



## John R. "Stick" Murray

January 13, 1947 - January 9, 2021

Murray, 73, born John "Stick" Robert Murray January 13, 1947, was the spirited wild child of the late Robert and Margaret (Ford) Murray of Beloit, WI. He passed away Saturday January 9, 2021 at Javon Bea Riverside Hospital from complications following a stroke.

John was a talented man in many regards and did various design and engineering work for National Lock and Atwoods, worked at Rockford Drillhead designing machines, Co-owner of Stateline Auto Parts, and then eventually owning his own business, "John's Auto Body" in Rockford, IL for many years. He finally retired as an Auto Body Technician from Bud Weiser Motors in Beloit in 2013. Our dad didn't care that we were girls, he was going to teach us what he knew regardless. We learned many things from him, like how to hot wire a car, drive a boat, drink a beer with the guys, and more importantly, how not to crash a three-wheeler. He taught us to shoot guns, throw a punch, dodge a punch, swing a golf club- and use it on the golf course as well. He taught us how to water ski, bait a hook, hold our liquor, get a speeding ticket, and if the police officer let us off with a warning, how to make sure it turned into a ticket. We even learned how to make things work by swearing at them and when appropriate, banging them with a wrench. But most importantly, how to be a friend, to value people and not things, and how to have fun.

Luckily, due to his need for speed and dare devil ways, he was granted nine lives, but even nine has been too short. His spunk and sarcasm will be greatly missed. He affected people's lives in so many different ways, we all learned something from him, even if in certain incidences it was what not to do. He was spontaneous and innovative, he never asked for help but always gave it. He valued the little things, like Sunday dinners, a good pot roast (even if I was never able to make it right) Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, the Beatles, and his cat Nelly. He loved a cold beer and a boat ride. He spent most of his summers on the river causing trouble, racing jet boats, or cruising in his pontoon. His neighbors were family and he was always willing to lend a hand or dive into a project with you. He was always fond of and shared many memories of; his siblings, his racing buddies, river crew, snowmobile friends, and those that took the time to visit with him in the garage or tie up to his boat and float down the river with him. So, raise a glass and tell

a story or two of Murray, The Man, The Myth, The Legend-so his memory lives on.

Survivors include his daughters, Tiffany Murray, Brittany Murray, DeAnne (Matt) Coburn; grandchildren, Sky, Gavin, Ariaah and Zayne; siblings, Janet (Dennis) Downey, Jean Ostrowski, Joe (Kathy) Murray; along with numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

Predeceased by his parents; brothers, James Murray, Jerry Murray, Jeff Murray; and his sister Virginia Anderson.

In honor of John, there will be a memorial visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sunday January 17, 2021 in the Daley Murphy Wisch & Associates Funeral Home, 2355 Cranston Rd, Beloit, WI 53511. Social distancing and face mask are required.



# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**Daley Murphy Wisch & Associates Funeral Home and Crematorium** - January 17, 2021 at 06:20 PM

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“ Ken Nelson is following this tribute.

**Ken Nelson** - January 17, 2021 at 07:12 PM

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“ Steve Snider  
John and I had some great times together. I will never forget boating on the Rock River with John and a wild trip the two of us took to Florida approximately 35 years ago for me to buy a Corvette. RIP John and Deepest Condolences to John's family.

**Steve Snider** - January 17, 2021 at 03:46 PM

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“ Troy Ramage  
I was Johns friend and neighbor for 15 years. Whether it was in the garage, on the pontoon or Whiffletrees we could talk for hours like we knew each other all our lives. We are all poorer with Johns passing.

**Troy Ramage** - January 16, 2021 at 12:59 PM

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“ My deepest sympathies to Kathy & Joe. Thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. I'm very sorry.



**Carol Jacobson** - January 16, 2021 at 12:37 PM

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“ Your Dad was always friendly and fun and great with my kids!! You girls were blessed to have such a great Dad!!! He will be missed very much and I will always have fond memories of him and you!! God Bless!!

