



Mr. John F. Regan, Jr.

FEB 15, 1911 - DEC 31, 2020



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COMPLETE FUNERAL SERVICES

Table of Contents

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Obituary | Page 3 |
| Events | Page 5 |
| Tribute Wall | Page 6 |
| Media | Page 9 |



Mr. John F. Regan, Jr.

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John F. Regan, Jr., 109, of Decatur, IL passed away December 31, 2020 at Decatur Memorial Hospital, Decatur.

John was born February 15, 1911, in Mt. Sterling, IL the son of John F. and Addaline (Larkin) Regan. John grew up in Mt. Sterling until the age of eight when his family moved to Decatur, IL. He married Evelyn Montroy in 1942.

John received his law degree in 1937 from the University of Denver. He established his first law office in Sullivan, IL and later moved his practice to Decatur concentrating on tax and estate law. He retired from his law practice in 1987 after a law career of 50 years.

John was a WWII veteran. He was recognized for his work in the 1960s with the NAACP as a legal advisor in attaining equal rights in restaurants and numerous employment issues. He was one of the founders of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur. He had a passion for conservation and spent many years planting thousands of trees at his Mt. Sterling farm. He was awarded the Brown County Conservationist of the Year for his work in tree conservation. John also had a strong interest in genealogy/history. He spent his later years dedicated to compiling books of past news articles, that he felt were interesting, and donated them to local genealogical societies and libraries. He received an Honorary Life Membership in the Decatur Genealogical Society Library of Macon County in 2008. He was a generous supporter to the community of Kenney, IL to beautify the community and to promote the Kenney Heritage Association.

John's long life might be attributed to his daily walks, no matter what the weather, and his ongoing projects.

We would like to thank the staff at Hickory Point Christian Village for their sincere loving care of John.



Obituary

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Surviving are three nieces, Charlotte Fuller-Cook of Baltimore, MD, Bonnie Marie Cox of Louisville, KY and Kathy Hirota of Honolulu, HI.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife Evelyn; and his three sisters.

Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, at Randolph Cemetery (west of Kenney).

The family of John F. Regan, Jr. is being served by Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home, 2091 N. Oakland Ave. Decatur, IL. Please view the online obituary, send condolences, and share memories at www.gracelandfairlawn.com.



Events

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Cemetery Details



Randolph Cemetery

Kenney IL



Tribute Wall

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Linda Cox posted:

I met John through the bank I worked at in the 80's. He was just a customer for a year or two and then we became friends. I enjoyed the stories he would tell about he and Evelyn's travels as they researched his ancestry. He had me type one of his books in the early 90's and gave us a copy of it after it was printed. I enjoyed hearing his stories and his interest in planting his trees. He said everyone seems to take things from earth when they are alive and he wanted to leave something, so he started planting trees. John showed me the starts of the trees he and Evelyn started in milk cartons on the second floor above his law firm. He gave us a start of a ginkgo tree that was about 10 -12 inches tall at the time. We planted it temporarily for a couple years in our garden when we lived in Mt Zion. When we built our retirement home in 1994 we transplanted the tree to our front yard south of Clinton. It is now 25-30 feet tall. I always think about him when I look at it. We had John and Evelyn for dinner at our home in Mt Zion and he invited us several times to their farm in Mt Sterling. He took us around the farm in his golf cart showing us all the trees he had planted. I remember the HUGE ant hills and the ticks that I had to pick off all the way back home! I remember what a good cook Evelyn was and her delicious pies and how he loved reading to his guests after dinner. He took us to a restaurant, the Boatel, in Meredosia and introduced us to Buffalo fish. It was delicious and huge. My husband and I made stained glass windows. When he found out he asked us to make windows for him. He had us make a huge window for the new barn he had built in Mt Sterling and then he asked us to make one for the ceiling on his front porch in Mt Sterling and then another one for Evelyn's bedroom there. I had extra glass so I made and gifted Evelyn a lamp for her nightstand. I think he enjoyed hearing about the Habitat homes Bob was helping build in Clinton and we were amazed and respected all the support he gave to Kenny. I visited Evelyn every morning and night before and after work when she was in the hospital until she passed away and Bob would cut the grass in their yard in Decatur and do the grocery shopping for her after her vision got so bad. We dearly loved Evelyn. John had me choose the clothes Evelyn was buried in and he had her cousin Claude and I go through her things in her bedroom and get them ready to donate to his church. He gifted me the doll buggy she bought with her own money as a child and her dolls that she had wrapped in pillow cases in her closet. I also have a large portrait of her when she was about 2 years old. I thought it would be sad having the picture go to someone that didn't t even know Evelyn. It still hangs in our guest bedroom and the doll buggy and dolls have sat in our dining room since she passed away. I have many happy memories of our times together. Those things and our memories together still mean a lot to me. We haven't missed one year taking flowers to Evelyn's grave since she passed away. Unfortunately I don't know where John's grave is located. Due to my own health issues we were unable to attend John's graveside service. We went to John's 100th birthday party and I saw him at Hickory Point Christian Village after he moved there. The staff commented that he still walked the halls there. John was truly an amazing man and we loved both he and Evelyn. There will never be another man like him. Linda and Bob Cox

