



Mr. John F. Regan, Jr.

February 15, 1911 - December 31, 2020

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.

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.

Cemetery

Randolph Cemetery

Kenney, IL,

Comments



“ 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.



Marcus Larkin - February 10 at 09:23 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Marcus Larkin - February 10 at 09:00 PM



“ 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 Geneology 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.

Gina Reynolds - January 28 at 08:27 PM



“ 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

Betty Q. Smith - January 08 at 01:53 PM



“ 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

Kitty Neal - January 04 at 12:14 PM



“ 1 file added to the album John Regan



Mark Sorensen - January 02 at 07:41 PM



“ M. Sue Hale lit a candle in memory of Mr. John F. Regan, Jr.



M. Sue Hale - January 01 at 03:33 PM



“ Stephanie Luthy Morse lit a candle in memory of Mr. John F. Regan, Jr.



Stephanie Luthy Morse - January 01 at 12:44 PM