



Jeffery Blake Carter

December 11, 1957 - April 5, 2012

On April 5, 2012, Jeffery Blake Carter, age 54, beloved husband, father, and friend passed away peacefully surrounded by friends and family.

Jeff was born in Peoria, Illinois, on December 11, 1957. His parents, Blake & Helen Carter, current residents of Versailles, gave Jeff the gift of life and fostered a quality upbringing for Jeff and his two brothers. Jeff was the middle son, his eldest brother Mark resides in Burlington, Vermont, and his younger brother, Bruce, currently resides in Leawood, Kansas. Jeff graduated from Ohio State where he received a Bachelors in Education. He later earned a Masters and a Specialists from the University of Missouri.

Jeff married his best friend Kathleen Ann Mullen in 1981, this July would have marked their 31st anniversary. Kathy is currently a second grade teacher at Versailles' Elementary. Jeff and Kathy were the loving parents of three children: Bryan, Gregory, and Michelle. Jeff was the rock of his family, providing guidance, love, and support. As a husband he will be remembered as a best friend. As a father, Jeff will be honored in the memories of his three children and his present and future grandchildren.

In friendship, to know Jeff was to love him. Jeff had a contagiously great outlook on life and enjoyed Cardinal baseball, MU sports, visiting with friends at local wineries, talking on the back patio, and reading books to his

grandchildren. He enjoyed the outdoors from hiking the Appalachian Trail to camping with friends and family. Jeff loved to work with his friends on home improvements projects and was never shy about tackling a new challenge.

Professionally, as an educator, Jeff helped reach many young people in the communities of Vandalia, Wellsville-Middletown, and Morgan County, MO. His special gift of kindness and his strengths of character: integrity, trustworthiness and respectfulness propelled Jeff as an excellent example for growing minds and his successes can be read on the walls of graduates tracing back 30 years. He was extremely respected and admired throughout the state as one of the great superintendents in Missouri. He served as a mentor and advisor to many educators aspiring to reach his levels of experience. As a leader, Jeff is remembered for his approachability and for developing strong working relationships with his community's teachers, support staff, and many students. He was always readily available to provide direction and insight, always had a kind word of encouragement. Jeff was extremely proud of the school's employees and was grateful to their many contributions that led to the school district's successes. Jeff served as the Morgan County R-II School District's Superintendent for 13 years. Before his work in Versailles, Jeff was the Superintendent and Principal for the Wellsville-Middletown School District, and was an Elementary Teacher in Vandalia, MO. Jeff's other contributions to the community of Morgan County include his leadership of the Youth Group for the United Methodist Church in Versailles. Throughout his many successes in life, Jeff has exemplified faith, perseverance, and community service, all of which will continue to inspire those who knew him for many years to come.

Jeff is survived by his wife Kathleen, his three children: son, Bryan & spouse Crystal , their children Maya and Lucas of Destin, Florida; son, Gregory Carter of Versailles and daughter, Michelle Carter of Versailles; his brothers: Mark Carter of Burlington, Vermont, and Bruce Carter & Family of Leawood,

Kansas; his parents: Blake & Helen Carter of Versailles. Jeff will always be remembered for his amazing smile, bright blue eyes and as an honorable, kind and gentle man. Ours is not to understand the why, but seek to understand the higher purpose for through this we find strength.

A celebration of life will be held at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 11, at the Morgan County R-II High School Commons. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to the Versailles United Methodist Church Youth Group or the American Heart Association. Arrangements are under the direction and care of the Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home of Versailles.

Cemetery Details

Versailles Cemetery

550 Clay Road
Versailles, MO 65084

Previous Events

Service

APR 11. 6:00 PM (CT)

Morgan County R-II High School Commons
913 West Newton
Versailles, MO

Tribute Wall

MR

“ In 1990, Mark called home from a payphone. He was excited because he had just interviewed for his first teaching position in a little town that I could barely find on the map. I remember him telling me that I was going to love the principal, Mr. Carter. He was right! We both loved and admired him right away!!! Mark taught 5th grade for 3 years at Wellsville-Middletown. Somehow, Mr. Carter talked me into subbing for him on days when I wasn't attending William Woods. After I graduated, we moved to Versailles. A few years later, I glanced up to see Mr. Carter walk out of the old elementary library with Mr. Dixon. My first thought was to give him a huge hug. My second thought was “I just hugged Jeff Carter during a job interview!” He wasn't fazed at all...just gave me one of those famous smiles. Jeff Carter was an extraordinary man. I will miss his vision for our district, his positive outlook on life, his clever wit and sense of humor, his smile and the twinkle in his eye, but mostly I will miss his presence.