September 3 at 6:09 AM



Tribute Wall

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ML

Marcus Larkin shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



I'm sad to hear the passing of John Regan. We are cousins from the Larkin side of the family and our Larkin ancestors were originally from Lancaster Massachusetts. His great ...grandfather Mathias Larkin and my Grandfather Peter Larkin were brothers. They fought in the French and Indian War and many of them in the Revolutionary War. My wife Annie and I visited John at his home in 2018. We had communicated on phone prior to our visiting and shared information about Abel Larkin and Abel Larkin Jr. We communicated with his old law firm staff and made the visit. The information he provided about our family history will be forever cherished. I had hoped to visit him one more time. I am grateful for the information that he passed to me about our Larkin family in Massachusetts, Illinois, Ohio, and California. We will always miss you John. With sympathy, Marcus Larkin, Groton, CT.

February 10 at 4:23 PM

GR

Gina Reynolds posted:

John and I met over the phone for the first time in December of 2020. Sadly, I didn't know he was my 1st cousin 3x removed until doing Genealogy recently but am so glad to know how much he cared about history, family, and his roots. I hope to read up on all he has contributed to carry that knowledge forward. My condolences to his family.

January 28 at 3:27 PM

BS

Betty Q. Smith posted:

I enjoyed many holiday meals with John at the Verlyn and Paul Rosenberger home. It was amazing how alert and a good conversationalist he was at his advanced age. Betty Q. Smith

January 8 at 8:53 AM



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KN

Kitty Neal posted:

John Regan was my great-uncle. I remember two times we visited him at his farm in Mt. Sterling. The fresh raspberries with cream were the highlight of my first visit while in grade school....no raspberries in cream have ever tasted quite as good as those. The last time I visited his farm was for Thanksgiving several years ago. He loved to show off his farm and this time was no different. We all piled into his car and off we went for a tour. He stopped alongside a bluebird house he had placed out by a field and told me to go open it up to see what was in it. So I obediently got out of the car and opened it up. LOL, out jumped some mice that had taken up residence for the winter. I laughed so hard and got back into the car. Uncle John was somewhat of a prankster and the disappointed look on his face that I had not screamed and been frightened was priceless. I still smile about this years later. He will be missed. Kitty Neal, Pagosa Springs, CO

January 4 at 7:14 AM

MS

Mark Sorensen shared an album called **John Regan**.



January 2 at 2:41 PM

MH

M. Sue Hale lit a candle in honor of John.



January 1 at 10:33 AM

SM

Stephanie Luthy Morse lit a candle in honor of John.



January 1 at 7:44 AM



Marcus Larkin shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

February 10 at 4:23 PM



John Regan and Cousin CAPT Marcus LARKIN 2018



Media

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Mark Sorensen shared a photo to the **John Regan** album.

January 2 at 2:41 PM



Rest in Peace John. Thanks for your work with the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Mark Sorensen



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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