



## John T. Strunk

May 3, 1945 - November 20, 2020

John T. Strunk age 75 of Harriman passed away Friday, November 20, 2020. He was a member of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. John taught Spanish at Harriman High School for 30 plus years and during his spare time he worked part time at Walmart. After his retirement from Harriman High School John went back to teaching Spanish at Oakdale High School. He loved his students, his family and his animals.

Survivors include:

Sister and brother in law Mona and Kenny Morton of Harriman;

Nieces and nephews Kimberly and Eric Adkins;

Shannon and Sylvia Morton;

Alan Morton;

Patrick and Tiffany Morton;

Chloe Morton;

Great nephews and niece Eli; Elizabeth and Linnex Morton.

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorial donations be made to Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church 535 Margrave Drive Harriman, TN 37748.

# Tribute Wall



Todd  
Hues

“ *Mr Strunk influenced the lives of so many of his students He will be missed but he will live on through all of our fond memories of him. Praying for his family . RIP Captain Strunk*

Todd Hues - November 28, 2020 at 07:23 AM



Richard  
Cofer

*I enjoyed Spanish class and listening to Mr Strunk tell stories. RIP Mr Strunk*

Richard Cofer - November 26, 2022 at 05:57 AM

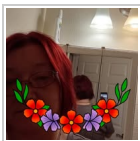


RC

“ *Mr. (Señor) Strunk was one of my favorite teachers in high school. I remember him calling us squash blossom, meadow muffin and poopy. All names for cow turds. 😊 He got to see my children when he would work at Walmart. He will definitely be missed! One of the good ones!*



Rachael Lewis Carroll - November 27, 2020 at 03:43 AM



“ *John Struck was not only my teacher in high school but he was my godfather. I remember when I decided to join the Catholic church I asked him if he would be my godfather. He took those responsibilities seriously. He was there whenever I needed advice or just a friend. You will be missed my friend*

Ruby Curtis - November 26, 2020 at 05:09 PM

SB

“ Sharon Bowles lit a candle in memory of John T. Strunk



Sharon Bowles - November 26, 2020 at 11:56 AM

HC

“ Mr. Strunk is an excellent example of a teacher bringing joy while stimulating learning of young people and bringing it all together with patience , tolerance, and humor .... His Happy Soul will be missed by many .. Nichole, Hannah, & Corrie Coffey.

hannah coffey - November 25, 2020 at 06:55 PM

RI

“ I will truly miss you my friend.



Rochelle Inman - November 25, 2020 at 04:39 PM

RI

“ May God bless and comfort your family. So sorry for your loss. John was such a kind sweet man. He will truly be missed. RIP John. I will miss seeing and talking to you at Walmart.

Rochelle Inman - November 25, 2020 at 04:36 PM

CT

“ *Colleen Thomas lit a candle in memory of John T. Strunk*



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**Colleen Thomas** - November 25, 2020 at 01:32 PM

CW

“ *Charlene Walls lit a candle in memory of John T. Strunk*



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**Charlene Walls** - November 24, 2020 at 10:42 PM

PC

“ *I am so sorry we have lost John. I met him in 1974 and he gave me a copy of Siddhartha. This one act of kindness got me interested in reading and that was such a positive influence in my life. I have enjoyed seeing him out over the years. I wish the family peace and love. Pat Cooley*

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**Patrick Cooley** - November 24, 2020 at 10:30 PM

IR

“ *Irelands lit a candle in memory of John T. Strunk*



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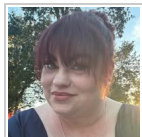
**Irelands** - November 24, 2020 at 03:51 PM

IR

“ As a teacher, our legacy is the children we teach. Your legacy lives on with my grandson Shay. He still talks about you and the influence you had on him. LOL, he still runs his mouth, too. You could handle it where others just threw up their hands and called us. Through Shay, you touched us all. Thank you, John. We truly enjoyed the stories you shared with us and we will treasure having known you. From all of us John, Rest in Peace. You were an excellent teacher and a good friend.

