



Joel Dabney Railsback

September 25, 1947 - January 25, 2021

Joel Dabney Railsback passed away on January 25th, 2021. Joel was born in Pine Bluff Arkansas on September 25th, 1947. From then until now his life has been full of adventure.

Joel was fortunate to be born to great parents. His father was Glenn Albert Railsback Jr. and his mother was Virginia Dabney Railsback. Both parents embraced Joel's bright mind and creative spirit. Both parents are deceased. Joel had three siblings. Glenn(deceased) Railsback, sister-in-law Susan Crain Railsback(deceased), sister Cynthia Stone, brother-in-law Tom Stone, Virginia Railsback Cooper (Jennie), and brother-in-law Fred Cooper(deceased).

Joel's strong family ties was the anchor for this adventurous young man. After graduating from the University of Iowa Joel began his adventures by spending 3 years in Australia and Tasmania teaching English and French. During this time he met Charmian Randolph, a young British woman from South Africa.

Joel and Charmian were married and moved to Strong Arkansas where Joel continued his teaching career by teaching at Strong High School.

Joel's zest for adventure led him to Little Rock to pursue the art of making and restoring stained glass. You can see his work in many local churches and the dome in the lobby of the Capitol Hotel.

The itch for adventure caught Joel again and he began plans to move to Japan. In 1983 he moved to Japan with a job teaching English to Japanese business professionals. This led to a 25-year career as a professor teaching in

a University in Nagoya, Japan. During his 25 years in Japan Joel spent all holidays traveling to every country in the Far East fulfilling his dreams of adventure. Joel's storytelling, his laughter, and his friendship is already missed. He was loved by friends all over the world.

Joel's good friend and traveling companion Hoshino Goichi was with him on all of the travels including many visits back to Arkansas. Joel and Goichi continued to visit back and forth until Goichi's last visit in 2020.

Tribute Wall



“ I met Joel about 10 years ago and developed such a fondness for him, that I call him my Uncle. He was an inspiration to me and helped mentor me through a masters degree program. I miss him so much.

Skeeter Goldberg - March 10, 2021 at 07:56 AM

RD

“ Cynthia & Tom, I hurt for you. Losing a loved one ain't no good. My wish is that time & live will ease the heartache. Grieve is a process not a destination & I hope the love of family see you through.
Peace!

rick dkillen - February 07, 2021 at 09:19 PM

MB

“ Joel and I were neighbors, good friends and classmates starting in grade school. During those early years, he was always an outstanding student while I remained half-interested and lazy. In the sixth grade, he taught me a valuable life lesson.

Each student was assigned to make a notebook on a country of his or her choice. This was to be a long-running project having a major impact on our report cards. Joel was the first to complete his notebook and give a classroom report on his country, Russia.

I remember being amazed at his enthusiasm as he addressed the class. His notebook looked a half inch thick, every page filled with hand-written notes and photographs. Stunned by his devotion to the project (and the smile on our teacher's face), I vowed to do something similar with my country, Germany.

For the first time in my life, I experienced the satisfaction and reward of doing my absolute best at something. Too bad that lesson didn't always stick during the coming years, but that wasn't Joel's fault.

Joel was my first role model and, no doubt, an inspiration to many. He will be missed.

Matt Bradley

Matt Bradley - February 07, 2021 at 01:35 PM

BE

“ Joel and I went to an Ionesco play somewhere in northeast Arkansas, probably Jonesboro, probably at a high school, in about 1965. How it came about, how we got there, why it happened, I have no idea.

That was a fascinating thing about Joel: finding yourself in unexpected and interesting situations with him.

I wish I'd had more.

bill eddins - February 06, 2021 at 10:26 PM

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bill eddins - February 06, 2021 at 09:44 PM

AN

“ Joel was my very first friend: we were born two days apart and were in the baby nursery together. He brought a wealth of intelligence and humor to the world, and he leaves us with so many treasured memories. Anne McGeorge Nickerson

Anne Nickerson - February 06, 2021 at 10:49 AM

DK

Joel was a very special friend since childhood. I have many cherished memories of our times together. I was fortunate to be able to visit him in Japan and experience the country through his eyes. He was a true Renaissance man and left a great legacy.

Diane Hercher Key - February 06, 2021 at 02:50 PM

JM

The qualities I remember about Joel through out school were his humility, intelligence and his willingness to help anyone regardless of status. I will miss him, but I will always value his memories.

Jerry Martin - February 07, 2021 at 08:29 PM