



John M. Stark

September 11, 1938 - April 14, 2026

Today, we gather to remember the life of John Martin Stark, who was born on September 11, 1938, in Jasper County, Missouri, and passed away on April 14, 2026, at the age of 87. John lived a long and meaningful life marked by devotion to his family, his work, and above all, his faith as one of Jehovah's Witnesses. John was born to Everett and Flora Mae Stark and grew up in a large, close-knit family. He was preceded in death by his parents, as well as his brothers Wilbur, Lee, Ellis, Alva, and Billy, and his sister Alta Barker.

Growing up in Jasper County shaped John into a hardworking, humble, and capable young man, qualities that remained with him throughout his life. He graduated in 1953 from Hawthorne Junior High School in Carthage, Missouri, beginning his adult life with determination and a strong work ethic.

John spent 16 years employed at Leggett and Platt, where he built a reputation for reliability and skill. He later became self-employed, working as an auctioneer, in construction, and in investment properties. He was often described as "a jack of all trades, master of none," though those who knew him would say he mastered far more than he claimed. The work he valued most was his 51 years of service as a minister of Jehovah's Witnesses. His faith guided every part of his life, and he shared it with sincerity and compassion. John would want everyone to remember his favorite scripture, Revelation 21:3,4, a promise he treasured so deeply: that one day, pain and death will be no more. John's family was his pride and joy. He supported them, guided them, and celebrated their milestones with gratitude and love.

John is survived by his wife of 67 years, Carol Stark; his son, Marty (Roma) Stark, of Neosho, Missouri; his daughter, Kim Scharff of Carthage, Missouri; and his brother, Elvie Stark of Carthage, Missouri.

He also leaves behind five grandchildren: Justin (Lindsay) Stark of Pittsburg, Kansas; Wendy (Gary) Lehman of Carthage, Missouri; and Kody (Stephani) Scharff of Eloy, Arizona, Rickey (Michelle) Kralicek of Carthage, Missouri and Melissa (Tristian) Strait of Shawnee Kansas. He is further survived by twelve great-grandchildren: Cody Leonard, Koby Stark, Landen Stark, Carter Lehman, and Makenna Lehman, Brooklyn Jaxson and Boston Cowan, Rhett and Rhyse Strait, Kaden and Kelsey Kralicek. One great-great-granddaughter, Ellie Leonard, and many nieces and nephews.

John was known for his practicality, his humor, and his willingness to help anyone who needed a hand. Whether fixing something, building something, or offering spiritual encouragement, he was always ready to step in. His life reflected quiet strength and steady faith. He enjoyed working with his hands, learning new skills, and staying active in his ministry. Those who knew him will remember his honesty, his gentle spirit, and the comfort he brought to others. John leaves behind a life of faith, service, and love. His influence lives on in the family he cherished, the congregation he served, and the many people he encouraged over the years. His life was a testament to endurance, devotion, and hope. Though we feel the weight of his absence, we also remember the beautiful life he lived, a life that touched many and left the world better because he was here.

A visitation will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Friday, April 17, 2026, at Ulmer Funeral Home in Carthage, Missouri. A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, May 9, 2026, at Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 1608 Robert Ellis Young Dr., Carthage, Missouri.

Online condolences may be made at www.ulmerfh.com.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Ulmer Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 17. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Ulmer Funeral Home
1208 S. Garrison
Carthage, MO 64836
(417) 358-2222
ulmerfh@gmail.com
<https://www.ulmerfh.com/>

Memorial Service

MAY 9. 2:00 PM (CT)

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses
1608 Robert Ellis Young Dr.
Carthage, MO 64836

Tribute Wall

GC

“ Uncle John and Aunt Carol R 2 of the best people I have ever known. Marty and Kim r too .I will miss u Uncle John and my prayers r with all of u. Love u,Ginger .

Ginger Crooks - April 17 at 11:57 PM

BS

“ Uncle Johnnie was a loving caring person for all his family and his siblings and nieces and nephews.
We will miss him very much but glad he is at peace now.
Praying and sending Love to Aunt Carol and family.💕💕💕💕💕💕💕💕💕💕
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Brenda Seckman - April 16 at 06:13 PM

DM

So sorry, Marty. I know its hard loosing our loved ones! Will be praying for you!

Diana,George Moffett - April 17 at 12:45 PM