



## John Dale Graf

September 10, 1947 - May 2, 2022

John D. Graf, 74, of Columbus, Nebraska (formerly of Waterloo, Nebraska) passed away at his home on May 2, 2022 after an arduous battle with pancreatic cancer.

John was born in Omaha, Nebraska on September 10, 1947 to Carol D. "Dutch" and Marjorie L. (Bohlen) Graf. He graduated from Waterloo High School in 1965. After high school, John traveled the country side as a surveyor until he started with EMC at the age of 25 where he stayed until he retired in 2012. John married and spoiled the girl next door, Kathy Gerrard, on February 25, 1971 and resided in Waterloo until March of 1981. He worked as an Underwriter for Employers Mutual Casualty Company for ten years. He then switched positions to Dakota Fire Insurance Company and his job took him to Watertown, South Dakota where they stayed for 30 years. This move put him closer to the fishing lakes and hunting grounds that he loved so much. John traveled a lot for his job; he would sometimes let one of his kids tag along, being sure to stop at every historical marker along the way. When on the road, he would phone home frequently and tell his kids it was the "man in the moon" calling. In 2011, John and Kathy moved to Yankton, South Dakota to be closer to family. John very much enjoyed the beautiful scenery and wildlife in that area close to Lewis and Clark lake where he could boat and fish. In 2018, they made the move to Columbus to be near their favorite daughter.

John was a Master Mason, serving as Worshipful Master of Concord Lodge #13, Watertown, South Dakota. He was a man of few words but many hobbies including hunting, fishing, and strumming his guitar, which he taught himself to play. If John found something he was interested in, he made sure to thoroughly learn it. This included taking country dance lessons and doing online cooking courses. John was the chief cook of the Graf household and loved to experiment with recipes.

John was most in his element in the peaceful mornings before sunrise and anytime he was out in nature. He enjoyed long walks, the feeling of warm sunshine on his face, and the cool crisp morning air. Some of his favorite memories included hunting with his sons and his sidekick, Allie, the yellow Lab, as well as fishing with his grandkids at Bonnie Beach in Minnesota. He checked off a bucket list item last fall, when he was able to share a hunting blind with his nephew, Ned. John was a man of extreme organization as evidenced by his picture-perfect garage, man cave, tacklebox, etc. Unfortunately, that trait did not rub off on his children.

Those left behind to cherish the memories are his beloved wife of 51 years, Kathleen K. (Gerrard) Graf of Columbus, Nebraska, his children, William (Julie) Graf of Eden Prairie, Minnesota, Jodi (Christopher) Beyer of Columbus, Nebraska, John "Tim" Graf of Lakewood, Colorado, and his six grandkids who brought him great joy ~ Travis, Kaylyn, Samuel, Nicolas, Daniel, and Isabelle, along with his fur baby, Oakley Anna, aka the "furry pig." John also leaves behind his four siblings who always remained close to him: Janet Greer of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Rodney (Penny) Graf, Stan Graf, and Denise (Jack) Lasiter, all of Waterloo, Nebraska, his Uncle Larry Bohlen of Fremont, Nebraska, as well as numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews. John was preceded in death by his parents.

John greatly loved his family and will be dearly missed. A celebration of life will be held at Reichmuth Funeral Home in Elkhorn, Nebraska on Saturday, May 7, 2022 at 11 a.m. with visitation prior to the service starting at 9 a.m.

Memorials may be directed to Pheasants Forever, Delta Waterfowl Foundation, or Columbus Community Hospital Hospice.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 7. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Reichmuth Funeral Home - Omaha / Elkhorn  
21901 W. Maple Rd.  
P.O. Box 711  
Elkhorn, NE 68022  
402-289-2222  
services@reichmuthfuneralhomes.com  
<https://www.reichmuthfuneralhomes.com/>

## Celebration of Life

MAY 7. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Reichmuth Funeral Home - Omaha / Elkhorn  
21901 W. Maple Rd.  
P.O. Box 711  
Elkhorn, NE 68022  
402-289-2222  
services@reichmuthfuneralhomes.com  
<https://www.reichmuthfuneralhomes.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Reichmuth Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of John Dale Graf*



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**Reichmuth Funeral Home** - May 04, 2022 at 09:36 AM

SJ

*My sincerest sympathy.to Kathy and her family. John is in Heaven with his friend Vernon and his own family. I just came across this video today. Sending love and hugs Sharon Davis Joseph*

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**Sharon Davis Joseph** - January 10 at 01:20 AM



“ *John Dale Graf*

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December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM

SU

“ *We were neighbors of yours many years (40+ years) ago and friends of the family when we all lived in Waterloo. We lived in the tiny little house next door when we were first married. We were very sorry to hear of John's passing.*

*Keith and Susie Ueckert*

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**Susan Ueckert** - May 11, 2022 at 06:03 PM

JL

“ I was also fortunate to work with John at EMC for many years. He was a quiet guy with a great smile. A wonderful coworker and friend.

*Jeff Lawler*

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**Jeff Lawler** - May 08, 2022 at 09:56 PM

WU

“ I worked with John at EMC, I only got to talk with him occasionally when he would be in the office but he was always such a nice guy. I really enjoyed talking with him about hunting and fishing. Thinking about him brings a smile to my face and I don't know that a nicer thing can be said about anyone.

*Wayne Unruh*

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**Wayne Unruh** - May 06, 2022 at 05:39 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of John Dale Graf.



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May 06, 2022 at 11:42 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Dale Graf.



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May 05, 2022 at 05:26 PM

LM

“ *Lois O’Gara and girls: Lisa Laura Mauree purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of John Dale Graf.*



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**Lois O’Gara and girls: Lisa Laura Mauree** - May 05, 2022 at 12:49 PM

EM

“ *I remember being invited to spend the day at the small cabin on lake Kampeska. It was a day spent swimming, grilling and "horsing" around. John, you and Kathy always made me feel welcomed! Thank you for your hospitality and friendship. Elise(Tobin)McGinley*

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**Elise McGinley** - May 05, 2022 at 08:22 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Dale Graf.*



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May 04, 2022 at 10:03 AM