



John O'Leary

April 15, 1936 - December 21, 2023

John Joseph O'Leary, aged 87, passed away peacefully in his Clive, Iowa home on December 21, 2023, surrounded and cared for by his loved ones.

Memorial services will be held Friday, December 29, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Storm Lake, Iowa, with a lunch reception following at the St. Mary's Parish Center. As a devout Irishman, John would appreciate those who knew and loved him to raise a cup of coffee or a cold beer in his honor, and share a laugh or two for good measure. Burial will be in the St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Storm Lake. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to UnityPoint Hospice. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Born on April 15, 1936, in Early, Iowa, to Lawrence & Mary (Drey) O'Leary, John spent his childhood on the family's Truesdale, Iowa farm. He graduated from Truesdale High School and later served in the U.S. Army in France for two years.

On June 26th, 1965, John married the love of his life, Mary Rupp of Cherokee, Iowa. Together they raised their 2 children in Storm Lake where John farmed for 45 years. For over 50 years, he volunteered for St. Mary's parish cemetery, dedicating countless hours respectfully maintaining the land. In retirement, he fulfilled his dream of snow-birding to Arizona, spending over 20 years playing

golf and enjoying evenings with friends at the gazebo. When asked about his well-being, he invariably replied, "You know, I've never had it so good."

His life was devoted to his wife Mary, children, and grandchildren, who affectionately called him 'Bapa John'. He enjoyed his coffee club at Hy-Vee and Sparky's, news reading, weather tracking, sports watching, and, until the end, indulging in Culver's custard and Mary's cookies.

Known for his fun-loving nature and wicked sense of humor, John will be dearly missed by all whose lives he touched.

He is preceded in death by his parents, his sisters Patricia O'Leary and Mary Agnes Flanigan, brother Larry O'Leary and brother-in-law Jim Flanigan. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Mary (Rupp) O'Leary, their son Patrick O'Leary (Kim) of Waukee, Iowa, daughter Suzanne (O'Leary) Sakelaris (Jim) of Santa Fe, New Mexico and grandchildren, Sebastian and Simone O'Leary Lopez. Also surviving are his sister Linda Roxberg (Carl), sister-in-law Phyllis O'Leary and numerous nieces and nephews whom he cherished.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery

1238 600th St.
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC **29**. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church -- Storm Lake
320 Seneca Street
Storm Lake, IA

Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John O'Leary*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - December 28, 2023 at 06:24 PM

ED

“ *Mary,
We are so sorry to hear about the passing of John.
We always enjoyed our visits with both of you at Biscuits & Gravy at the Senior Center and hearing John's stories.
Our thoughts & prayers are with you.*

Sincerely, Evan & Diane (Vista Hermosa)

Evan & Diane - January 15, 2024 at 11:24 PM

RM

“ *So very sorry to hear about John. You are in our prayers.*



Rich Merten - December 31, 2023 at 05:49 PM

JM

“ Thinking of your family during this difficult time. Sending prayers.
Kevin & Julie McKinney

Julie McKinney - December 29, 2023 at 11:35 AM

CA

“ Breaks my heart. =) He was such a nice and funny guy, everyone
always loved stopping by his table to say hi. Always had a smile and
a quick comeback. Rest in peace John, we'll miss you.

Carrie - December 28, 2023 at 10:20 PM

FH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - December 28, 2023 at 06:02 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the
family of John O'Leary.



December 27, 2023 at 11:29 PM

BM

“ My condolences to the O'Leary family. May God bless your family. Many good neighbor, friend, and school memories. John was blessed with a jovial attitude. May he R I P. PEACE to your family.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Mester

Bonnie Mester - December 27, 2023 at 09:45 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of John O'Leary.



December 27, 2023 at 01:54 PM

BM

“ Ben Judy Malcom lit a candle in memory of John O'Leary



Ben & Judy Malcom - December 27, 2023 at 09:39 AM

CD

“ Cheryl DeMan lit a candle in memory of John O'Leary



Cheryl DeMan - December 27, 2023 at 08:21 AM

NF

“ Mary and family we can't remember ever seeing John when he wasn't smiling (oh maybe at a funeral or two)! What a fine Irish gentleman he was! Our love and sympathy to you all.
Nancy and Craig Fratzke

Nancy Fratzke - December 26, 2023 at 04:39 PM

ML

“ Mike and Linda planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John O'Leary.

Mike and Linda - December 26, 2023 at 10:18 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John O'Leary.



December 26, 2023 at 10:18 AM

RP

“ Raenette Peck-Marshall lit a candle in memory of John O'Leary



Raenette Peck-Marshall - December 25, 2023 at 05:14 PM

SM

“ R.I.P John god is going to enjoy you.



Steph/sharon Mickelson - December 24, 2023 at 10:01 AM

DM

“ Dave, Logan and Jenna Merten lit a candle in memory of John O'Leary



Dave, Deb, Logan and Jenna Merten - December 23, 2023 at 10:32 PM

JT

“ John was a special special person. I learned so much hanging out with John through outmy childhood. He did so much for so many and never wanted anyone to know. I have to many wonderful memories to list. When Dad had the aneurism that ultimately took his life John took my mother Rose to Sioux City for us so she could be with Dad. Of all the great memories that is the one that I appreciated the most. Knowing John was on the job you knew it was going to be all good. A true Hero to me. I will miss that grin and twinkle in the eye. Truly one of the great ones.

joe toohey - December 23, 2023 at 09:13 PM

MH

Special sympathy to all of the family. John was a special Irishman n loved n will be long remembered.❤️

Maureen/Joel Horsley - December 26, 2023 at 03:38 PM

MY

“ *Mark/Chris Young lit a candle in memory of John O'Leary*



Mark/Chris Young - December 23, 2023 at 09:09 PM

PB

“ *Pat Gene Barnett lit a candle in memory of John O'Leary*



Pat and Gene Barnett - December 23, 2023 at 07:17 PM

KM

“ *Big O - you will be missed! Love to Mary, Suzanne & Pat.*



Kay Marvin - December 23, 2023 at 04:56 PM

JD

“ *John/Connie Demers lit a candle in memory of John O'Leary*



John/Connie Demers - December 23, 2023 at 04:51 PM

EM

“ So sorry to hear this news. So much fun exchanging a joke or two with John in his retirement years. May God bless all with our memories of John as he resides in God's care.

Erik "Hondo" and Mariellen Mosbo - December 23, 2023 at 02:36 PM

JC

“ Jeff/Jean Chindlund lit a candle in memory of John O'Leary



Jeff/Jean Chindlund - December 23, 2023 at 01:50 PM