



John "Johnny" Henry Saylor

July 2, 1940 - June 7, 2025

John "Johnny" Henry Saylor, The Famous Boxing Barber, a legend, a cherished father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, and friend, passed away peacefully at home on June 7, 2025, surrounded by his loving daughters. He was 84 years old.

Born on July 2, 1940, in Pineville, Kentucky, to Vernon and Nettie (Spurlock) Saylor, Johnny was one of 13 children. He was raised alongside his siblings in Michigan City, Indiana, before settling in Crown Point, Indiana, where he proudly lived out his years. In Crown Point, he built a life rich in family, friendship, and community but always remained proud of his Kentucky roots. In 1961, Johnny married Linda Ruth Burger. Together, they raised three children, Sherry, Laura and Johnny, in Crown Point. They shared 22 years of marriage before Linda's passing from cancer in 1983. John is also preceded in death by his second wife Gail Cherbak.

A local legend in every sense, Johnny was a two-time Chicago Golden Gloves Champion in 1961 and 1962. In 1963, his boxing career reached its peak with a fight in Madison Square Garden before he stepped away from the ring to focus on his family and his career as a barber. Johnny remained deeply passionate about the sport, mentoring aspiring fighters for many years. Known affectionately as "The Boxing Barber" and "The Champ," Johnny was a familiar and beloved figure on the Crown Point Square, where he owned and operated his barber shop, "Saylor's," for 60 years.

Johnny was a well-liked man and enjoyed the simple pleasures in life: good

music, a cold beer, and the company of friends and family. He was well known for his selflessness, kindness, and quick wit, always putting others before himself. Naturally funny, Johnny had a way of making people laugh and feel at ease, no matter the situation. A testament to his legendary spirit, he once famously wrestled a bear at the Lake County Fairgrounds—and won. His unique persona as a boxing barber earned him numerous features in local newspapers.

Johnny was the life of the party and found joy in dancing, exercising, hunting, camping, fishing, and golfing. He loved music and listened to anything, ranging from classic country to Motown and especially The Eagles. Johnny was a proud 60-year member of the Crown Point Fraternal Order of Eagles #2659 and the Crown Point Moose Lodge #260.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his beloved wives, Linda and Gail; his only son, Johnny who recently passed away on May 26, 2025; and his siblings, Eve Ellen, Dorothy, Erie, Jess, Denver, David, Beaula, Connie, Paul, and James.

Johnny's legacy lives on through his daughters, Laura Saylor and Sherry Saylor-Dorulla (Dan); his grandchildren, Ryan and Jake Dorulla; his great-grandchildren, Owen and Sadie; his sister, Wanda; his brother, Ronnie; and a host of nieces, nephews, and extended family who will miss him dearly. John Saylor might be gone but legends never die.

John and Johnny walked through those pearly gates together and they're up there having a cold one!

We will celebrate the lives of John and Johnny together on July 12, 2025, from 3:00 PM-8:00 PM – food will be served, (cash bar) at The American Legion Post #20 in Crown Point, Indiana. There will be a brief Eagles Service at 6:00 PM. Bring a lawn chair if you want or sit outside under the pavilion, let's have a toast to the two Johnny's.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the family. Burns Funeral Home & Crematory, Crown Point, IN, entrusted with arrangements. www.burnsfuneral.com

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL 12. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (cst)

American Legion Post No. 20
1401 N. Main Street
Crown Point, IN 46307

Eagles Service

JUL 12. 6:00 PM (CT)

American Legion Post No. 20
1401 N. Main Street
Crown Point, IN 46307

Tribute Wall

JW

“ I am very sorry to hear of John’s passing, and of his son. John cut my hair for 50 years, as well as my father’s and, on a couple occasions, my sons’ hair. Although I haven’t lived in Crown Point for many years, I used to time my haircuts for when I would be visiting so that I could go see him. Visits to Saylor’s were always a highlight of every trip home. Just a very good man who touched a lot of people. My condolences to his family.

Jim Wayman - July 14, 2025 at 08:50 AM

SL

“ Was told on the 4th of July, my dad Ted Lowry use to bring us kids up to Johnny’s shop when he’d get a haircut, later in life back in 2023, Johnny made a house call to cut my dads hair (my dads last haircut) he was a great man, hugs and love to all his family 🧡

The Lowry Bunch

Alisa

Donny

Mike

Karen

Sheila

Doug

Thanks for the laughs and haircuts throughout our dad’s life

Sheila Lowry - July 12, 2025 at 05:12 PM

VS

“ R.I.P you will be missed

Vikki Stolarz - July 11, 2025 at 08:52 AM

AV

“ I am so sorry to hear about Johnny's passing. He was my boxing coach for several years. When I worked at the Hammond Times as a photographer, I convinced them to do a story on Johnny. I took the photos, and a sports writer wrote the story.

