



## John Henry Odinga

July 20, 1948 - June 5, 2016

John Henry Odinga, 67, of Traverse City passed away peacefully on Sunday, June 5, 2016, with his wife at his side.

John was born on July 20, 1948, in Ionia, MI to August and Gerda (Winkel) Odinga. He married Rebekah Cheryl Turner on May, 16 2002.

John spent his life as a builder. He built a strong Christian faith and set a wonderful Godly example for his family. After graduating from Michigan Tech University and serving in the army, he built a very successful oil and gas company, Gas Facilitators. He built strong relationships fortified by his sense of humor, wonderful smile, and listening ear. He loved traveling and playing cards with his friends and family, and of his most cherished relationships, John would certainly list his six grandchildren. He loved them fiercely. Lastly, he built himself into a very good golfer through lots and lots and lots of practice at the Traverse City Golf and Country Club, where he also served on the Board of Directors. He wished to be remembered as a Christian, a good friend, a good father, and happy husband. His friends and family would surely agree.

John is survived by his loving wife Rebekah of Traverse City; his mother Gerda Odinga of Zephyrhills, FL; children Matthew (Heather) Odinga of Sterling Heights, Nathan (Stacy) Odinga of Ortonville, and Janelle (Kris) Bross of Macomb; grandchildren Jackson, Marissa, Madison, Carter, Avery, and Samuel; brother Mike (Ardith) Odinga of Midlothian TX; brothers and sisters-in-law, Douglas (Arlene) Turner of Brighton, John (Patricia) Turner of Monroe, Nancy (Ken) Briggs of Napa Valley, CA, Lisa (Mike) Kwiecinski of Dearborn Heights, and Scott (Penny) Turner of Monroe, and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and special golfing buddies. Also surviving is his first wife, Mary (Loneske) Odinga, with whom he had his three children.

John was preceded in death by his father August.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 11, 2016, at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 11 a.m. with a visitation beginning at 10 a.m. Memorial contributions may be directed to the church. Kindly share thoughts and memories with John's family at <http://www.reynoldsjonkhoff.com>.

The family is being cared for by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home.

# Events

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**JUN**   **Visitation**                      10:00AM - 11:00AM

**11**

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church

1050 Peninsula Drive, Traverse City, MI, US, 49686

**JUN**   **Memorial Service**    11:00AM

**11**

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church

1050 Peninsula Drive, Traverse City, MI, US, 49686

# Comments

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“ So sorry to hear of John's passing. Phil Hausserman

**Phillip Hausserman** - June 14, 2016 at 07:26 AM

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“ So sorry to hear of John's passing, was looking forward to seeing him at our reunion. I have many fond memories of John and Mike in high school.

**Susan Munn Johnson** - June 13, 2016 at 10:35 PM

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“ My favorite memories of John is how help me (I'm very serious) thru Gus Byers Geometry class. What a great guy to be around! I graduated with his brother Mike in 1965. Sometimes in the winter , Mike Bledsoe, myself, can't recall the other would find a lake, scrape it and play hockey ! Rest in John you did good ! Thanks again! Patrick Stamsen class of 1965

**Patrick Stamsen** - June 13, 2016 at 08:00 PM

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“ We are heartbroken to hear of John's passing. As IHS classmates of John, we had such good times together "back in the day". We were all looking forward to our 50th Reunion, knowing that John would be there to join in the reminiscing. Always a gentleman, always kind and always a true friend. You shall be sorely missed. RIP dear friend.

Sincere condolences to the family,  
Kara Harwood Villarreal

**Kara Villarreal** - June 13, 2016 at 03:52 PM

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“ Ditto to Sandy Hensley's post – a wonderful friend, a true gentleman, a first class act. That describes John not only today, but over 35 years ago. His success didn't change him. He treated people with respect, no matter your title and was well respected in return. I had the privilege of working with John for 12+ years at MichCon. John really was a builder. He built a hard working team which he held to high standards, yet he was a part of our extended family. We all looked out for each other, both professionally and personally. We had fun while we worked hard and were there for each other through good and bad times. He was a mentor, but most importantly, a good friend. The most precious thing to John was his family. They were everything to him. To his family, I send my heartfelt condolences. May you take comfort in knowing how much joy and happiness you brought him. To John, I say thank you for your friendship and for believing in me. I'm a better person for having known you. Rest in Peace my friend.



**Kathy Starr** - June 13, 2016 at 11:10 AM

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“ I'm sorry to hear of John's passing. He lived across the street from me when we were kids. Odinga's had the best hill for sledding. He was a good kid then and I see he grew to be a good man. Rest in peace, John.

**Lois Robords** - June 12, 2016 at 10:20 PM

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“ Lois Robords lit a candle in memory of John Henry Odinga



**Lois Robords** - June 12, 2016 at 10:06 PM

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“ So deeply saddened to hear of my good friend and colleague's passing. Becky, my sympathies and prayers for you, his Mom, his children and grandchildren. John so loved and bragged to me about you all - always! He loved you all so much! He was always a class act, a pro in his profession, a true gentleman, and will be missed by everyone who knew him.  
Sandy Hensley

**Sandy Hensley** - June 07, 2016 at 11:14 PM

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“ Becky,  
So sorry to hear of John's passing. We'll keep you in our thoughts and prayers.  
Tony and Sherri Barber

**Sherri Barber** - June 07, 2016 at 05:52 PM

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“ We will always remember John's wonderful and dry sense of humor. Also will fondly recall our time as honorary Mantheis for New Year's Eve Euchre tournament and lobster fest at the Odingas. He will be greatly missed but know he is in a place now that is so awesome that the human mind cannot even comprehend it. Rest in peace John.

Steve and Stephanie Anable

**Stephanie Anable** - June 06, 2016 at 02:31 PM