



Johnathan Knick Stockton

May 14, 1947 - July 24, 2025

Jonathan “Jon” Knick Stockton, 78, of Sebring, passed away on July 24, 2025.

Born on May 14, 1947 he

was the son of Jack Jenks Stockton and Naomi Louise Stockton.

A graduate of East Lansing High School where he was a star athlete on the baseball and football teams,

Jon went on to earn a degree in Physical Education from Western Michigan University. His passion for

team sports led him to spend over four decades shaping young lives at Palmetto Elementary School.

Known affectionately as “Coach” by generations of students, his dedication to education and his vibrant

spirit left a lasting impact on everyone he encountered.

When not coaching students, Jon’s love for sports led him to participate in competitive volleyball and

tennis leagues throughout Palmetto, Bradenton and Sarasota. He was also an avid jogger, and enjoyed

the peaceful solitude of a long run. These hobbies not only kept him physically fit but also brought him

immense pleasure.

Jon was a true muscle car enthusiast – whether behind the wheel of one of his beloved Corvettes,

attending a car show, or searching for the next Hot Wheel or Diecast car to

add to his abundant collection, he was known and admired by many for this hobby. His love for adventure took Jon on numerous trips, but his favorite was always to the family's timeshare in Lake Tahoe, where he enjoyed making memories with his loved ones. Having a quick wit and knack for telling jokes, Jon was a constant source of joy to his family and friends. He was a devoted grandfather who made it a priority to attend sporting events and celebrate milestones, always taking great pride in his granddaughter's accomplishments. Jon was equally loyal as a son, sibling, and friend. He demonstrated profound compassion, particularly during the most difficult of times. Jon selflessly tended to loved ones in their final weeks, offering comfort, support and an unwavering presence. His dedication to family and friends was the cornerstone of his character.

Jon is survived by his son Jason Stockton and wife Mindy; daughter Jennifer Wheatley and husband Kelton; granddaughters Emma Stockton, Kendall Wheatley, Hannah Stockton and Brooke Wheatley. He is also survived by his brother Michael Stockton and wife Denise, and sister Janet Hager, along with many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father Jack, mother Naomi, sister Jackie, and brothers-in-law David Hager and Willy Dentz.

Jon's family and friends will remember him not only for his kindness, generosity and humor, but for the passion he brought to everything he did. He will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

Tribute Wall



“ Coach, I’m just learning of your passing and it is truly heartbreaking.

Coach was my physical education teacher at Palmetto Elementary . As I grew older, built my own family, and found my path in education and fostering children, I reached out to him simply to say thank you for the way he truly showed up for children.

I understood more than ever, the importance of people like Coach, especially as I work with children at different level of needs.

I remember participating in a high-jump activity and having to sit out that day due to a minor injury. Instead of not allowing me to participate at all, Coach let me be his assistant coach and that meant the world to me.

Coach’s care for his students was evident in how he treated each of us. Knowing the world we live in today, with its different struggles and challenges, I realize even more how rare that kind of guidance was.

At the end of my fifth-grade year, Coach presented me with a tennis ball and a tennis racket. It was so meaningful because he remembered the pictures I had shown him years prior of my siblings and I playing tennis at the courts in Palmetto.

That’s the kind of coach he was. We weren’t just students, we were part of his extended family.

Thank you, Coach, for the seeds you planted and the love you showed. Your impact lives on. May you rest in eternal peace.

Angela Davis (Alexander)

Angela Alexander - January 22 at 07:33 PM

SH

“ My family met John when we became neighbors in 2005 I remember moving into our new house and this kind man coming over to mow as he knew we were so busy unpacking stressed and did not have a mower yet, that was the start of his kindness when he found out how my two children were treated by their Grandparents, he bought them birthday and christmas gifts until they were eighteen we moved to cody, wy 2010 after being neighbors for 6 years he even came to cody, wy to see us. So sorry to hear this, we will never forget his kindness

Sarah Hendrix - September 01, 2025 at 01:10 AM

TC

My name is Tim Corcoran. Jon Stockton was my friend since high school & we corresponded over the years & I would visit with Jon whenever I was doing business in Florida . We would have telephone conversations about six times a year. Tried to get Jon to visit with my family in North Carolina & eventually we move to Vermont & we know he would enjoy my family. Wishing Jon's family all the Best.

Tim Corcoran - December 01, 2025 at 07:28 PM

JH

“ John and I became friends in the seventh grade and remained close friends until he passed. even in our later years, we talked about once a week for at least half an hour. I could always count on John to be the person I could talk to about anything and that’s something that I will really miss. When we were kids, we rode our bikes from our houses to the MSU baseball fields and went out into the woods behind the outfield fence and looked for baseballs left behind by the team. We had about 14 balls that we would pitch to each other and then we would pick them up and switch positions. At first, we got thrown out; then, one day, the man responsible for the field maintenance told us we could stay as long as we didn’t cause any trouble and we did not.

Jon was a great hitter and he could have played at a higher level, but he lost interest.

When we got to high school, it was football, baseball and girls and Jon excelled at all three.

Before our senior year, we made the front page of the newspaper. Jon, me, the quarterback, the half back and the tailback, who went on to star in college and play semi pro ball. We won all of our games and became the state champions. John caught seven passes; all for touchdowns. I didn’t know about that until many years later as Jon was really quiet about his successes in life. Football created some great memories.

This is a family memory so all I will say is that all the girls loved Jon and he could only love so many.

I miss you buddy and I will forever.

Love, Jimbo

Jim Hagan - August 18, 2025 at 03:39 PM

MM

I’m so sorry to hear this I have been sending text messages to him one in August and one today. I googled his name and it brought me to his obituary. I’m so sorry for your loss. Jon was an amazing person. Blessings to his family.

Maureen Matson - December 19, 2025 at 08:39 AM