



John Lawrence Kolander, Jr.
October 10, 1939 - January 5, 2021

The Twenty-Third Psalm

*The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
He leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the
path of righteousness for His name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil;
for Thou art with me;
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies.
Thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life; and I
will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

Celebrating the Life of
John Lawrence Kolander, Jr.
Wednesday, January 13, 2021 10:00 a..m.
China United Methodist Church
China, Texas



Opening Song	“Go Rest High On That Mountain”	by Vince Gill
Words of Grace		Reverend Randy Carrion
Greeting		
Obituary Reading		
Prayer		
Scripture Reading	Psalm 23	Charlie Chance
Remembrances		Mike McGill
Hymn	“The Old Rugged Cross”	by Elvis Presley
Message	Ecclesiastes 3:1-8	John 14:1-6 Reverend Randy Carrion
Closing Prayer		
Benediction		Reverend Randy Carrion
Closing Song	“Last Date”	by Floyd Cramer



John Lawrence Kolander, Jr., 81, of China, passed away peacefully in his home surrounded by loved ones on Tuesday, January 5, 2021.

John was introduced for the first time on October 10, 1939 by his parents Elizabeth and John Kolander. He was the oldest of four children and experienced a “tough time” at an early age. During this period, he gained his work ethics that he was so well known for. Luckily his childhood home was walking distance to the church that he would attend for many years. This

was the start of his faith that he would rely on throughout his lifetime.

In 1978, he used his determination and cowboy charm to win the heart of his brown eyed girl, Lillian Marie Carreon. The two instantly fell in love and remained happily married for 42 years. John and Lillian became a love story that still inspires many. Together they built a foundation and raised 6 children that they not only taught how to survive but also how to live.

John had many jobs that included working for the Texas Agriculture Experimental Station and Jefferson County. After 30 years, he retired from the Jefferson County Precinct 1. During this time he gained loyal friendships that most will never experience.

Some of his best memories were made at the Golden Triangle Raceway. This quickly became his second home where he was known for the gift of operating a grader. John became an icon for this track and stayed humble as his talent remained untouched. As the news of the best track maintainer spread, he became a necessity for surrounding dirt tracks. Once he retired from this, these tracks slowly started to fade away. Speedway 90 was a huge part of John’s life that will always be a reminder for us when we pass by.

John Lawrence hunted, fished, and gardened before it became an “in thing”. He strongly believed in what he caught, killed, or grew would make a good dinner. You were never too young for his handshakes and

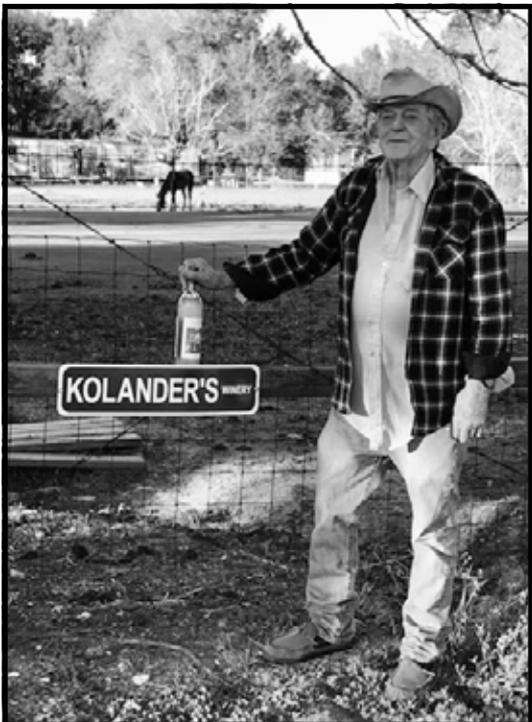
you were always greeted with a simple salutation of him tipping his hat. John's cowboy hat will stay a symbol of his John Wayne grit and leave an imprint in our memories. He gave everyone a nickname that some respectfully still carry. Mr. Kolander was known for fearless voice, eye contact, and comical personality. He has seen many changes from growing up without a television to watching t.v. at the palm of his hand.