When I heard he was retiring, I printed a poster of the full-page spread that appeared in the paper. Johnny was a great guy. Rest in Peach, my friend.



Alan E. Vandever - July 06, 2025 at 06:52 PM

R5

“ I GO WAY BACK...iN TOO AM A BARBER FOR 60 YEARS.HE WA KNOWN AS "LITTLE JOHN" TO US WE FOLLOWED HIS GOLDEN GLOVES IN CHICAGO. HE LOVED TO BRAWL.LOVED TO WATCH HIM FIGHT. HE CAME TO PHOENIX TO SEE A CCHAMPIONSHIP FIGHT.WHEN MY DAD WAS IN ST. ANTHONY'S.JOHN BROUGHT FRESH CAUGHT AND COOKED BLUEGILLS. HE DEVOURED THEM ! I BELIEVE DAD GAVE LITTLE JOHN HIS HUNTING GUNS.HE WAS A LONG TIME FRIEND AND I WOULD VISIT HIM AT THE SHOP WHEN I WOULD COME BACK FOR OUR 1959 REUNIONS.HE STAYED IN SHAPE AND WAS A GREAT EXAMPLE FOR ALL HIS FRIENDS. HE WOULD EVEN GO TO HELP 'SLIM' POLEN WHEN HE HAD PROBLEMS GETTING UP OFF THE FLOOR FROM A FALL.BARB COULD TELL YOU MORE I'M SURE. HE IS A CROWN POINT LEGENED.....WE WILL ALL MISS LITTLE JOHN.

RON THOMAS 59ER - June 14, 2025 at 12:26 PM

DP

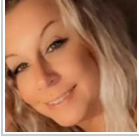
👍👍 Amen!

Deb Perzo - July 05, 2025 at 09:41 AM

LS

Yes..we will all miss him..

Larry Schmidt - July 07, 2025 at 06:22 PM



“ You're in Heaven now. Fly with the angels. 🕊️
 Your wings were ready.
 I remember the first time we met—you showed me your boxing skills with such pride and joy. That moment still makes me smile. The world feels a little dimmer without your light, but I find comfort knowing you're now surrounded by peace and love in Heaven. You were deeply loved here on Earth, and your memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew you.
 Until we meet again...

Jen Faberardino - June 13, 2025 at 05:18 PM



“ We loved him and family like forever. We shared countless trips to Vegas and had a zillion cookouts and card games at his and Gail's house. Fun at the FOE too. When my deceased husband Slim was in nursing home he came bi-weekly to visit and give haircuts and occasionally sneak in a beer. He loved his family and friends. RIP John and Johnny V.

BARBARA SCHACH - June 13, 2025 at 04:08 PM



So sorry to hear this Deepest condolences to Laura, family & friends God bless

Linda Lennon - July 04, 2025 at 11:58 AM



“ John was such a nice guy. You could talk to him about ANYTHING. He was SO VERY KIND TO MY DAD "MO.", takings him a "fish fry" to the Nursing Home when he'd come to trim up MO"s hair. REST IN PEACE my Dear Friend.....You will be missed💔



Debbie Perzo - June 13, 2025 at 10:02 AM

BS

We loved him and family so much. The kindest man. We shared so many trips to Vegas. Had a zillion parties and celebrations at his and Gail's home. Such fun at the FOE. When my husband Slim was in nursing home Johnny came bi-weekly for talks and haircuts sometimes sneaking a beer in. In Florida now but would have been there to celebrate his and sweet Johnny V's lives. RIP our dear friends.. With love, Barb and Butch Schach.

BARBARA SCHACH - June 13, 2025 at 03:58 PM

BS

Miss ya pal

BARBARA SCHACH - June 13, 2025 at 03:59 PM

MS

Sherry and Laura I am so very sorry about your Dad and just found out about your brother Johnny So much to go through in a short time God be with you both Loved your father and your brother So many good memories Mary Lou Saylor Shoumake

Mary Saylor Shoumake - June 13, 2025 at 11:13 PM

WA

“ I am 72 and have know John Saylor for many years. I started getting my hair cut from him when he worked at the barber shop at the corner of Main and Clark St. I believe the shop is called Alex Barber Shop today and continued getting my hair cut at Saylor's next to the movie theater. When I was in Middle School and High School John taught me how to box. John Saylor was an incredible man who will be remembered for many years.

William Ashabranner - June 12, 2025 at 08:34 PM