



## John Nicholas Russ

July 31, 1922 - October 15, 2018

John Nicholas Russ

TORRINGTON, Wyoming – John Nicholas Russ, 96, died Monday, October 15, 2018 at Torrington Community hospital.

Funeral Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 1:30 pm Thursday, October 18, 2018 at St. Rose Catholic Church with The Reverend Father Ray Moss officiating. Burial will follow in the LaGrange Cemetery in LaGrange, Wyoming. Visitation will be held Wednesday from 3-5 pm at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, the family would like a donation to be made to the VFW #2918 and/or Waggin' Tails Animal Shelter.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Colyer Funeral Home and friends may send their condolences to the family at [www.colyerfuneralhome.com](http://www.colyerfuneralhome.com).

Johnnie was born July 31, 1922, in Sunrise, Wyoming the son of Nicola Russo (AKA Nick Russ) and Concetta (Sarlo) Russ. When he was growing up, most of his time was spent in Sunrise, except for the period of time during the depression that he and his family moved to Ogden, UT to work on a farm.

After moving back to Sunrise, John graduated from Sunrise High in 1940.

After high school he attended the University of Wyoming for a year and a half, during that time he completed some of his military training. He then joined the Army Air Corp and spent 2 years in England where he was an aircraft corrosion control repairman. When he came back to Sunrise he worked for CF&I (Colorado Fuel and Iron). John worked a variety of jobs in Sunrise; he was a butcher, an auto mechanic, a core sampler, a Recording Secretary for

USWA (United Steel Workers Association). John married Bessie Clarke in May 1949 and the couple later divorced. In 1963, John got a job in Sidney, Nebraska with Stickney's Auto. During his time in Sidney, he worked part time at the theatre as a projectionist and his family was able to get into all of the movies for free. Stickney's sent him to Torrington to work in 1966. After Stickney's closed their doors, John worked for Valley Motor Auto Supply until he was 83 years old. John was an incredible salesman and won numerous sales awards. March 28, 2003, John married Wanda Babbitt.

He was an avid sports fan and watched the Broncos and the Rockies often but mostly he was a Wyoming Cowboys fan. He followed the Cowboys football team to almost all of their games until he wasn't able. John also enjoyed Cowboys basketball. He was an arrowhead hunter and collector, a stamp collector, a calligraphy artist and he enjoyed fishing and telling fishing stories.

John was a charter member of the Guernsey VFW, the American Legion, the USWA, and he was a staunch Democrat.

Survivors include his wife Wanda from Torrington; sons Louis (Barbara) Russ of Torrington and Mark (Carole) Russ of Hartville, Wyoming; daughter Roxanne (Rich) Thurlow of Pahrump, Nevada; sister Virginia Russ of Torrington; 8 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were his parents; sisters Eursla Soulas and Eva Hart; brother Louie Russ and 3 infant siblings.

# Cemetery Details

## LaGrange

LaGrange, WY

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 17. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (MT)

Colyer Funeral Home  
PO Box 20 / 2935 Main  
Torrington, WY 82240  
(307) 532-2320  
colyerfuneralhome@gmail.com

## Service

OCT 18. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (MT)

St. Rose Catholic Church  
605 E. 22nd Avenue  
Torrington, WY 82240  
(307) 532-5556

# Tribute Wall

JC

“ *My deepest sympathy to your family. Blessings and prayers, Janet*

Janet Craven - November 06, 2018 at 08:21 PM

DW

“ *Debi Weickum lit a candle in memory of John Nicholas Russ*



Debi Weickum - October 25, 2018 at 09:33 AM

TB

“ *One thing not mentioned is John loved to tell jokes.. When he would come to our shop to see if we needed any supplies ( from Stickney's or Valley's) there were always a new joke he would tell us. Thanks for all the good memories John we will see you later for more jokes someday.*

tracy brown - October 23, 2018 at 01:11 PM

JR

“ *Jane Rock lit a candle in memory of John Nicholas Russ*



Jane Rock - October 21, 2018 at 10:23 PM

JR

“ My deepest sympathy to Mrs. Russ, Mark, Louis, Roxann and family. Mr. Russ was such a vibrant, creative, and good man. He raised a fine and accomplished family, and I will never forget his kindness.

Jane Rock - October 21, 2018 at 09:22 PM

LI

“ Loren And Shirley Isbell lit a candle in memory of John Nicholas Russ



Loren and Shirley Isbell - October 17, 2018 at 02:12 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Nicholas Russ.



October 16, 2018 at 11:30 PM

KH

“ Kriss And Jim Hovis lit a candle in memory of John Nicholas Russ



Kriss and Jim Hovis - October 16, 2018 at 08:09 PM

TR

“ *Theil Ryan lit a candle in memory of John Nicholas Russ*



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**Theil Ryan** - October 16, 2018 at 04:29 PM

CW

“ *Charlotte W. purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of John Nicholas Russ.*



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**Charlotte W.** - October 16, 2018 at 01:49 PM