John prolonged his life by cheating death on many occasions. Some of these times included rare accidents to "keeping up" with partying with the younger generation. The beginning of one of his many lives was when he became a Papaw. This gave him a chance to tell his stories, play pranks, and remain young. He immediately became a protector and inspiration for simple living when he became "Uncle John" to his nieces and nephews. He also gained extra kids that he would quickly claim as his own and was the "go to" man for them all when needing veterinarian answers to life advice. He could charasmatically chat with a stranger and make an instant impact on anyone.

John Kolander never took a day off from being a true legend. His legacy will continue through his family, friends, neighbors, and community. His hobbies included hunting, fishing, gardening, making wine, and telling his unforgettable stories. He lived everyday through humor and faith.

John lived an incredible life. "Don't quit Ole Man," "You better not give up Dollbaby", and "Keep going," were his famous words because he was confident in finishing what he started and he did just that.

Survivors include his wife, Lillian Kolander; son, Chad Kolander and his wife, Laura and Kris Kolander and his wife, Devon, all of China; daughter, Katrina Kolander Whittington and her husband, Jason, of Bevil

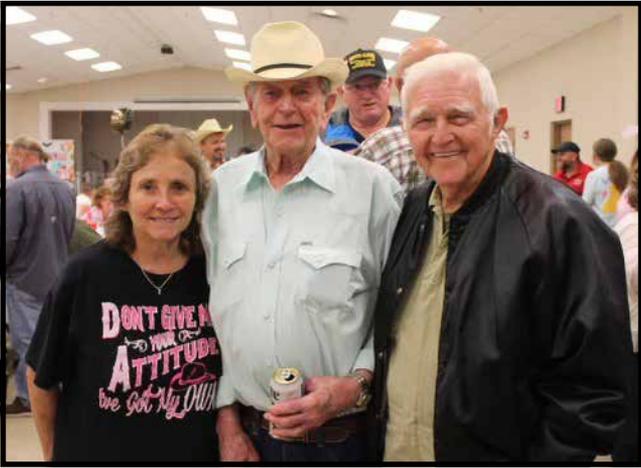


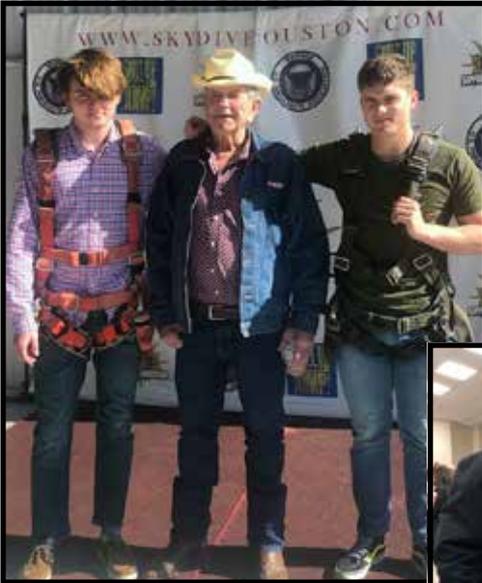
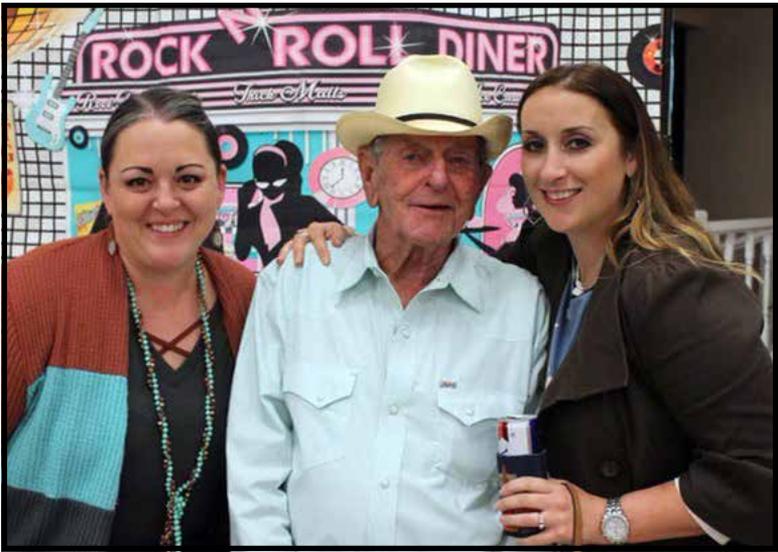
Oaks; son, John Lawrence Kolander III of Houston; daughters, Stacey Kolander-King and her husband, Eric, of China and Kassie Kolander of Houston; brother, Ronald C. Kolander and his wife, Cleffie and sister, Mollie Sue Ridley both of China; grandchildren, Colt Kolander, Hunter Kolander, Jaci Whittington, Addi Whittington, Kayley Kolander, Chesney King, Kirsten King, and Presley King; and great-grandchildren, Kayden Studensky-Berry and Addison Studensky-Berry.

