



## John Wesley Conrad

May 19, 1931 - October 4, 2017

John Wesley Conrad, 86, of Aroma Park, passed away on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 at his home. He was born on a farm in rural Milton, Iowa on May 19, 1931. He was the third child and only son of Aurther and Florance Bertha Conrad. He attended school in Pulaski, Iowa and Cantril Public School in Cantril, Iowa where he graduated in 1949. He became an eagle scout at the age of 13 and remained in scouting until his sons reached maturity. Immediately after graduating from high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Army. He became a high speed radio operator and code decipherer. At the beginning of the Korean War, he was sent to Korea and was attached to the Republic of Korea Military as an advisor. He remained with the Republic of Korea Army for a year. He attained the rank of Sergeant while with the Republic of Korea Army. After his time with the R.O.K. Army, he went to Osaka, Japan for more schooling. After being given the option to remain in Japan to teach, he chose to return to Korea with his signal team. He then was sent above the 38th Parallel as a relay radio operator. While in Korea, he was awarded with many medals and citations. He was awarded four bronze battle stars, one of which was from the Battle of the Chosen Reservoir. On returning to the U.S., he was sent to the Sacramento Signal depot, and from there he was assigned to the Nevada proving grounds at Camp Desert Rock where he was in charge of communications operations for 8 above ground atomic bomb tests.

He married Roberta Harward on June 19, 1953 in Milton, Iowa. After being discharged from the Army, he was a guard at the Iowa State Penitentiary for a short time. He was then employed by Dairyland Power in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. He then moved his family to Kankakee where he was employed by Rudolf Express Company for 34 years. After retirement, he was employed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for five years. He was a member of the Aroma Park Methodist Church, the Veterans of Foreign War, the American Legion, the NRA, Family Motor Coach Association, the 51st Signal Battalion Alumni, the Crooked Hook Club, and a founding and former member of the XLINE Sportsmans Club.

He and his wife traveled extensively in their motor home, visiting all of the Continental United States and several other countries before finding their winter's nest in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas.

Mr. Conrad is survived by his wife of 64 years, Roberta; his two children, John Conrad, of Chebanse and Rosalyn Nottke and her husband Larrin Nottke, of rural Bonfield; one sister, Joyce Lindalof, of Saybrook; and six grandchildren, Kendra Conrad, of Arvada, Colorado, Kelly Conrad, of Broomfield, Colorado, John Conrad, of Chebanse, Olivia Nottke-Koerner and her husband Alex Koerner, of rural Kankakee, Larrin Nottke, of rural Bonfield, and Samantha Nottke, who is attending Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville. He is also survived by one sister-in-law and one brother-in-law.

He was preceded in death by one son, James Wesley Conrad; and one sister, Grace Graber.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A memorial visitation will be held from 1:00 p.m. until the 3:00 p.m. memorial service on Saturday, October 7, 2017 at Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home in Kankakee. Rev. Marsha Collins will officiate the service.

Memorials may be made to the wishes of the family.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

OCT 7. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Kankakee - Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home  
1480 W. Court St.  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

## Memorial Service

OCT 7. 3:00 PM (CT)

Kankakee - Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home  
1480 W. Court St.  
Kankakee, IL 60901  
(815) 932-1214  
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# Tribute Wall

RN

“ He was my mentor,my friend my hero,my dad, I will miss him so much. With infinite love. Rosalyn

Rosalyn Nottke - October 07, 2017 at 11:24 PM

LC

“ He was my neighbor and a great man . He Will be missed

Laura Barnhart cook - October 06, 2017 at 06:26 PM

OK

“ Here's to the man who insisted I love Coca Cola, quit smoking just because I told him to, and inspired my imagination. You have always been my hero Papa. I love you and miss you. <3

Olivia Koerner - October 06, 2017 at 10:27 AM

RN

Olivia he loved all his grandchildren so much

Rosalyn conrad nottke - June 13, 2020 at 09:58 PM

SG

“ We have been friends of John and Roberta for years. Prayers for all his family.. He will be missed.



Sara Gatlin - October 05, 2017 at 04:17 PM



“ 76 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes** - October 05, 2017 at 02:24 PM