Mark and Annette Reger - April 14, 2012 at 10:24 AM



“ Marla Humphrey lit a candle in memory of Jeffery Blake Carter



Marla Humphrey - April 13, 2012 at 10:45 PM



My heart goes out to the Carter family and my thoughts are with you all. Jeff was not only a wonderful boss but a true friend and also a fantastic Youth Leader for Hayley and so many other youth from our church and the community. I thank God and Jeff for the contributions that he made in Hayley's Christian life.

To Hayley he was and will forever be "Jeff". The last time I got to spend some real time talking to him was at the youth spaghetti dinner (the Sunday before his accident) while he washed dishes and I dried. (No job was ever too small for him). We talked about how proud he was of Michelle and her going into nursing and about the upcoming youth mission trip to Colorado Springs. I chose a blue candle in remembrance of the blue shirts we all got on the last mission trip to Colorado in 2010. Jeff was a truly amazing person and because of his faith I know that he walks with Jesus now and watches over all of us. While he will not be on the mission trip this year in body, I know he will be there in spirit.

Kathy, Michelle, Bryan, and Greg, know that we love you and are thinking of you.

Marla and Hayley Humphrey

Marla Humphrey - April 13, 2012 at 11:18 PM

PC

“*My prayers are with the Carter family as you celebrate Jeff's heavenly homecoming. Mr. Carter made such an impact on so many lives - including mine!*

Paige Craig WM-R1 Class of 95

Paige Craig - April 11, 2012 at 11:17 PM

BM

“ I told Mr. Carter all the time that I loved my job! He was a huge reason behind my feelings! I have many memories I will hold close to my heart...especially the last time I saw him and the firm hug that I received! He truly cared for each and every person! I will miss him, his leadership, guidance, and friendship. My prayers are with his family and the school community.

Brenda McDorman - April 11, 2012 at 08:43 AM



“ Mr. Carter will truly be missed. He was a true man of integrity and of God. May he rest in the arms of our Lord. May God give his family peace in this time of sadness..
I miss him in the mornings when I pull into the bus lot to unload he always had a smile and wave.

Respectfully, Rick Bias

Rick Bias - April 10, 2012 at 11:56 PM

DM

“ The family is in our thoughts and prayers



Debbie McCollom - April 10, 2012 at 09:22 PM

MK

“ *Marsah Keithley lit a candle in memory of Jeffery Blake Carter*



Marsah Keithley - April 10, 2012 at 11:23 AM

JM

“ *Jim And Melissa Mottaz lit a candle in memory of Jeffery Blake Carter*



Jim and Melissa Mottaz - April 10, 2012 at 11:15 AM



“ *Mr. Carter is the only superintendent I have ever worked for, and I am so blessed. My first day of teacher workshops nine years ago he introduced himself to us, then he drove a school bus down to south school, he said I know some of you will never again be in this building but it is important that you know about it and see it as it is part of our district. That made quite an impression on me. Mr. Carter took interest in me and my family, he took time to look at pictures of my children and showed me pictures of his own family. He walked the halls and visited our classrooms. Mr. Carter loved our district our staff and our community. The way he carried himself, the calm demeanor his love that shown through it was evident of his love of our Lord. He cared and he took the time to let us know. He cared deeply for his family, one tender moment that I have witnessed is him carrying his wifes school bag down to her classroom. That speaks volume of a character of a man. He was a great man and will be missed, but I know he is rejoicing in heaven, in that we take comfort. Mr. Carter, you will be rememered fondly and these memories will be treasured.*

--Jamiann and James Turner and Family

April 09, 2012 at 10:10 PM



He made the same impression on me on my first day in our district 5 years ago. I imagine many of the newest teachers would say the same thing. Every word you said about him is exactly how I saw him as well. God bless him and his family.

Desiree Muller - April 11, 2012 at 06:10 AM

DE

“ DeAnna Ell lit a candle in memory of Jeffery Blake Carter



DeAnna Ell - April 09, 2012 at 09:46 PM

JW

“ Our household endearingly referred to Jeff as "Uncle Jeff" as he and John joked about being brothers. Jeff was a very kind man and always greeted you with a smile! Not only will MCR-II miss Jeff as a great leader, his presence in the Versailles community will be missed. Kathy and the children are in our prayers.

