



John Thomas Graf

July 4, 1956 - May 15, 2021

John T. Graf, 64, died on May 15, 2021 in Minneapolis, Minnesota following a brief illness.

He leaves his brother, Robert Graf, his aunt, Helene Byrne, cousins Sr. Catherine Houtakker and Linda Byrne, and many other relatives and friends. During his career, John lived in Hayward and South Wayne, Wisconsin. John graduated from the University of Wisconsin (River Falls). He worked for 33 years as a Farm Loan Manager for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, followed by four years as a Field Representative for the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture. John appreciated his career spent working with farmers. He passed away on the feast day of St. Isidore, the patron saint of farmers.

John enjoyed volunteer activities, prize-winning roses, cooking, and road trips to explore parks and church architecture. John's special relationship with animals led him to rescue and adopt many dogs and cats. John suffered a severe stroke in 2017. At that time, five dogs and a cat were under his care. John returned to Minnetonka for his last four years to be close to his brother Robert.

John was raised in Minnetonka, Minnesota, the son of Jean (Houtakker) Graf and Thomas Graf and the eldest of three sons. In addition to his parents, John is pre-deceased by a brother, James Graf.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, June 5, 2021, at 10:30 am, at Church of the Resurrection, 4300 Asbury Road in Dubuque, IA with burial at

Mount Olivet cemetery. There will be a visitation one hour prior to the funeral. Washburn-McReavy funeral home in Hopkins, Minnesota is assisting the family. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a contribution to the Church of the Resurrection or the donor's favorite charity.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JUN 5. 10:30 AM.

Church of the Resurrection

Tribute Wall

BD

“ I met John when we moved to Kenmar Circle in 1966. We became fast friends through school and stayed in touch for many years while he was in college and start his career. I spent many happy days at the Graf house spending time with the family watching John cook and tend his garden. I visited him in Hayward and Bayfield. I visited his grandparents in Cuba City. We had many many political discussions over the years first not agreeing with each other and then aligning as he grew older. I just found this and am shocked and saddened I miss him and thought of him often but we sometimes lose touch with those we were so close with in the past.



Brad Dalager - February 19, 2022 at 04:20 PM

MB

“ I planned to visit my brother in 2021 if my health improves. Unfortunately, a MRSA infection was not eliminated. In 2008, my Mother passed and JOHN without hesitation drove from SW Wisconsin to Racine on Lake Michigan. We shared an early bite that made me feel less grief stricken. He left shortly for the 400 mile trek back to SW Wisconsin. I'm sure he's in HEAVEN rescuing, fostering and adopting GOD'S CREATURES! I'LL think of him daily and pray we'll see each other another time! I must continue to become a BETTER MAN! GIMPY #260

Marlon Bohlman - January 15, 2022 at 12:49 AM

LO

“ Once again John proves a point. . . . the good die far too young.

Herman

Lee Olson - May 24, 2021 at 02:04 PM

MB

Yes MR. HERMAN,
I'm afraid I'll live forever!

Marlon Bohlman - January 15, 2022 at 12:51 AM

LS

“ *Johnnie G was ‘our brother’. We met at UW River Falls. He was a dorm mate and AGR fraternity brother to Don. He stayed with us after graduating until he got a job near Hayward, WI. We vacationed together in Northern MN and WI. We visited him and his mom in South Wayne, WI. We vacationed with him to Spearfish SD, Yellowstone, and Galena, Illinois. There were many calls and cards for birthdays, Christmases, and Easters. If he came through So. MN we’d meet for dinner.*

When we heard about his stroke we visited him every one to two months in New Glarus Nursing Home, then Walker Nursing Home, then Legacy Care Homes in Minnetonka. Being brought to the River Falls AGR reunion was truly a highlight for all of us. John BEAMED that day; he was so excited to be there.

COVID-19 stopped our visits. We couldn’t connect with him. Cards weren’t enough. We talked with Bob. We prayed knowing this was as hard for him as us.

*John Graf was our friend...our brother. We miss him dearly.
Don and Lea Sexton*

Lea Sexton - May 21, 2021 at 12:05 PM

MB

MY BEST BROTHER!

Marlon Bohlman - January 12, 2022 at 10:03 PM

AH

“ *John and i go way back to UW River Falls where we were in the same graduating class form the College of Agriculture. Also worked with him at the USDA Farmers Home Administration and Farm Service Agency.*

We also shared a common interest in visiting rural Catholic Chirches in Southwestern Wisconsin. Rest in Peace John you deserve it.

Andrew Halada

Andrew Halada - May 19, 2021 at 10:23 AM



John was my manager in Lafayette County. He oversaw both Green and Lafayette counties farm loan depts. for many years!! He had a good personality and always wanted to help the farmers as much as he could! God bless you!! Linda

Linda Scott - May 19, 2021 at 04:50 PM

CP

John was a great friend of my husband Morgan and me. He was an AGR fraternity brother of ours. He was special to me because he was my BIG brother in the fraternity. He was the Best Man in our wedding 40 years ago. We tried to visit him in the nursing homes where he lived the past few years, whenever we could. I will remember him for his big smile and love of cats, dogs, birds and flowers. We will miss him dearly!😭

Caryl Peck - May 21, 2021 at 11:43 AM

RE

“ John worked for me for many years. I always appreciated John's caring attitude for the farmers and employees he worked with.

Ray Ellenberger - May 19, 2021 at 09:20 AM

JJ

John was a very caring people pleasing person! He was also a very good cook and very dedicated to the farm community he served. Sorry to hear of his passing.

Jeff Johnston - May 19, 2021 at 05:10 PM

DB

I worked with John at FSA and after his retirement, at NASDA. John had a way that made you feel comfortable and at ease. He had a genuine concern for all he met. I am glad I got a chance to know him!

Dennis Boland - May 19, 2021 at 08:57 PM

JE

John was a kind & caring person. He would try to help everyone.

John Erickson

John T Erickson - May 21, 2021 at 04:46 PM