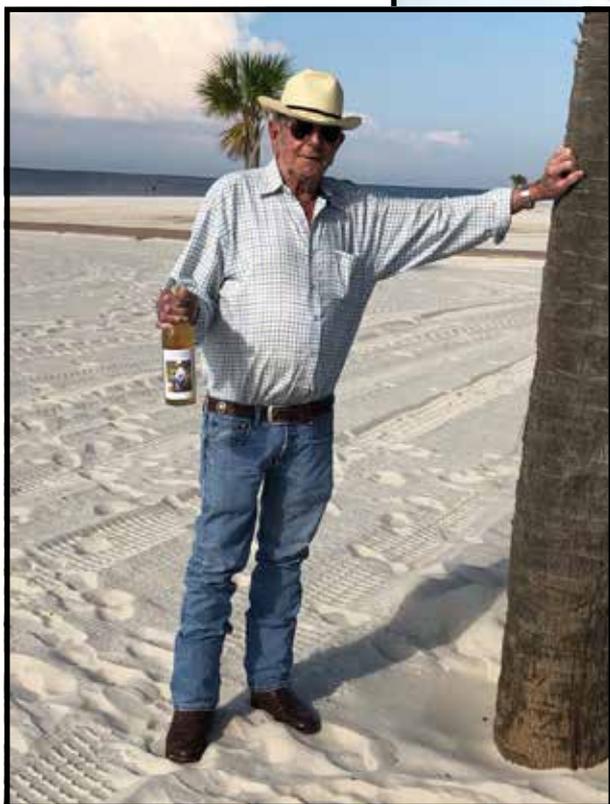
He is preceded in death by his father, John L. Kolander, Sr.; mother, Elizabeth May Belle Breeden Kolander Sherman; brother, Gerald Wayne Kolander; granddaughter, Tori Kolander; and daughter, Katie Elizabeth Kolander.





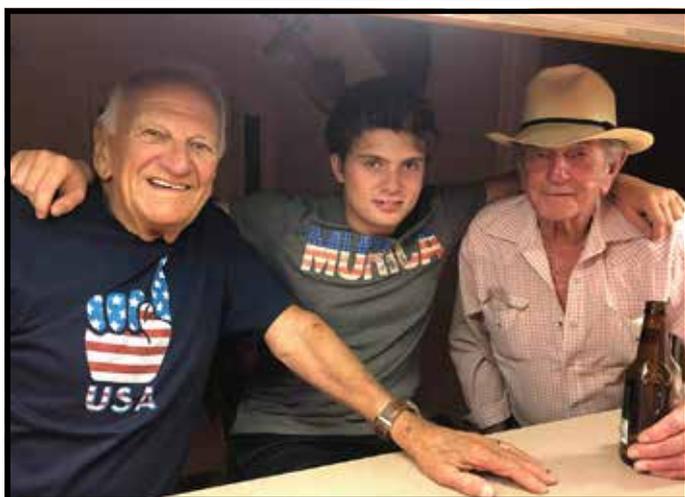
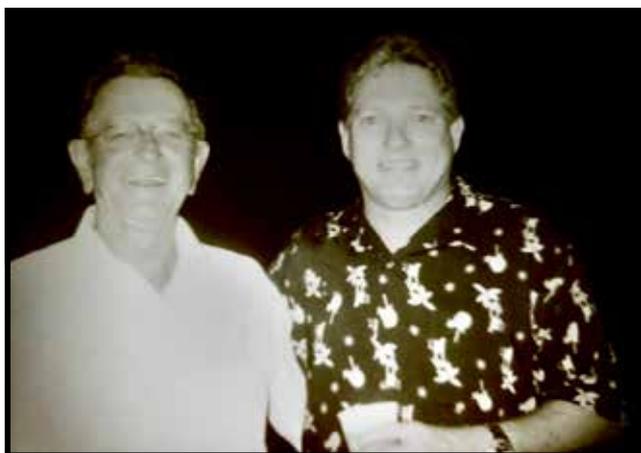