John, Marisa, David & Callie Wagner - April 09, 2012 at 05:16 PM

MS

“ You will be missed Jeff! Prayers are going out for your family!

Mark Sidebottom - April 09, 2012 at 03:58 PM

HM

“ Heath, Dawn, Trace And Reese Murdock lit a candle in memory of Jeffery Blake Carter



Heath, Dawn, Trace and Reese Murdock - April 09, 2012 at 02:54 PM

DS

“ *Debbie Spears lit a candle in memory of Jeffery Blake Carter*



Debbie Spears - April 09, 2012 at 02:23 PM

EJ

“ *After 12 years of working for Mr. Carter I have many wonderful memories. Without a doubt one of my very favorites comes from this school year. My younger son is in Mrs. Carter's class and she was called out to deal with a family matter. Mr. Carter stepped in to sub for her for a few mintues. While there, he used the smartboard to explain the administration heirarchy to the 2nd graders, from students to teachers up to himself and the school board. I know Kathy was a little irritated when she got back and found he had deviated from her lesson plans, but he made a huge impression on Logan who had to draw me a flow chart just like Mr. Carter's after school so I could understand how things worked at our school. He was so earnest in explaining to me that Mr. Carter wasn't just Mrs. Carter's husband, but one of our "bosses" and a pretty important guy. I couldn't agree more! Mr. Carter, the loss of your level headed leadership and gentle sense of humor will be felt and mourned by our entire community.*

Eric, Barbara, Aiden & Logan Jacobs - April 09, 2012 at 12:16 PM

EJ

“ *Eric, Barbara, Aiden & Logan Jacobs lit a candle in memory of Jeffery Blake Carter*



Eric, Barbara, Aiden & Logan Jacobs - April 09, 2012 at 11:59 AM

CM

“ Clifford & Jan Miller lit a candle in memory of Jeffery Blake Carter



Clifford & Jan Miller - April 09, 2012 at 11:38 AM

CM

A man of integrity, loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, good, gentle, faithful and self controlled has left our world. Maybe that's why he's left us, because those all describe Mr. Carter, and those are the fruit of the Holy Spirit as described in the Bible. He was a mentor, leader, boss, friend, and I will miss his "good morning, Jan" as he daily walked past my office. Sometimes, he stopped and chatted and other days, just spoke and moved on, but his presence was always welcomed and his caring ways and smile were contagious. He was an encouragement to Clifford and I and will be sorely missed by both of us. He held a high standard and it will be hard to fill his shoes.

Kathy and family, you are in our thoughts and prayers. There will be lonely times ahead, but we want to be here for you and pray you will find strength in the days ahead.

When you don't find God or know where's he's at during these times, remember, He knows you and knows where you are. Talk to Him alot. Jesus

knew Jeff's familiar voice as he entered heaven, because Jeff talked to Him alot. That communion made Mr. Carter who he was as a family man, boss, leader, mentor and friend. Thank you for sharing him with us.

With our love, Clifford and Jan Miller

Clifford and Jan Miller - April 09, 2012 at 08:27 PM

CM

We chose the blue candle because it reminded us of Mr. Carter's beautiful blue eyes.

Clifford and Jan Miller - April 09, 2012 at 08:48 PM

RW

“ *Rich Williams lit a candle in memory of Jeffery Blake Carter*



Rich Williams - April 09, 2012 at 07:29 AM

DH

“ *Deanna L. Hodges lit a candle in memory of Jeffery Blake Carter*



Deanna L. Hodges - April 07, 2012 at 12:01 PM

NL

“ *Mr. Carter had the best repore with the students- in all grades, You always saw him outside of the office greeting students, parents, and joking with staff. It has been an honor to have all 4 of my children under his administration. Whatever hat he wore it wore it well. Always leading and serving with integrity, sincerity, a humble spirit; a servants heart.
Not only will or school system miss him but our community. Our hearts are heavy. Mr. Carter will be forever admired by our family.
Our sincerest sympathy,
Nita Loganbill (Courtney, Brittney, Cody and Steffney)*

Nita Loganbill - April 07, 2012 at 09:19 AM