry to come in so late...I just found out about John's passing
My thoughts and prayers are with you all.
Don Stern*

Don Stern - April 20, 2021 at 06:45 PM



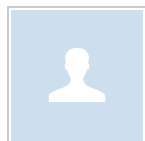
“ *John James Gross*

February 14, 2021 at 11:24 AM



“ *John James Gross*

February 14, 2021 at 11:04 AM



“ *John James Gross*

February 14, 2021 at 11:03 AM

JM

“ I just finished watching John's memorial service. I was so touched by the tributes. John and my husband , P-Ray worked together at Bradley, played softball together and lived together before John and Arlette were married and my husband and I were married along with Dave Hart before he and Diane married. So many memories!!! Thank you for making the service available to us who knew John and Arlette. Our thoughts are with you all!!!

Jeannie & P-Ray Michels

Jeannie Michels - February 09, 2021 at 10:46 AM

PM

“ Arlette,.we are so sorry to hear of John's death .Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

P-Ray & Jeannie Michels

P-Ray & Jeannie Michels - February 07, 2021 at 06:58 PM

SG

*Thank you, I will let her know. This board and everyone's kind words have been helping us during this trying time.
Shawn*

Shawn E Gross - February 08, 2021 at 12:14 PM

KM

“ John was my boss and mentor for a short time at EZPaint/Shurline but I worked with him for many years. He was a wonderful role model and mentor. He usually had a smile on his face and was polite and kind. His laugh was unforgettable! It was a pleasure working with him. Extending condolences to his family. RIP John.

Kathleen Mahsem

Kathleen R Mahsem - February 07, 2021 at 06:36 PM

SG

That is the way I would have wanted him to be remembered. As an effective and willing mentor. Thank you Shawn

Shawn E Gross - February 08, 2021 at 12:16 PM

BM

“ John was a friend I met while in college at UW-LaCrosse in 1968. John was in a social fraternity together with many friends of the Alpha Kappa Lambda fraternity at UW-L. While in college at UW-L, John and many of the brothers from the fraternity played intermural sports while in college. I myself played intermural flag or touch recreational football while in college. John indeed was a very good athlete and a fine gentleman. Rest in peace John and the memories of UW-LaCrosse will never be forgotten. Bill " Tiny " Milatz, now residing in Burlington, WI.

Bill " Tiny " Milatz - February 07, 2021 at 04:25 PM

GK

“ On behalf of all friends and colleagues from EZ PAINTR Johnson city Tennessee we would like to extend our condolences to John's family. It was a pleasure to have worked with John and kindle a friendship that we will never forget. Rest In Peace friend.

gary king - February 06, 2021 at 11:59 PM

SG

Hey Gary. Hope all is well. He loved that JC plant...after the first year. He had to make some tough decisions early. I met a lot of great people through EZ Painter. He will be missed. You can watch the mass on you tube if you want. Just search cavin Cook funeral home and you will see the video.

*Thanks Gary.
Shawn*

Shawn Gross - February 07, 2021 at 03:21 PM

DH

“ I have many great memories of John from grade school on through adulthood. John, P-Ray and I lived together for a year just prior to each of us getting married in the fall of '75.

John joined me on vacation in Florida in the spring of '72 culminating in playing a round of golf with star hockey player Phil Esposito of the Boston Bruins.

John was a great man and loved by all that knew him. He will be missed.

We will remember John, Arlette and family in our prayers.

David Hart - February 06, 2021 at 03:06 PM

SG

David, where did you live together at? It seems so familiar. I think that when we moved to Christopher BLVD, there was someone living in our basement.

I would have loved to have known him then. Did he play golf back then or did you guys just play for the opportunity to play with Phil? And as a hockey player was phil any good?

That is just one more story I am so interested in that I never heard. That makes you sharing is truly special.

Thank you.
Shawn

Shawn E Gross - February 06, 2021 at 11:51 PM

DH

The 3 of us lived together on Lannon Road in the Falls. We played some golf but just for fun. Phil was the leading scorer in the NHL that year so he was a big star. We weren't hockey fans but of course knew his name. Played with Phil and Eddie Johnson, who was the Bruins back up goalie. It happened entirely by coincidence when the pro at the course drove up with 2 guys after John and I had completed the first hole. Asked if we would mind 2 guys joining us. We said sure and then found out who they were. They treated us like buddies and even bought us a beer when we were finished playing. I think it was actually spring of '71.

David Hart - February 19, 2021 at 05:31 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of John James Gross.*



February 06, 2021 at 12:53 PM



“ *One of the greatest athlete i ever met. I remember in a practice for touch football in the Falls , John threw a pass to Steve Shiley on a short route and broke Steve's finger, due to the velocity.*

Charlie Keller

Charlie Keller - February 06, 2021 at 06:15 AM



Wow. Is that true? He used to throw tennis balls at me so I would no longer be afraid of the ball when pitched. He was incredible.. Awesome memory thank you for sharing.