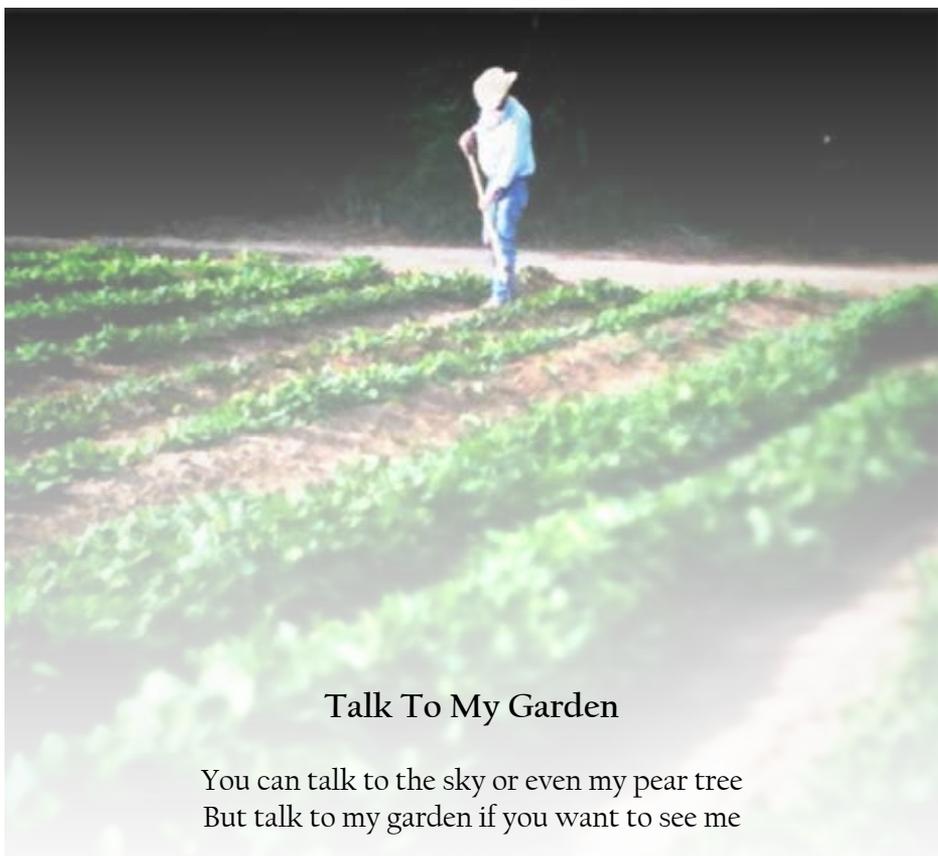












Talk To My Garden

You can talk to the sky or even my pear tree
But talk to my garden if you want to see me

No need to scream because now I can hear
Grab one for me when you grab a beer

You can tell jokes or cry, I will not disagree
But talk to my garden if you want to see me

Dig, plant, and water as you watch it all grow
I am always watching and I want you to know

Just look around and a sign you will see
But talk to my garden if you want to see me

When you go to my garden, pour me my wine
I love you Momma, you are my Valentine

Come to hang out or whatever may be
But talk to my garden if you want to see me

Honorary Pallbearers

Melvin Mauboules

Stan Price

Bill Novak

Gerald Fontenot

Ransom Garrard

Joe Howard

Donald Robinson

Larry Robinson

Jerry Hess

Richard Benoit (deceased)

Memorial Contributions

China United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 8

China, Texas 77613

*There will be a "Farewell Party" for John at the
Elks Lodge from 4:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m., January 23, 2021.*

Please observe social distancing guidelines.



Please sign Mr. Kolander's guest book and share your memories at
www.broussards1889.com