



## John William Wicksall

May 5, 1949 - February 12, 2019

John William Wicksall passed away peacefully in his sleep on February 12, 2019 at the age of 69 years old. He is survived by Ingrid, his loving wife of 38 years, his children, Lacey and Jonathan, his daughter-in-law, Laura, and his grandchildren, Lana (9) and Hans (7).

John was born on May 5, 1949 in Traverse City, MI, where he lived for his entire life. The only child of Jack and Blanche Wicksall, he spent his childhood bird hunting behind Wicksall English Setters, fishing the Boardman River with his cousins, skiing at Hickory Hills, and terrorizing the nuns at Immaculate Conception Catholic school. It was these shenanigans that undoubtedly led to his transfer and eventual graduation from Traverse City High school, class of 67'. Not one for formal academics, despite being an avid reader with an uncanny knack for spelling, John spent 2 years at a community college before going to work for Wicksall Distributing. After nearly two decades at Wicksall's, he moved on to the Bay Area Transportation Authority where he worked until receiving his cancer diagnosis this past November.

Throughout his adult life, John was known by all for his deep faith in Christ, which he loved talking about and proudly displayed through bumper stickers on his truck and colorful graphic t-shirts in the 90's. In addition to never missing an opportunity to tell others about Jesus (including a palliative care doctor just 2 days before his death), John displayed his faith through actions. He loved people and will always be remembered for his great generosity. Dad loved cooking for others, hosting friends and family at his home and cabin on the Boardman River, and volunteering at his beloved East Bay Calvary church.

For as long as he lived, John was happiest with a golf club or a rifle in hand. He reveled in dragging his kids out of bed at the crack of dawn to catch the first tee-time of the day or to land a 10-point buck. He had a surprisingly sharp photographic memory and knew the golf courses and woods of northern Michigan like the back of his hand.

When he wasn't hunting, golfing, or whittling away at his never-ending "honey do" list, John secured his spot in history as the world's greatest papa. He loved taking his grandkids fishing and rafting on the river, on four-wheeler rides throughout the woods to pick black raspberries on their property, and to the Dairy Lodge with Grammy for the best twist cone in town.

To those of you, like us, who are mourning his life that was cut painfully too short, please take heart. As John joyfully told his oncologist this past December, "Doc, if this treatment works and I'm cured from cancer, I get to go home. If it doesn't, that's OK, I still get to go HOME." Let's all find joy in knowing that John is happy, cancer-free and walking down a long, pristine fairway in his eternal home.

In an effort to shake our fist at the brutal Northern Michigan winter (a gesture that John would have greatly encouraged), the family is planning a celebration of his life to take place at East Bay Calvary Church on May 11, 2019 at noon. Please join us for a service, followed by a luncheon. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to East Bay Calvary Church or to Traverse City Christian School. Kindly share thoughts and memories with John's family at [www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com](http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com).

# Events

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**MAY** **Celebration of Life**

12:00PM

**11**

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East Bay Calvary Church

2225 Hammond Road East, Traverse City, MI, US, 49686

# Comments

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“ An external video has been added.



**Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home & Cremation Services** - May 09 at 07:42 PM

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“ To the Wicksall family,  
I pray that each of you feel the loving arms God giving you strength. I met John in 2017 when I first arrived in Traverse City. I received a wonderful job offer at Munson, and I met John by riding the Bata bus. I will forever be grateful that I decided not to drive my car, and get on the bus, or I would not have met a beautiful human being. John was so kind, and always looked after me. I will never forget him. I am glad I had the opportunity to attend John's Celebration of Life. Today John, I light this candle for you. Thank you so much for your kindness.

Bev

Traverse City, MI



**Bev** - May 11 at 07:07 PM

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“ I drove school bus with John in the 1990's and thought him to be one of the nicest people I've ever met...so sorry to hear of his passing, this world needs it's nicest people!

**Pamela Avery** - March 15 at 12:23 PM

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“ I'm sorry to hear of your loss. I would run into John at the cancer center while we were waiting for chemo. He kept his spirit up until the end. An inspiration!

**tommy Hess** - February 25 at 06:17 PM



“ I’m so sorry for your loss Ingrid, Jonathan and Lacey. May God help you through these trying times & may John RIP  
Barb (Nelson) Millis



**Barb Millis** - February 22 at 03:02 AM

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“ Deepest sympathy to Mr. Wicksall’s family



**Melissa Jonio** - February 22 at 02:27 AM

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“ I’m so sorry for your loss Ingrid, Jonathan and Lacey. God bless you all . All my love to all of you. What a beautiful obituary . Rest in peace John



**Tiffany Saarinen Hundley** - February 21 at 11:06 AM

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“ With Love from Olle and Kandi Saarinen  
There is no one like John. He loved God, his Beautiful Ingrid and his amazing children and grandchildren. He loved life and shared his beautiful Traverse City home and Boardman River home to us friends often. I have the best memories of rafting down the river with our family’s together. John treated everyone like they were

special. Because, he is so special! We feel so Blessed to have shared some of his life with him. My beautiful highshhool friend Ingrid, Lacey and Jonathan , God Blessed you having such a kind and Spiritual man. We love you very much.