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Irelands - November 24, 2020 at 03:50 PM



“ Being in Mr. Strunk's homeroom for four years and his Spanish class for two will always be fond memories of my time at HHS. I will never forget his first-hand "People of Walmart" experiences. I'm brokenhearted to hear of his passing. My condolences to all of his friends and loved ones. - Tierney Heisinger



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Tierney Heisinger - November 24, 2020 at 01:23 PM

JB

“ John “T” Strunk. The “T” as in Don Juan Tenorio! Or John John as Mrs Mae Strunk called you! I’m devastated for your departure. I hate that I’m so far away and not beside you! You made me such a much better person. I miss you terribly! You are the most genuine and loving human being I have ever come across! I very much remember our trips to Rugby or to Kentucky. You are so especial you even have your own town in Kentucky: Strunk! Our trip to Memphis, to south Florida when I moved here, to Cancun! Or your trip to Paris before we met! All these are my memories and I will always remember! Rest In Peace sweet prince! T.A.T.Q.T.E. Jose!



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**jose Barradas** - November 23, 2020 at 03:11 PM

JB

“ I was telling a co-worker, early last week, that I was glad Thanksgiving was on the way because B and I would be delivering Mr. Strunk a plate to Walmart. I told her how much I loved him, with tears falling, and how B and I wanted SO badly for him to come live with us.....we begged every single time we saw him. All of my boys had a very healthy respect for him, even though only one actually had him in class, but Blaze grew up seeing me always hugging him, kissing his cheek, and never failing to tell him I loved him from the bottom of my heart. B came to love him just as deeply and would race to hug him first, thinking he had somehow gotten one over on me. I am thankful that he received my card/letter a few months back so I know, without a doubt, that he knew how much he truly meant to me and my love for him was bigger than the universe. B, after I told him Mr. Strunk had passed, told me he regretted not making Mr. Strunk come live with us - heavy words from a 12 year old. We cried together.....I sure wish he could have taught me (and B) how to say goodbye to him but words can't express the grief. The world is a little darker with this loss. We love you bigger than the universe, Mr. Strunk, and we always will.

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**Jayne (West) and Blaze** - November 23, 2020 at 12:40 PM

JA

“ John will be missed by many. I especially enjoyed watching John communicate with the Latino customers in their native tongue at his check out counter at Walmart. It must have made them feel very welcomed. Quite the valuable ambassador for Walmart. I will also miss the way he played the organ at Blessed Sacrament Church. A beloved teacher and friend and a multi-talented individual. Thanks John for all that you have given us. Rest in Peace.

*John Andriulli*

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**John B Andriulli** - November 23, 2020 at 12:03 AM

NM

“ John and I became friends while attending Emory Elementary school in Harriman in the early 'fifties. The school and community was "Little Emory" back those days. My favorite memory is John playing the piano in Mrs. Weaver's room during recess. Never imagined he would become a teacher and help educate my three older boys. He was a very kind and loving person that will be greatly missed.  
Nolan Moore



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**NOLAN EUGENE MOORE** - November 22, 2020 at 11:41 PM



“ John was a close friend since high school. I will miss his humor and his caring attitude so much. Rest in Peace my friend.  
Richard Saffles

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**Richard Saffles** - November 22, 2020 at 10:34 PM

CH

“ John was a good friend to our family. We have many fond memories of his graciousness and kindness toward us. He was always a champion for his students. He will be missed and mourned by many. Especially our family.



