



John Thomas Patras

July 9, 1931 - July 4, 2022

John Thomas Patras was born near Chambers, NE, on July 9, 1931. He was the fifth of six children born to Amos and Elsie (Kramer) Patras. John's mother died when he was three years old, and his father had a lifelong illness. Amos was a loving father, but his health kept him from caring for his six children. As a result, the family was divided up by the state and placed in the foster system. John and his younger brother Ray lived in a series of foster situations. At 12 years old, John and Ray moved to a boys' home in Diller, NE. At Diller High School, he met Elaine, and after dating 5 years, they married in 1952. They had two children, Patricia and Steven. This past June 1, John and Elaine celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary, a beautiful and rare milestone.

John served in the army during the Korean War. He worked as a farmer, managed a dairy farm, and became a high school social science teacher. John then transitioned to the Superintendent of Building and Grounds for Auburn Public Schools, taking great pride in serving the community for 22 years. After retirement, he and Elaine moved to Omaha. Being the #1 super fan to his three busy grandchildren was John's top priority. Traveling to Hawaii and Disney World were two special family vacations, and his three grandchildren meant the world to him. Through the years he was constantly active in his church, ushering, teaching Sunday School, serving as Church Council President, and was even cast as one of the 3 wisemen.

John's challenging childhood was a secret to many because he was such a selfless man with a huge heart. Known to have few words, when he did speak, it was heartfelt and meaningful. He charmed everyone with his gentle smile and unconditional kindness. He enjoyed woodworking, watching the Kansas City Royals, and always had a new puzzle going. He valued family above all and will be missed tremendously by those he leaves behind.

Left to cherish John's memory are his loving wife Elaine, daughter Patricia Cummings of Omaha, son Steven Patras and wife Gretchen of Elkhorn, grandchildren: Lauren Patras of Evanston, IL, Jace Patras of Scottsdale, AZ, and Jennae Patras of West Des Moines, IA; sisters-in-law: Joyce Neumann of DeWitt, NE and Janet Lawrence of Henderson, NV; many nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.

John was preceded in death by his parents; brothers: Lester (Ruth) Patras, Ray (Marge) Patras; sisters: Imo (Merrill) Mann, Janet (Bill) Van Slyke, Evelyn (James) Wildauer; sisters-in-law: Arlene (Willard) Nippert, Verneal (Charlie) Barber, Hope Nippert; brothers-in-law: Richard (Jean) Schnuelle, Herman Neumann, Conrad Lawrence.

A celebration of life service will be held Friday, July 8, 11:00 a.m. at Bethany Lutheran Church in Elkhorn, NE (4200 N 204th Street). A family visitation will begin at 10 a.m. and a luncheon will follow. You can watch a broadcast of the service at: reichmuthfuneralhomes.com. Internment will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes memorials, to be designated later as an honorable tribute to John's life.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL 8. 11:00 AM (CT)

Bethany Lutheran Church
4200 N 204th Street
Elkhorn, NE 68022

Tribute Wall



“ *Reichmuth Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of John Thomas Patras*



Reichmuth Funeral Home - July 06, 2022 at 03:15 PM

PB

Beautiful service

Patricia Becker - July 08, 2022 at 12:37 PM



“ *John Thomas Patras*

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM

JE

“ *Elaine, Pat, Steve; my deepest condolences to you on John's passing. He was a fine man indeed, a long life well lived. I was so grateful for his warmth, which I came to appreciate so much even as a geeky high school kid. Seventy years of marriage is a spectacular gift, Elaine. Thank you for that example. I hope your memories are good, even as you grieve for John. My best to you. Joe Ely, AHS Class of 1971*

Joe Ely - July 10, 2022 at 09:53 PM

DT

“ I had Mr. Patras as a teacher when I was a freshman at AHS, at the "old high school" on J street. He was a wonderful guy and, as I think back on the class, he was always very kind and caring. Condolences to his family. Doug Thomas, AHS '74.

Doug Thomas - July 10, 2022 at 06:58 PM

VY

“ Elaine, Patricia, and Steve; it was my pleasure working with John at AMS. We could always count on him and his crew to get the job done. I remember that smile as he came into the Middle School office. God Bless you. Vivian.

Vivian Yelkin - July 10, 2022 at 03:41 PM

GA

“ John was a great boss, especially to unreliable high school punks. He never became upset, even over mid afternoon naps...all Steve's fault.

If there is an award for the world's kindest person, John would have dominated the competition. It was a privilege to have been so close to John for so long. World class guy.

To all of John's family, be well.

Greg Andrew - July 08, 2022 at 07:48 AM

GP

Beautifully said, dearest punk! <3 Thanks, Greg, for your friendship and support. ~ Gretchen

Gretchen Finke Patras - July 10, 2022 at 02:37 PM

MT

“ Mike & Chris Tomjack purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Thomas Patras.



Mike & Chris Tomjack - July 06, 2022 at 05:17 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Thomas Patras.



July 06, 2022 at 09:21 AM

JL

“ Joyce Neumann & Janet Lawrence purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John Thomas Patras.



Joyce Neumann & Janet Lawrence - July 05, 2022 at 05:39 PM

PB

“ Patricia Becker lit a candle in memory of John Thomas Patras



Patricia Becker - July 05, 2022 at 04:30 PM

PB

My uncle John is very special to me. My father Ray was John's youngest brother. They grew up side-by-side. My dad said his brother John was his hero. He said "if it weren't for my brother John I don't know what would have become of me". Sending heartfelt condolences to aunt Elaine, cousins Patricia and Steven. Family Gretchen, Lauren, Jace and Jeanne.. John was a wonderful man.. Soft spoken , strong and a loving family man of faith.

Patricia Becker - July 05, 2022 at 04:48 PM

GP

Thank you, Patty. What a beautiful testimony. John had been talking a lot about Ray recently - it's so heart-warming to envision their heavenly reunion! ~ Gretchen

Gretchen Finke Patras - July 07, 2022 at 12:27 PM