**Olle and Kandi Saarinen** - February 20 at 05:42 PM

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“ Elana and I want to send our very best to the Wicksall family. Through our friendship with Jonathan and Laura we had the pleasure of meeting Mr. and Mrs. Wicksall. It was truly evident of his generosity, selflessness, and care for others upon the first time we met. Furthermore, his connection with the outdoors is a tradition he shared with others; something we can all appreciate. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family. May he rest in peace!

**Will Berry** - February 17 at 06:18 PM

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“ I have known John since the 70's, although our lives went in different directions we always remained friends and chatted when we ran into each other. His belief in God was very enlightening and heartwarming. I send prayers to his family. He is resting in eternity now.



**Peggy Orth** - February 17 at 04:26 PM

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“ John we will miss you terribly. You left a profound imprint on many hearts. From your wonderful meals to shuttling us back and forth on the Boardman tubing to showing us who the person of Christ is, I thank you for being such a wonderful father to Jonathan and Lacey. You have an amazing legacy in them as well as Hans, Lana and Laura. I have no doubt that they will carry the best if you forward

**Meg and Walt Meeker** - February 17 at 10:29 AM



“ Oh John, where do I begin? From your fabulous parties back in the 70's at your farm on Silver Lake Rd to our reconnecting at BATA 20 years ago. Working with you was pure joy, you were always so fun and kind and caring. I remember the day I called in on the radio "There is a deer on the side of the road, it just got hit by a car..." and the next time I came by there, you were loading it into the bus and took it back to your truck and took it home! Back in the good old days LOL! And the year we worked "noon duty" at Willow Hill School. Getting 300 elementary children through the lunch line, and then going outside with them for recess. And sliding with them down the hill in the winter time. And your beautiful blue/green Harley. Your faith in God always pulled you through and now you are in eternal heaven...rest easy old pal, you were truly loved by everyone who knew you.

Christy Penrod

Christy Penrod - February 17 at 09:30 AM

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“ I worked with John at bata for the last 14 years. John was a good driver and cared about his passengers. We liked to talk politics and hunting and fishing. He was always in a good mood. I will miss john very much I will always remember him fondly.

Mike pringle - February 17 at 08:30 AM

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“ I knew John and Ingrid many years being a Traverse City native, but not closely. He was a friend of my brothers from high school. We got a call a couple of weeks ago from my brother that John was in this battle and we related because my husband is a 6 year survivor of the same Leukemia... and he shared the meds that had worked for him and John was upbeat and hopeful and optimistic. We were shocked to get the call on Feb. 13 that God had called him home to his eternal glory where the angels were singing out his name and where he would be comforted with eternal love, joy, peace and beauty with an indestructible body for all of time. We celebrate in his life and the faith he witnessed and may his life draw those friends and family even closer to a personal relationship with you oh Lord. We pray for all he came across at this time and their comfort and peace. Love, Robert Teske and Linda Batdorff Dahl Well done good and faithful servant!

linda batdorff dahl - February 16 at 08:22 PM

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“ We cherish the memories we have with John on the golf course and during our children's school years. We are indebted to him, as he spent much time supervising the construction of TC Christian School.

What we admire most about John, was his witness of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
He will truly be missed.

Much love,  
The Vozza family

**Christian Vozza** - February 16 at 08:07 PM



“ Dear Ingrid, Lacey, and Jonathan,

I'm sorry for the loss of your husband, father and grandfather.

It's of great joy to know that he shared a tremendous love for our Lord throughout his life.

May he be eternally happy, and of course you know, one day you'll all be together again. If

I'm fortunate, I may even be in the circle of paradise with you.

I always admired his positive remarks, when ever encountering him. John loved life, God, people, especially you and now he enjoys so much more. What a homecoming he has in Heaven.

May the goodness of his presence in all your lives carry you through the future, and may John RIP.

Sincerely,

Mary Miller Orth

**Mary Orth** - February 17 at 06:46 PM



“ I met John in the mid 70's through my friend Jerry Messenger. We spent many, many enjoyable and exciting days out at John's cabin on the Boardman River. John was always a gracious host and shared so many fun times with us.

I had to leave town before John became active with his faith and I am so glad to read all the many positive things that are being said about John. I always knew that he was a kind person and I will fondly remember our times together. Rest in peace.

David and Jodie Crawford

**David** - February 19 at 12:11 PM



“ I spent parts of the two years with John in community college and will never forget him. RIP John

**alton molnar** - February 24 at 03:35 PM



“ My best memory of John goes back to the days when I was a new young coach at Hickory Hills. I had the pleasure of working with both Lacey and Jonathan when they were little ski racers. John and Ingrid were not only involved and supportive of their kids but also of me. It meant the world to be thanked for my time and treated as part of the Hickory Hills community.

I'm sorry to have missed his celebration of life but I heard it was beautiful. Ingrid, Lacey, and Jonathan, I am sorry for you loss and my thoughts are with you. May his spirit live on

though all of you.

Tammy Hagerty

**tammy hagerty** - May 13 at 01:40 PM