



John Mathes

May 12, 1945 - September 18, 2019

John Thomas Mathes died on September 18, 2019 at age 74 in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. He died doing what he loved, riding his bike.

He was born on May 12, 1945 in Burlington, Iowa to George Herman and Rosemary Donohoo Mathes. He grew up at the Iowa Ordnance Plant (now the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant) in Middletown, IA. He was the sixth of thirteen children. He attended St. Paul Elementary School and graduated from Notre Dame Catholic High School in 1963. He went on to attend The University of Iowa and graduated with an Industrial Engineering Degree.

He married Judith Ann Messmer on September 16, 1967 at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Burlington, Iowa. They celebrated their 52nd anniversary 2 days before his death. He started working at 3M right out of college and worked for them his whole career (in Rochester, NY and Weatherford, OK) and for its later incarnations as Imation and Ferrania. He retired in 2007. He and Judi moved to Broken Arrow soon after that to be near their children and grandchildren.

John (or Yo as his siblings called him) was quiet, but had a sneaky sense of humor. He was a lifelong Yankees fan. He enjoyed watching movies at the theater and at home (on the Hallmark Channel especially). He liked to be active and played racquetball, basketball, and golf. He rode his bike on the

Tulsa trails as often as he could and rode with clippers and a saw in his bike bag so he could maintain the trail to his satisfaction. He loved chocolate and was known to eat dessert first —or only —at restaurants. He also loved animals and had many pet dogs over the years. He could be seen twice daily walking their dog, Lola, through the neighborhood. He loved his family dearly and was always there for them. He faithfully attended the Catholic Church throughout his life.

He is survived by his wife, Judi; their three children Laura Mathes (Columbia, MO), Robbie Mathes and his wife Mary Wentz Mathes (Tulsa, OK), and Jeff Mathes (Broken Arrow, OK); his grandchildren Taylor Mathes (Broken Arrow, OK), Kendal Mathes (Owasso, OK), and Braden Mathes (Tulsa, OK); his great-grandchildren Dakota Seay (Tulsa, OK) and Ryker Harrell (Tulsa, OK); and his siblings George Mathes and his wife Jacquie (Woodstock, IL), Ann Patterson (Burlington, IA), Marigrace Pennebaker (Burlington, IA), Kate Mertens and her husband Dan (Mount Pleasant, IA), Eileen Vorwerk and her husband Larry (Burlington, IA), Jim Mathes and his wife Charlene (Springfield, IL), Rosie Kaiser and her husband Mark (Jefferson City, MO), Robert Mathes (Galesburg, IL), Barbara Brown and her husband Jay (Burlington, IA); and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers Bill and Richard Mathes, and his sister Jane Mathes Learned.

A memorial funeral mass for John has been scheduled for 1:00 p.m., Saturday, September 28, 2019 at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Burlington, Iowa. Burial will follow the service at Aspen Grove Cemetery, Burlington, Iowa. Viewing will be at the church just prior to the service from 12:00 p.m. until 1:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the family for the John Mathes Memorial Fund.

Previous Events

Viewing

SEP 28. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

St. Paul's Catholic Church
Burlington, IA

Memorial Mass

SEP 28. 1:00 PM (CT)

St. Paul's Catholic Church
Burlington, IA

Tribute Wall



“ *John Mathes*

October 23, 2023 at 01:21 AM



“ *Sorry to hear of John's passing. A gentle man and old friend.*

Mike Butcher



Mike Butcher - March 31, 2020 at 05:31 PM



Thanks Mike. I've never seen that picture before.

laura mathes - May 12, 2020 at 11:54 PM

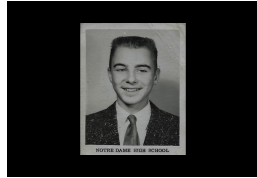


“ *To John's Family, we share your sadness in John's passing and I do have many great memories working with him in 3M Weatherford Photo Color Systems. John was a great Leader and Mentor for his people, and I enjoyed working with both him and the Team for those years. Due health issues, Lynn and I won't join you today, but all of you are in our hearts. My thanks to Doug Hale for sharing your sad news, and know that John is with our Father in Paradise. Best Regards, Greg Gilligan Hastings MN.*

Greg and Lynn Gilligan - September 28, 2019 at 05:14 AM

Laura Mathes

“ 1 file added to the album John T. Mathes Video



Laura Mathes - September 24, 2019 at 12:05 PM

GS

Absolutely wonderful ❤️ Such a beautiful family! John truly lived his life! Our deepest sympathies to Judi and the entire Mathes family

Ginny and Cliff Stone - September 24, 2019 at 05:00 PM

BN

What a beautiful tribute to an amazing man and his family. Loved the sense of humor and caring portrayed. Barbara Newman

