



John Paul Odle

October 31, 1939 - November 30, 2025

John Paul Odle, 86, passed away on November 30, 2025. He was born in Kenwood, Oklahoma, on October 31, 1939, to Clyde and Leona Burgess Odle.

On December 29, 1961, John married the love of his life, Carolyn Sue, at his sister's home—beginning a 63-year journey filled with deep devotion, friendship, and unwavering love.

John was known by all as a kind, caring, and giving man, always willing to lend a hand to anyone in need. He was also a natural jokester who loved bringing laughter into the lives of others.

A lifelong sports enthusiast, John especially enjoyed watching OU and OKC Thunder games, as well as cheering on his grandchildren in every sport they played. In his youth, he excelled as a basketball and baseball player at Eastern Oklahoma A&M and Northeastern State University. While at Eastern, he earned recognition as an All-American baseball player.

John's passion for athletics continued into his career as a basketball and baseball coach for Kansas Public Schools. Over more than 30 years in education, he served as a coach, teacher, and principal. He had a remarkable gift for connecting with students both in the classroom and on the field, and he leaves behind a lasting legacy in the lives of countless young people.

Outside of work, John loved hunting, fishing, and singing. A devoted member of First Baptist Church in Kansas, Oklahoma, he led the church choir and enjoyed playing the guitar and harmonica. Above all, John cherished his time

with family, especially with his beloved bride, Carolyn Sue.

John is preceded in death by his parents, Clyde Odle and Leona Burgess Odle; sister, Patricia Duncan Scroggins; and brothers, Clarence Odle, Irvin Lee Odle, Tommy Gene Odle, W.M. Odle, and Jackie Wayne Odle.

He is survived by his loving wife, Carolyn Sue Odle, of Owasso, OK; daughters, Paula Kurth and husband Nelson of Claremore, OK, and Janette Fowler and husband Kyle of Spiro, OK; sister, Jane Ann Judkins of Fort Smith, AR; brother, J.P. Odle and wife Betty Jo of Kansas, OK; grandchildren, Kendall Hanning (Aaron), Tyler Kurth (Karlee), Chad Backward, Cale Backward (Jamie), Taylon Payne (Travis), and Trevon Fowler; along with seven great-grandchildren and many cherished nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be held on Friday, December 5, 2025, at Wasson Funeral Home from 5:00–7:00 p.m. Funeral services will take place on Saturday, December 6, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at the Kansas Event Center, with burial to follow at Kansas Cemetery.

In place of flowers, please donate to the Kansas Public Schools' athletic programs.

Cemetery Details

Kansas Cemetery

Kansas Cemetery
Kansas, OK 74347

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 5. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Wasson Funeral Home
441 U.S. 412
Siloam Springs, AR 72761
(479) 524-5131
wasson@wassonfuneralhome.com
<https://www.wassonfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

DEC 6. 1:00 PM (CT)

Kansas Event Center

Burial

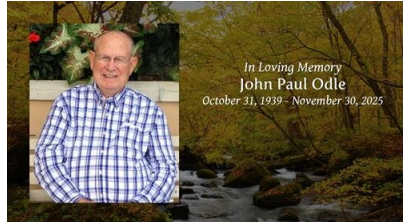
DEC 6 (CT)

Kansas Cemetery
Kansas Cemetery
Kansas, OK 74347

Tribute Wall



“ *Wasson Funeral Home Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of John Paul Odle*



Wasson Funeral Home - December 13, 2025 at 01:15 PM

KD

“ *What a great man. Always loved Coach Odle...and loved him even more as I became an adult. There are adders and subtractors in life...Coach Odle was a adder--people were better as a result of him being in their life. When thinking about him, my first reaction is a smile as he was such a positive influence in my life. Thank you Coach Odle....in this life, we don't get the true reward...but thanks be to God for Jesus, and because you received His grace, you are with Him and I am looking forward to seeing you again one day and seeing the reward you will get for the things done in this life. Kevin Daniels Class of '82*

Kevin Daniels - December 21, 2025 at 06:05 PM

RA

“ *Played baseball with John at Kansas a long time ago! I lived in Siloam Springs which didn't have a baseball program but Gene and Joe Winfield let me play for the teams they coached! John was a great High School athlete! Enjoyed every minute of it! RIP John!*

Ron Anderson - December 07, 2025 at 05:15 PM

DH

“ Sue and the Odle family. I'm sorry to hear that John has passed. It was a privilege and honor to have had him as a mentor and a friend. The world would be a far better place if we had more men like John. He made our lives better. R.I.P. John, you will be loved and missed.
Don Hendren

Don Hendren - December 06, 2025 at 01:35 PM

CB

“ Carey and Robin Backward purchased the European Sympathy Dish Garden for the family of John Paul Odle.



Carey and Robin Backward - December 05, 2025 at 12:20 PM

WG

“ Williams Upstream Group planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Paul Odle.

Williams Upstream Group - December 05, 2025 at 11:03 AM

WG

“ Williams Upstream Group purchased the Heartfelt Sympathies Blue & White Funeral Standing Basket for the family of John Paul Odle.



Williams Upstream Group - December 05, 2025 at 11:03 AM

VJ

“ Vidal J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Paul Odle.

Vidal J. - December 04, 2025 at 04:06 PM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of John Paul Odle.



December 04, 2025 at 04:06 PM

JS

“ Jennifer, Justin, & Cassidy Stewart planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Paul Odle.

Jennifer, Justin, & Cassidy Stewart - December 02, 2025 at 08:30 AM

JS

“ Jennifer, Justin, & Cassidy Stewart purchased the Healing Tears - Blue and White for the family of John Paul Odle.



Jennifer, Justin, & Cassidy Stewart - December 02, 2025 at 08:30 AM

NT

“ Coach Odle was a great History teacher and he was also my Sunday School teacher, he was very easy to learn from and I always enjoyed the time spent in his classroom as well as in Sunday School. My thoughts and prayers are with his family at this difficult time. I along with hundreds of others are privileged to have been able to know him and to glean knowledge from him. Rest in Peace Coach.

Nick Tussinger - December 01, 2025 at 10:28 PM

AN

“ Coach Odle was my basketball coach from fifth grade until I graduated in the seventies. In elementary school we were in the finals of the Oaks Grade School Tournament. When it came time to leave for the game Coach Odle told all of us players to go to the gym and get a folding chair. We had no spare bus to drive, so we loaded up in an old blue surplus panel truck. We won the tournament.

Anonymous - December 01, 2025 at 08:41 PM

PH

“ The world is a lesser place without John Odle in it. Coach Jon Hanna.

Paulette Hanna - December 01, 2025 at 08:30 PM

JS

“ jerry & Cheryl Snell lit a candle in memory of John Odle



jerry & Cheryl Snell - December 01, 2025 at 06:05 PM