



John L. Sullivan

June 7, 1933 - May 31, 2023

John Lorenz Sullivan was born June 7, 1933 in Valley, NE and died May 31, 2023 in Fremont, NE ending a long life of volunteer and civic service.

John graduated from Valley High School in 1950. After graduation, he worked delivering milk until 1952 when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He was in the Navy from 1952 – 1954, stationed in the Marshall Islands. He was honorably discharged from the U. S. Navy Reserve in August 1959.

Returning home from the Navy, John went to work for Northwestern Bell Telephone, Co. He worked there from 1954 to his retirement in 1986.

John married his High School sweetheart, JoAnn Jensen, on May 28, 1954 in the United Faith Community Church of which they were lifelong members.

JoAnn preceded him in death on March 15, 2023.

John was very active in the Valley community his whole adult life. He was a member of American Legion Post #58, Victory Lodge 310 AF and AM, and the Valley Community Historical Society. He served on the Valley School Board, the Nebraska State Schoolboard Association, the County Board of Adjustments, the Valley chamber of Commerce, and was mayor of Valley for 12 years. He also served on the American Legion Firing Squad and carried the American flag in many Valley parades. He was proud to be an American! John's volunteer service is too big to mention! He was willing to help anyone, in any way, if he could. How many people would call the mayor about a toilet not working properly and have that mayor show up and fix the toilet free of charge!!

John and JoAnn traveled to all 50 states and several foreign countries during their 68 years of marriage. After his retirement, John and JoAnn bought a second home in Mesa, AZ and became yearly snowbirds. They were big Husker fans and had season tickets to Big Red football for many years. John met many important people during his lifetime, but counts shaking hands with President Lyndon Johnson and meeting General Jimmy Doolittle as his highlights.

John enjoyed remodeling houses and owned many rentals in Valley, Fremont, and Mesa, AZ.

John was very happy to have many friendships and appreciated the support of the Valley community during his lifetime, especially when he was mayor.

John was preceded in death by his wife JoAnn, parents Carl and Erna Sullivan, and sister and brother-in-law, Marianne and Wayne Nielsen. He is survived by his daughter, Nancy (Mark) Hardy of Loveland, CO, and son John L. (Jackie) Sullivan; grandson Mitchell Sullivan and cat, Lily, all of Valley; sister, Dorothy Elias of Gretna, NE; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Funeral Service and Masonic Service 11 AM Monday at Reichmuth Funeral Home, Elkhorn. Interment with military honors at Prospect Hill Cemetery, Elkhorn. Visitation Sunday at the funeral home from Noon-4 PM with family receiving friends from 2-4 PM. Memorials to the family for later designation.

Cemetery Details

Prospect Hill Cemetery of Elkhorn

21901 W. Maple Road
Omaha, NE 68022

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 4. 12:00 PM - 4:00 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/>

Family will receive friends

JUN 4. 2:00 PM - 4:00 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/>

Funeral Service

JUN 5. 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/>

Masonic Service

JUN 5. 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/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Reichmuth Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of John L. Sullivan*



Reichmuth Funeral Home - June 05, 2023 at 10:49 AM

RS

“ I was browsing a few Facebook Pages about Valley, Nebraska and was very sad when I unexpectedly learned of the 2023 passing of John and JoAnn Sullivan.

I served as a Police Officer for the City of Valley from 1984 to 1993. Part of that time I served while John Sullivan was the Mayor. I always got along with the Mayor. He could be passionate about issues, but he was rarely wrong. I appreciated that he always backed me up, and defended me when needed. After I got to know him better, I enjoyed his sense of humor!

I left law enforcement in 1994, and moved to Kansas City where I pursued a career in Information Technology. It must have been about 2003 or so when I was traveling through the area of Valley, and thought I would cruise through Valley to look around. When I drove down Charles Street, I saw John and JoAnn working in their yard, and stopped to say hello! I'm so glad I did! We had a great conversation and enjoyed reminiscing. I have many great memories of Valley, Nebraska and John and JoAnn are most definitely part of those memories.

Peace to the Sullivan Family. Rest in Peace John and JoAnn.

*Randal (Randy) R. Schulze
Officer V114, Valley PD Retired
Kansas City, Missouri*

Randy Schulze - June 19, 2025 at 04:38 PM

JE

“ John and JoAnn always called Mike and me to wish us a happy birthday. Those calls meant to much to us. I told John I would call him on his next birthday. Mike and I wish we could be there to celebrate his life. We will keep Nancy, Johnnie and Jackie in our prayers. Mike asked for prayers from our church to the Sullivan family. I'm sure he's with JoAnn in the best seat in God's heavenly kingdom.

Judy Elias - June 04, 2023 at 10:20 PM

SR

“ John's daughter, Nancy, and I were roommates in nursing school. My best memory of Nancy's dad was he had always had a smile and the zest for life. May God comfort you and your family Nancy.

Sally Reese - June 04, 2023 at 10:10 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John L. Sullivan.



June 03, 2023 at 01:59 PM

MF

“ Mark Thiessen, Mike Jorgensen & families purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of John L. Sullivan.



Mark Thiessen, Mike Jorgensen & families - June 03, 2023 at 12:15 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray* was purchased for the family of John L. Sullivan.



June 02, 2023 at 05:19 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of John L. Sullivan.



June 01, 2023 at 06:19 PM