Shawn Gross - February 06, 2021 at 12:59 PM



“ *Met John at Trump National and worked for him for several years. He was a great guy and I enjoyed our time together. He loved Jackson Browne and I remember him listening to music when we were setting up for the day. My condolences to the family. May he Rest In Peace. Henry Bridgers*

Henry Bridgers - February 05, 2021 at 06:04 PM

SG

Yes, he did love J. Brown and many of the singer songwriters of 60's and 70's. Thank you for reminding me that he has had a profound effect on the music I like. I am also glad you enjoyed your time together. I wish there was a little bit more for everyone to enjoy. I will miss our time together the most.

*Thank you,
Shawn*

Shawn E Gross - February 05, 2021 at 08:01 PM

DS

“ MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY. I MET JOHN AT LACROSSE STATE. WE BECAME FRIENDS AND ENJOYED PLAYING CARDS AND POOL.AFTER COLLEGE WE MET AGAIN. THIS TIME AS SOFTBALL TEAMMATES. NOT MANY COULD HIT LIKE JOHN. ALL THAT ASIDE, JOHN WAS A GEAT HUMAN BEING AND MAN. HE WAS A MAN OF FAITH AND LIVED THAT WAY. THE WORLD LOST AT GREAT MAN. DAVE SADOWSKI CUDAHY WISCONSIN.

Dave Sadowski - February 05, 2021 at 11:42 AM

SG

Dave, I can relate. My dad had me shooting pool, playing cards and softball as early as I can remember. Indeed he was a man of faith. That is one thing he stated he valued and I can verify he 100 percent lived by it. Thank you for your kind words and memories.

Shawn

Shawn E Gross - February 05, 2021 at 08:03 PM

FS

“ I first got to know John many years ago when we were expanding and organizing our Golden Boys golf program. John was instrumental in setting up the program at the Fox Den golf course. He served as coordinator for the group at Fox Den for a number of years and always worked to make it fun for everyone. John was a good golfer but more than that he was a good friend, an enthusiastic golf partner and a good man.

I will miss John at our various weekly golf outings as will everyone in our group. i extend my sincere sympathy to John's family.

Fred Schooley

Fred Schooley - February 05, 2021 at 11:20 AM

SG

He loved the Golden Boys and spoke tremendous words of the men and the organization frequently. Thank you for letting me know how deeply he was involved with the GB's. It makes complete sense.

*Thank you Fred
Shawn*

Shawn E Gross - February 05, 2021 at 05:33 PM

MB

“ *Would like to send my love and prayers to John's family... I got to know him many years ago at E-Z Paintr....through company picnics and gatherings... Those were very fond memories... My grandfather Bob Holly & my dad Kenny Bowman worked for John for many years... I have no doubt they are all together now... John and his family will always hold a special place in my heart! Praying for their comfort and peace in the days ahead..*

*Mary Bowman -
Johnson City, TN*

Mary Bowman - February 05, 2021 at 06:38 AM

SG

Thank you Mary. I know how much dad loved and respected your family. I would love to be watching them talk. And please keep praying.

Shawn E Gross - February 05, 2021 at 05:35 PM

MP

“ *This Gross family (Norman and Mary Jane) would like to extend our deepest sympathy to John's family. We were second cousins, all at MFHS together and ever in awe of John's athletic prowess. But more than that, we were impressed by how grounded he was. Norm and John played softball together at Bradley and he remembers how he would grunt loudly as he swung that bat and hit that ball over the fence for his many home runs. We attended the reception when John was inducted into the Hall of Fame at the high school and it was such a pleasure to visit with him then. Great tribute by Shawn. Love that smiling face, John, and may you rest in peace.*

Mary Jane (Gross) Peschmann - February 04, 2021 at 04:15 PM

SG

Thank you tremendously for sharing your memories. As a child I watched him play. Always remembered how he switch over to his cleats...and would task me with guarding everything. Yes, that grunt preceding the ball over the fence. Awesome memories. It was not long before I emulated his abilities and that grunt, but only because I had him as a hero. I would give anything for one more game of basketball...well, horse, which we eventually switched over to. As good as he was at football and basketball, it still is amazing those were the lesser two.

*Thank you again,
Shawn*

Shawn E Gross - February 05, 2021 at 05:42 PM



“ *Rainbow Reflections Basket was purchased for the family of John James Gross.*



February 04, 2021 at 03:31 PM



“ *To the Gross Family,*

We are so sorry to hear of John's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with Arlette, Lil, Tom, Dave, Mike, and the entire Gross Family. Your strong family ties will help you through this very difficult time. Our deepest sympathy.

