



Jon R. Rider

January 4, 2025

Jon Robert Rider, 75, of Strasburg entered eternal rest on Saturday, January 4, 2025, at home surrounded by his family. He was the loving husband of Kristen (Saiia) Rider. He was born in IL at Scott AFB and was the son of the late Stuart Rider and JoAnn (Golian) Sheffler.

For many years, Jon was an actor and singer in the theater business. He was a member of the Servant Stage Co. and Actor's Equity Association. Jon enjoyed studying God's word, writing, solving puzzles, playing golf, watching movies, and helping others. His greatest love was his family.

In addition to his wife, Jon is survived by his sister, Sandra Watters (Kip Altman) of FL; nieces, Jami A. Watters, Rebekah Watters both of AZ; nephews, Jacob Watters (Brandi) of TX, Seth Watters, of FL; grandniece, Bennett of AZ; cousin, Rebecca Mangum (Chuck and son Max) of IL; mother-in-law, Bonnie Saiia; sister-in-law, Kimberly (Saiia) Coffey; nephew and niece, Sam and Emily Coffey both of NJ; brother-in-law, Kevin Saiia of WI; nieces and nephews, Caleb, Janna, Tessa, and Andrew Saiia all of WI. In addition to his parents, Jon was preceded in death by his brother, Robert Rider.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend Jon's Celebration of Life at Mill Creek Bible Church, 270 Strasburg Pike, Lancaster, PA on Monday, January 20, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. The family will receive friends from 10:00 a.m. until the

time of service.

Please consider donating to the Child Evangelism Fellowship of Lancaster County, www.ceflancaster.org "Donate", or mail checks to CEF Lanc Co. 5307 Main St. East Petersburg, PA 17520. Note in the memo line, "In memory of Jon Rider".

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 20. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Mill Creek Bible Church
270 Strasburg Pike
Lancaster, PA 17602-1326
(717) 391-2626

Service

JAN 20. 11:00 PM (ET)

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270 Strasburg Pike
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Tribute Wall

LA

“ I toured with Jon for many years on a production of “Annie”. I always remember him as kind, patient and great with all the kids in the show, and all their Stage Mothers. Never judgemental, always offering to help. He was a true professional, a good man and a darn good actor.

Lynda A.Lavin - January 17, 2025 at 01:48 PM

MM

“ Margie, Christian, Elaina & Meggan purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Jon R. Rider.

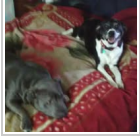


Margie, Christian, Elaina & Meggan - January 15, 2025 at 04:44 PM

DE

“ Casting Jon as Publicus in *The Centurion* musical was miraculous. He was terrific in the "villain" role, playing it on the edge so everyone could relate and realize, that could be me! I asked him to sing back stage to help the chorus but he said he had to concentrate to be the bad guy and could not be a good guy at the same time! His discipline and excellence as an actor was a model for all in our cast and it was so obvious why he did what he did- he lived God. Anytime he spoke he told me that! I loved his ace intelligence and how he adored his wife. He had a twinkly smile and no pretense. I got to visit him and Bonnie and Kristen last June, we had the most wonderful visit with him giving his testimony with every word. We talked about success vs failure and I told him how great a success he was. I watch the tape of *The Centurion* and love every minute Jon is on stage! In person, in life, he was just as much a giant. Our cast and crew is so sorry to say goodbye to you Jon. Thank you for making my life better, for your generosity, your kindness. Your brilliant gifts shared with all.

Debbieorloff@yahoo.com - January 14, 2025 at 07:17 PM



“ My favorite memory and perhaps the one that stands out the most to me, is the time he put together God's love letter to us. Starting in Genesis and working his way through Revelation every book that has a chapter 3 verse 16 he put them together as though it was a love letter that God wrote to us. There is a couple of guys from the cast of sight and sound that put together a men's Bible study and on one occasion John brought that love letter to the group and shared it with us. He gave each of us a copy of it and I still keep that in my Bible. Every time I see that letter I'm reminded of Jon. I know that losing a loved one is hard and difficult because I remember when I lost my mom. However there is some comfort in knowing that they had a good relationship with the Lord. So although we grieve we still see the joy of knowing that they are with the Lord and that we someday can be with them in a happy place. And better yet knowing that they are with the Lord whom we serve. May you and your family find comfort through your grief. It's okay to grieve because you mourn the loss but we can also rejoice knowing that we know where they are.

Mathew Silks - January 08, 2025 at 06:11 AM

KW

“ Kristen, I'm sorry for your incredible loss but I need to share of one my favorite memories of the two of you. When I stayed with you two the one summer, Jon would come home, and Kristen would run to the steps to give him a kiss (or already be there waiting). This was just one example of the love that Kristen and Jon had for one another. It was so sweet and the admiration showed. I remember hearing him sing, and his voice was an incredible gifted instrument. I pray for his family and friends. I know he will be cheering on the Cardinals from Heaven and living pain-free now.

Kristen W - January 07, 2025 at 06:03 PM

CM

Christine Mamere

So enjoyed hearing Jon sing in church. I sang with him in numerous choral groups at Easter with people from Millcreek Bible Church. I will miss his voice. He is praising our Lord now. What a wonder it must be.

Christine M Mamere - January 07, 2025 at 08:25 PM

DE

Jon's role in The Centurion The Musical was stellar. I still watch the video and delight in his lines everything. He held the drama together by creating the tension with such intensity yet he was the sweetest colleague. I will miss our chats, his incredible intelligence, but above all his passion for God and unswerving faith. In his last years he lifted mine by never failing to give GOD constant glory. To his family my heart goes out with love and care.

Debbieorloff@yahoo.com - January 08, 2025 at 05:12 PM

JL

Jon was a loving, caring and sharing who volunteered to help us write scripts and coach us for our 60th anniversary celebration. He had never met us before he was referred to us by a friend. We learned so much from him. His patience and encouragement will never be forgotten. When we called to invite him and Kristen out to dinner or to our home he always said he was too tired. We look forward to coming to the viewing and finally meeting Kristen. He often spoke of her as the light and love of his life!

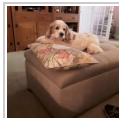
Judi & Don Larkin January 17, 2025

Judi Larkin - January 17, 2025 at 07:04 PM

BB

So glad that I got the My Fair Lady experience with him! S&S was ok, but I felt like I got to know him on a different level!

Bonnie Bosso - January 27, 2025 at 08:13 AM



I remember John from choir in high school and in another class we had together. Very bright, well liked, and had a really nice tenor. Too young to be gone.

Barbara Roettjer - February 05, 2025 at 04:00 AM