



John Wilson Thonen

December 7, 1947 - June 21, 2019

John Wilson Thonen was born in Beaver Falls Pennsylvania, to Rose and Ralph Thonen on December 7th, 1947. His family moved to Bellevue, Ohio when he was a small child. He was the eldest of 5 children who spent their youth in a “Sears House” next to his grandparents, Beradino and Theresa Pepe. John's father worked for the railroad and was often gone, but his grandfather “Pup” spent countless hours with him as they worked in their garden. Proud of their Italian heritage, they took special delight in their hot peppers! John graduated from Bellevue High school in 1966 and then attended BGSU, where he majored in business and computer systems, graduating in 1971. It was at college where he met his wife, Janet Johnson. They married in the spring prior to his beginning officers training school for the Air Force. John became a navigator, eventually serving in the reserves in Columbus, Ohio. He served in the Air Force Reserve for 7 years, leaving as a Captain, while living in the Columbus area with Janet and their growing family. He also worked at Rockwell International in I.T.

In 1980 John, Jan, and family moved to Oberlin, Ohio and settled into the home they have lived in for almost 40 years. John continued working as a project manager in I.T. with American Greetings for over 25 years until he retired.

John was active in his community. He served on the NOYO board, as a Guardian Ad litem, coached youth soccer, had a Cub Scout Pack, helped with Grenmore Dance Recitals, was a 4H leader, and prepared taxes for AARP.

John loved music and played Tympani with Lorain County Orchestra at LCCC for 26 years. He supported his children and grandchildren in their love of music, buying instruments and attending concerts.

John enjoyed traveling. He and Jan traveled in the states, in Central America, the Caribbean, and Europe. He also loved reading and never traveled anywhere without a book. He enjoyed sailing his boat, enjoying the peace and beauty of the lake.

John's favorite thing was being a father, a grandfather, and a great grandfather. He was a father to Julie (David), Jennica, Joshua, Jonna (Jeremy), and Justin (Meghan).

Grandfather to Jataria, Michelle, Jeffrey, Joshua, Jasmine, Joslyn, and Amy. Great grandfather to Marlie, Madison, Chayanne, Kaden and Brighten. He was their beloved Papa. He loved them all dearly and wanted the best for them, and prayed to live to see

them grow up.

John is also survived by his sisters, Shirley (Bob) and Karen (Carl) and his brother Pat (Norma). He leaves his brothers-in-law Robert (Pam), William, and Tim, many nieces and nephews, his "brother" Denny, dear friends, Melanie and Larry, Griff, Cathy and many others.

John shared 48 years with his wife Janet and had hoped to reach 50. They had many adventures together, raising children, traveling, and sadly, his battle with cancer. He lost that battle on June 21st 2019 but he fought fiercely and bravely until the very end.

John's memorial service will be held on Monday, July 1st, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 45 S. Professor Street, Oberlin, Ohio. The family invites everyone to this celebration of John's life. Memorials, if desired, may be directed to the first United Methodist church in Oberlin or the Oberlin Public Library.

Events

JUL **Memorial Service** 04:00PM

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First United Methodist Church
45 S. Professor St., Oberlin, OH, US, 44074

Comments



“ I am so sad to have read this. I will miss seeing both of you. I enjoyed all of our conversations. My thoughts and prayers are with your family.

Love Lisa RN.

Lisa - July 01 at 01:32 PM



“ We were fellow members of the LCCC Civic Orchestra with John for many years and will miss him there. Dan also enjoyed talking sailing with John when both had boats at Spitzer Marina. Fair Winds and Following Seas to you, John. Our deepest condolences to his family.

Dan and Deb Shell - July 01 at 01:25 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John Wilson Thonen.



June 30 at 03:39 PM



“ I played with John in both LCCC orchestra and concert band for many years. One time we were surprised to see each other at a first aid/CPR course and have shared stories of our experiences in child care since then! He was always friendly and had a smile. He shall be missed.

Jennifer Kidney - June 29 at 11:18 PM



“ I performed on trumpet with John on tympanic with the Lorain Civic Orchestra. He was always fun to be around. I will miss his camaraderie. Heaven has received a fine musician!

William Rayer - June 29 at 04:55 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Wilson Thonen.



June 27 at 12:05 PM



“ Mr. Thonen was my pack master for year and was really an awesome man and a great mentor!

Leigh Willis - June 27 at 11:20 AM



“ I grew up living next door to John. Even though he was my cousin, I always thought of him as the 'big brother' I never had. He was extremely kind and will always be part of my childhood memories. Who can forget 'The Manniax'!

Lou - June 26 at 08:33 AM



“ I worked with John at the Oberlin Senior Center as an AARP Tax Aide in 2018, my first year in the program. He taught me a great deal. I am glad I had at least that brief opportunity to get to know him a little.
Sandi McClennen

Sandi McClennen - June 25 at 09:09 PM



“ I remember John well. I am so sorry to hear of his passing

Thomas Burnett - June 25 at 06:04 PM



“ John was a popular member of our class of 1966. Sending prayers to all his wonderful family.
Nancy Hillhouse Brower

nancy hillhouse brower - June 25 at 06:04 PM



“ As a classmate of John's at Bellevue High School, I remember him as an intelligent and popular member of the Class of '66. I am sure he is being rewarded for living a wonderful, giving life.
Condolences and prayers to all.

Carole (Suriano) Wise

Carole Wise - June 25 at 12:48 PM



“ I saw John in action with his large extended family and it was quite evident that he loved every single one of them. He was always funny and friendly and supportive of everyone in his life. I send my deepest condolences to the entire family. A light has gone out in Oberlin.

Sharon Bittner

Sharon Bittner - June 25 at 12:24 PM



“ John was a caring and thoughtful person and a great 1966 classmate. Sympathy to the entire family

Sharon Kerr Braun - June 25 at 10:45 AM



“ I knew John as an AARP volunteer. John was a wonderful person, always patient and kind to all. He was skilled in his work and had a nice sense of humor. John will be missed greatly. Prayers and good wishes to his family. -- Rob Thompson, Oberlin

Rob Thompson - June 25 at 09:44 AM



“ My deepest sympathy to you and your family Jan. Thinking of you.



Cindy Stevens - June 24 at 11:17 PM



“ Deepest sympathy to you and family, my prayers are with you all.

Sam Artino - June 25 at 10:42 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with your family as you celebrate and cherish the time and memories you shared with John.



Gloria J. Buxton - June 24 at 11:12 PM