Barbara Newman - April 06, 2020 at 04:11 PM

AW

“ *Sending our love and condolences to your sweet family.*

Amber Wentz

Nate Wentz

Gage Wentz

Morgan Wentz

Amber Wentz - September 23, 2019 at 03:39 PM

WL

“ I enjoyed working with John for 25 years with 3M, Imation and Ferrania! He was a great friend and leader! He was a great man of integrity and honesty with a great sense of humor! I'll always remember the great times we had on Halloween! He was always the best dressed and made it fun for everyone! We had many good times on the golf course and I never saw him get frustrated with a bad shot or round! I will miss him very much! Our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire family! Wayne Lively

wayne lively - September 22, 2019 at 06:36 PM

 Laura Mathes

Thank you for the kind words Wayne.

Laura Mathes - September 23, 2019 at 10:46 AM

 Laura Mathes

“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Laura Mathes - September 22, 2019 at 05:21 PM

LM

You and your family are in our thoughts! Beautiful tribute to your fathers life.

The McClary family

Liz McClary - September 23, 2019 at 11:54 AM

 Laura Mathes

Thank you.

Laura Mathes - September 23, 2019 at 11:02 PM

MD

“ John was a very good friend of mine and cannot but think of him very positively. I worked with him for over 20 years and I have very good memory of him and Judith.
It's really sad for me to have lost him and my condoliance go to Judith and their sons.
John will continue to have a special place in my memory.
Reast in peace.
From your Italian friend Marco.

Marco Descalzo - September 22, 2019 at 11:09 AM



Thank you Marco.

Laura Mathes - September 22, 2019 at 05:13 PM

JS

“ I didn't know John except from our passing one another occasionally on the Creek trail that we both rode fairly routinely! We chatted a few times while catching our breath at the Garnett Dog Park and exchanged our enjoyment of retirement and cycling. My sincere condolences! I will miss my friend when riding the trail and when whipped in the face by a low hanging limb I'm sure it will be a reminder that John would have had that limb clipped! RIP John!
Jim Sellers

Jim Sellers - September 21, 2019 at 04:20 PM



Thank you Jim. What a special memory to share with us.

Laura Mathes - September 22, 2019 at 05:16 PM

DH

“ *Judi, Laura, Robbie, Jeff, and family,*

John was such a great friend and work associate. John made work a pleasure to come to everyday for over 30 years. Our prayers are with the entire family and he will be greatly missed by all. For sure I will miss talking with him, hearing family updates and just talking about the "good ole days at work".

Doug

Douglas Hale - September 21, 2019 at 11:09 AM



Thank you for the kind words Doug.

Laura Mathes - September 22, 2019 at 05:14 PM



“ *Judi, Laura, Rob and Jeff, our prayers are with you in this very difficult time. I have fond memories of John both as a manager and friend. He was a great mentor and his sense of humor was always present even in the hardest of times. I owe a lot to him in the progression of my career at 3M due to the opportunities and guidance he gave me. He will always hold a special place in my memories of 3M Weatherford.*

Wendell Reeves - September 21, 2019 at 12:14 AM



Thank you for letting us know how much Dad meant to you.

Laura Mathes - September 22, 2019 at 05:15 PM

DH

John was such a good person, and it was an honor to work for a man with integrity and honesty. He had quite the smarts too! At breaktime we all would go to the breakroom and work out the crossword puzzles and sudoku. Of course, we could count on using John's paper to help us through because he would have them already filled out! We always enjoyed his Halloween costumes, and he was always a willing participant in any of the plant functions. He will be a person I always respect, and I know he will be greatly missed. My deepest sympathy to the family.

Donna Hale

Donna Hale - September 25, 2019 at 12:29 PM

PM

“ *So very sorry to hear the news of John's passing. He was a wonderful person to know, a great boss and it was a pleasure to work for him. Deepest sympathies to Judy and the entire Mathis family.*

Peggy Maddox

Peggy Maddox - September 20, 2019 at 01:29 PM

 Laura Mathes

Thank you. Dad loved going to work.

Laura Mathes - September 22, 2019 at 05:15 PM

KM

“ So sorry to hear about John. My Thoughts and prayers are with Judy and her family during this time. John had such a great sense of humor and was always so thoughtful to everyone. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him and I will always have fond and fun memories of him. He was my first supervisor and set such a good example for me.
We will miss you John.

Kathy Megli

Kathy Megli - September 19, 2019 at 05:52 PM

 Laura Mathes

Thank you...we thought he was funny to. He livened up our lives.

Laura Mathes - September 22, 2019 at 05:18 PM

HH

“ *It is our honor and privilege to serve the Mathes family and to provide this permanent tribute website in memory of John.*



Hayhurst Funeral Home - September 19, 2019 at 05:52 PM