Homer and Jan Leicht

Homer and Jan Leicht - February 04, 2021 at 02:44 PM



Thank you. Truly his brothers, his mom, and others have suffered a great loss and will need that comfort. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.
Shawn

Shawn E Gross - February 05, 2021 at 08:06 PM



Homer and Jan. It is so good to hear from you. Homer you are still my favorite teacher of all time. -mike gross.

mike gross - February 06, 2021 at 12:23 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John James Gross.*



February 04, 2021 at 09:57 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John James Gross.*



February 04, 2021 at 09:43 AM



“ *To the Gross Family,*

My deepest sympathy to the Gross family. The world lost one very good man. John was my hero growing up in Menomonee Falls. He excelled at sports, is on the Menomonee Falls High School Athletic Wall of Recognition (Hall of Fame) and yet was a very humble man. He was known as “Bouncer” in the Falls for his rebounding skill in basketball but was an all star in all sports. And a better man than athlete. He was true friend to all. We will not find a nicer man. God bless John and the Gross family.

Dick Becker

Richard Becker - February 04, 2021 at 09:38 AM

SG

Thank you for the kind words and the "boulder" story. It is one that I have heard before so it recalls context my brain has moved on from. He was also my hero. I can relate. Thank you.

I was very fortunate to have him as a coach (in life and sports) as well as a father that made sure I always had a good perspective on life choices. This was unexpected and tragic. I am happy that I sat with him the night before and we talked for 2-3 hours just about everything. And we shared this years packers as we do every year. I am going to miss that man badly.

Shawn E. Gross

Shawn E Gross - February 04, 2021 at 01:46 PM

DB

Shawn, I am sure we don't have to pray for John, but rather to him, as he is already in heaven. He can now be our guiding light from above.
Dick

Dick Becker - February 04, 2021 at 07:22 PM

SG

Dick, Indeed.. I will be counting on that guiding light.
Thank you.
Shawn

Shawn E Gross - February 05, 2021 at 08:08 PM

MM

“*John was truly one of the really "good guys"! I've been a friend and golfing buddy with him for many years now and he has always been one of my favorite people. Always a smile on his face and a kind word for all those he was around. And, he was always eager to talk about his family and how important they were to him. He will be missed by all of us who knew him. My deepest sympathies go to the entire family.*

Michael McKinley - February 04, 2021 at 08:02 AM

SG

Thanks. Yes, he was one of the goods. I know how much he loved golf and playing with all the Golden Boys & members. He would always discuss with me how "bad" he played after each time knowing he probably did great!

Dad was so appreciative of all the people that were in his life during this time and we talked recently about the importance of keeping his fellowshiping to a high level. It makes my heart happy to read your words and know that indeed, he did have intimate friends.

I was blessed to have him as my father and friend.

It seems that this tragic event is going to be the hardest thing I will have to go through.

Thank you again for your words. They are all going to mean so much to me as I try to move forward.

Shawn E. Gross (son)

Shawn E Gross - February 04, 2021 at 01:57 PM

SS

“ Prayers are with the family during this time. I have fond memories of playing many sports with John. He was a good friend to many and will be missed. God bless.

Steve Shiley

Steven Shiley - February 04, 2021 at 07:06 AM

SG

Thank you Steve. When I think of dad, sports is almost always on the top of the list. We played and won some small father son basketball tourney's. Then I suppose father time came in and it was just too scary to risk a possible ankle or Achilles injury. But, I did have him for many years to coach or play sports with.

Thank you for any and all prayers

Shawn

Shawn E Gross - February 05, 2021 at 08:12 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John James Gross.



February 03, 2021 at 05:43 PM



“ Dear Arlette, Shawn and family,
We are so sorry to hear of John's passing.
We will surely miss seeing him and chatting
from across the road...GOD bless you all.
Clent, Marilyn and Heather Bailey



Marilyn England Bailey - February 03, 2021 at 05:40 PM

VH

Prayer are with the family during this very difficult time. John will be missed, God Bless
Larry & Vickie Hildreth

Vickie Hildreth - February 03, 2021 at 07:11 PM

SG

Thank you neighbors. I will lean a little on Clent to determine when-ask advice for the how to keep up everything dad did with the yard etc. Mom will probably sell quickly so I may have to make sure its all in tact.

Thanks again, and I know how much dad loved talking with you and how highly he thought of you.

Shawn

Shawn E Gross - February 04, 2021 at 02:00 PM



Shawn, Anything and anytime you need us we are just across the road..

Marilyn England Bailey - February 07, 2021 at 09:24 PM