**Cynthia Ilseman ( Rogers)** - January 15, 2021 at 05:15 PM



“ Thanks Cyndi that means a lot. He really was lucky to have the group of neighbors and friends that he did.

**Tiffany** - January 23, 2021 at 10:26 PM

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“ To the Murray Family,

Stick and I have known each other all our lives. His Dad Bob, was my Dad's best friend, his Mom, Margret, was my Godmother. I know all of the Murrays. His sisters Virginia and Janet babysat me. They are all like cousins that I wish I saw often.

Stick and I were both gear heads. I still am. We were classmates at BCHS, worked together as draftsmen at Atwood's in Rockford and shared many fun times as children and young men. He was a big part of my life.

With deep sympathy and fond remembrance,  
Dave and Joyce (Lindrew) Chekouras  
Rosholt, WI

**Dave Chekouras** - January 15, 2021 at 03:50 PM



“ Thank you for sharing, it's great hearing memories from before I was born, getting a feel for who he was then.

**Tiffany** - January 23, 2021 at 10:13 PM

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“ Stick and I were classmates at BCHS and we shared many memorable times. We were some times behaviorally challenging in the eyes of the nuns who were determined to enforce the norms and ruled as they interpreted them. Our adventures, with Dave Brogan, Bear Scott, Mike Martin and other characters, will be shared with his children at their request.

Stick loved hot cars and would often thrill the classes at BCH as he would lay rubber coming to and going from school. He gave us a greater appreciation of the muscle cars of the sixties. Who needed Hot Rod magazine when we had Stick.

The most memorable aspect of knowing John Stick Murray was his kindness to everyone and his gentle and low key sense of humor.

Stick will be missed.

**David Luebke** - January 15, 2021 at 01:57 PM



“ I love this! Thank you so much for sharing, it really made me smile. I would love to hear more about my dad and the memories you have with him.

**Tiffany** - January 15, 2021 at 03:14 PM

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“ I went to Powers with Stick. I think he had really good penmanship and sometimes his was better than mine...ugh. We were graded on that. I think we got stars. I fondly remember the Murray family. It's funny but sometimes when I hammer down on the gas pedal I say "kick it Stick". This may be from a ride and someone yelling that for him to go faster. What a great obituary you wrote. He sure gave it all! My deepest sympathy.

Terri Gregus

**Terri Gregus** - January 15, 2021 at 01:29 PM



“ This is great, thank you for the sharing your memories, he did pass on that need for speed to his kids, unfortunately the cars we have these days just don't cut it. I was always envious of his neat handwriting as well, lol.

**Tiffany** - January 23, 2021 at 10:20 PM

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“ My Crazy very dear friend Johnny so many crazy times and memories you were a true and very real friend I'm blessed to have spent 20 yrs with you R.I.P my friend I'll see ya on the other side

**jeff plock** - January 14, 2021 at 08:36 PM

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“ Debbie Maurchie lit a candle in memory of John R. "Stick" Murray



**debbie maurchie** - January 14, 2021 at 08:18 PM

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“ John will always be remembered by the older kids aka all of us for his fast boats and by the younger kids for his sledding hill my thoughts go out to you and your sisters and his grandkids who he loved dearly and of course to his brother Uncle Joe.

**Cyndi Thompson** - January 14, 2021 at 01:53 PM

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“ I have so many great memories of John and his family. The black jet boat floating on the river, he was one of my favorite dance partners at the bowling alley, visiting you at John's Garage, hanging out at the house, and playing w the girls. You were always welcome in his home. We lost a generous, wild and fun man but Heaven has gained a "wild, child angel". Fly high John.

**Pamela Mitchell Nagai** - January 13, 2021 at 09:15 PM



“ Thanks Pam, some of the best memories I have as a kid were participating in the shenanigans with you guys. He really did live in the moments, and make life an adventure.

**Tiffany** - January 23, 2021 at 10:24 PM