Carolyn, John, Sara, Ashley Haun

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**Carolyn Haun** - November 22, 2020 at 08:07 PM

JH

“ *Mr Strunk was a special man. He was a great teacher and truly loved all his students. I haven't lived there in 40 years and a year ago I saw him and he remembered me right away, he said well hello Miss Hughes. He loved us all. RIP Mr Strunk Adieu.*

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**judy hughes hunt** - November 22, 2020 at 07:55 PM

AS

“ *Alan Swicegood lit a candle in memory of John T. Strunk*



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**Alan Swicegood** - November 22, 2020 at 12:49 PM

RC

“ *I was so sorry to hear of John's passing. We had been friends for years and as well as a wonderful teacher, he was an awesome person! He had such a spirited wit and was a very caring person. He will be missed.*



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**RUTH BENNETT CLABO** - November 22, 2020 at 12:19 PM

ML

“ *Mr Strunk will be missed he had an amazing sense of humor. Loved by many!*

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**Mary Lyles** - November 22, 2020 at 11:06 AM

MR

“ Kind ,wonderful Man ,I remember working at the hospital we had a family in the ER we speaking Spanish,we were having trouble understanding them someone said call Mr Strunk he came and helped . A Great person.

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**Maria Rose** - November 22, 2020 at 08:43 AM

DH

“ So sorry for your loss. Mr Strunk was a wonderful person. My great nieces & great nephew attend Oakdale & often speak of him & how nice he is to everyone. My mother & her younger sister also went to school with him. He was a favorite of ours at Walmart, as well. He will be sorely missed.

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**Deborah Holder** - November 22, 2020 at 01:02 AM

FH

“ I never had the pleasure of having Mr. Strunk as a teacher, but he taught one of my children. I can honestly say I learned from him as a parent. He not only taught Spanish, he had an incredible knowledge of Harriman history. He did research and found out that we were kin through distant family. He made me copies of pictures of my great grandparents. I would often talk to him about lessons he taught the kids in class. He was one of a kind and loved to teach anyone who wanted to learn. I will truly miss going through his line at the Walmart. I would look for him just to pay in his line. Such a sweet and kind man. A great loss to our community. Rest in peace Mr. Strunk!

*Frankie & Jason Hawn*

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**Frankie Hawn** - November 22, 2020 at 12:02 AM

JB

“ *As I stand here at attention tilting forward as far as I can without falling or losing my balance, I give a shout out to a fine teacher. As I go through your line at Walmart, I can hear that question you always ask, What is your brother up to? You will be missed by many.*

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**Jeff Branson** - November 21, 2020 at 10:44 PM

SS

*Mona so sorry to hear about John or Mr. Strunk as the kids say. He was always so nice and friendly to everyone. Prayers for you all.*

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**Sherry Shillings** - November 21, 2020 at 11:46 PM

L(

“ *Good night, sweet prince. And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest!*  
*Thank you, Mr. Strunk, for being kind to all students and setting a good example.*

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**Lana (Heath)** - November 21, 2020 at 09:56 PM

TH

“*Mr. Strunk was a phenomenal teacher. While he taught Spanish, he also taught all of his students about life and what it meant to be a good, hardworking, responsible individual. I know I am not the only one with countless memories of him, and I will cherish them forever. I'll never forget when he gave me an umbrella because he knew I had to walk to school in the pouring rain. He was a kind, and caring individual who cared deeply for all the students who walked through his door. He, along with many wonderful teachers of mine, became a role model for me; and he is on the list of people who inspired me to become a teacher. His impact on my life was greater than I think he ever knew, but I know I'm not the only one who cared deeply for him- and I will forever be grateful that he was a part of my life. May he rest in eternal peace, and may his loved ones be comforted by the countless memories and love shared by all who knew him. Mr. Strunk, I wouldn't have traded you for a truckload of speckled puppies.*

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**Tara Hughes** - November 21, 2020 at 09:38 PM

AB

“*One of the best teachers I had the pleasure of being a student of. His sense of humor and personality made his classes much more than educational. He was definitely one of a kind and I feel lucky and blessed to have had such a person in my life, as a student and then into adulthood. He will be so greatly missed. -Adrienne Brackett*

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**Adrienne Brackett** - November 21, 2020 at 09:14 PM

LG

“ *Mr. strunk was a great teacher and he always had a good story or joke to tell. He will be missed dearly!*



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**Lindsay G** - November 21, 2020 at 08:29 PM

