



John Levi Staples

December 17, 1939 - June 9, 2025

John Staples of Lake Saint Louis, MO passed away Monday, June 9, 2025, at the age of 85. Beloved husband of Joyce (Cowger); loving father of Jean Scott, John, Jeff, and Jerry (Staples); grandfather of four grandsons and three granddaughters; treasured by many great-grandchildren.

Born on December 17, 1939, in St. Louis, MO John graduated from Wellston High School before designing the Bridgeton Bible Church in 1962 and chapel building for the Whispering Winds bible camp in 1963. John worked at Vitek where he led a small team and developed 17 patents, including a card reading machine. John flew on eight flights on the NASA Zero Gravity aircraft (aka Vomit Comet) to test the card reading instrument, which was later flown on the space shuttle Columbia.

His legacy lives on with the family he deeply loved, and memories cherished by all that knew him. May his memory bring comfort to those who loved him deeply.

A visitation will be held on Monday, June 23, 2025, at Bellerive Gardens Cemetery in the Indoor Mausoleum, 740 N. Mason Road, St. Louis, Missouri, from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Memorial service will begin at 11:00 a.m. in the Mausoleum. Entombment will follow in the Mausoleum where John will be inurned with his wife. Arrangements have been handled through Valhalla

Funeral Chapel, Crematory and Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association.

Cemetery Details

Bellerive Garden Indoor Mausoleum Chapel

740 North Mason Road
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 23. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Bellerive Garden Indoor Mausoleum Chapel
740 North Mason Road
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

Memorial Service

JUN 23. 11:00 AM (CT)

Bellerive Garden Indoor Mausoleum Chapel
740 North Mason Road
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Tribute Wall

GW

“ My Mom, Ethel Wilson(Staples) is John’s sister. My Mom passed in 2017 and we have many memories of Uncle Red. Sundays after church riding Jeanne’s minibike into the side of Grandmas house. Years and I mean years later my wife Karen crossed his path and work with my Uncle Red at Vitek... Oh what a small world. You will be missed Uncle Red
Gene and Karen Wilson

Gene Wilson - June 22, 2025 at 06:00 PM

LG

“ I worked with John many years at McDonnell Douglas, Vitek, & bioMerieux. While he had stacks of paper on his desk, if you asked him for something, he could pull it out of the stacks of paper like magic. Great engineer. Hugs and prayers for the family.

Lisa Graves - June 13, 2025 at 08:53 PM

KV

“ I worked with John at Vitek. He was such a great guy. I'm very sorry for your loss. Kaye Vaughn

Kaye Vaughn - June 13, 2025 at 08:35 PM

SH

I worked with John at bioMerieux/Vitek for many years. He was a fine and very dedicated Engineer. He will surely be missed by many. My sincere condolences.
Steve Harting

Steve Harting - June 19, 2025 at 01:34 PM