GM

“ *I worked with Mr. Struck at HHS. We both had an appreciation of flowers. He gave me some irises that would bloom in the spring and the fall. My last one just faded away about a week ago. He always came to mind whenever they bloomed. He was a very special person and will be missed by many.*

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**Greta MORRIS** - November 21, 2020 at 08:17 PM

MC

“ *Mr. Strunk was the favorite teacher of many HHS students...you learned more than a foreign language in his class, you learned about the world outside of small town Tennessee. He had a depth and breadth of knowledge that he was extraordinary provided an educational experience about the world and how to approach life - 30 years later so many of his euphemisms still ring in my ears. You were one of a kind Senor Strunk, many thanks for the wonderful lessons and memories.*

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**Michelle Clough** - November 21, 2020 at 08:14 PM

BF

“Capitan my Capitan.. You taught me so much except how to speak another language. You did however teach me to appreciate people and to embrace difficulties yet realize I don't have to accept them. I learned a lot about east Tennessee and it's history and some pretty cool places I would have never known existed without your help. Thank you for caring about so many generations of young men and women. Well done sir, now rest.

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**Brian Farmer** - November 21, 2020 at 07:49 PM

SK

He was my favorite Sunday School teacher and I actually got to tell him that this past year while visiting Blessed Sacrament. It was over 30 years ago that he was my teacher!

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**Stacey Kesterson** - November 21, 2020 at 08:28 PM

CH

“I got to know Mr. Strunk while working at Oakdale School, he will be missed by all who knew him. I can remember my kids talking about him teaching them words of Spanish that not all teachers would have taught them! But he had a knack with the young people and it worked! Rest In Peace !

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**Christine Howard** - November 21, 2020 at 07:45 PM



“Very sorry to hear of Mr. Strunk's passing. I had him for French at HHS and he was always one of my favorite teachers. He had a wonderful sense of humor and I'll always remember him fondly.

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**Amy Sexton** - November 21, 2020 at 07:41 PM

PO

“ I knew John from church and school (band). He was always a positive person and the world is now a little poorer with his departure.

Patrick O'Shea - November 21, 2020 at 07:28 PM

SS

“ Sherry Schuman lit a candle in memory of John T. Strunk



Sherry Schuman - November 21, 2020 at 06:23 PM

SS

“ John was such a special person and an excellent teacher. He is going to be missed by his students now and all of his former students. I am going to miss seeing him in church and playing the organ. He was an excellent organ player. When he used to play, I could hear the angles singing with his music. May his soul Rest In Peace. Praying that his family feels God's love and mercy surrounding them.

Sherry Schuman - November 21, 2020 at 06:21 PM

LO

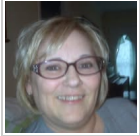
“ Mr John was a wonderful person who was so loving and understanding I worked with him since 2006. I Wouldnt trade that time for nothing just the other day i was telling him how much he meant to me I am honored to have called him my friend he will be greatly missed. I loved him very much.

Linda Oldham - November 21, 2020 at 06:08 PM

FP

“ John and I were friends since childhood when we played out side his grandmother,s home. Later at Emory School . I also belong to Blessed Sacrament. May you as a family be lifted up to know he was loved by many. Prayers for you all.

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**Faye Mullins Preston** - November 21, 2020 at 06:04 PM



“ John was an amazing person. You could not help but like him. I worked with him at Walmart and visited him several times after I quit there. I will never forgot how nice and polite he was to everyone. Fly high my friend you deserve it

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**Glenda Melton** - November 21, 2020 at 05:05 PM

BM

John has been a dear friend since high school. He was very caring and loyal and had a wonderful sense of humor. I will miss him.

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**Barbara W. Miles** - November 21, 2020 at 05:41 PM

TG

“ I hate to hear this, the whole family are in my thoughts and prayers. I will always remember the wonderful stories he told us after we did our work at school for the day. He was a great teacher and will be missed dearly. Rest In Peace Mr. Strunk!!!

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**Tiffany Greer Galyon** - November 21, 2020 at 04:32 PM