



John E. Hartman

March 30, 1945 - August 21, 2024

John Everett Hartman, 79, of Cedar Falls, Iowa, passed away peacefully at the Western Home – Deery Suites on Wednesday, August 21st, 2024.

John was born on March 30th, 1945, in West Bend, Iowa to parents Ted and Violet (Carpenter) Hartman. He grew up on his family's farm near Rodman, IA. He proudly attended St. Peter and Paul School in West Bend for 1st through 8th grade, attended school in Rodman, IA for kindergarten, 9th and 10th grade, and graduated in 1963 from Mallard High School, where he met the love of his life, Jane Ann Wirtz. John and Jane were married on September 3rd, 1966, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Mallard, Iowa.

John attended State College of Iowa as a Science Education major and was part of the first graduating class of the newly renamed University of Northern Iowa in August 1967. Soon enough, John was lovingly known to his students as Mr. Hartman. He taught science at Parkersburg and Hudson, Iowa, before cementing his place at Peet Junior High in Cedar Falls, where he taught science for 35 years. While at Peet, he was also known as Coach Hartman. He coached football, basketball, and was the first girls track and field coach at Peet Jr. High. Outside of school, many students fondly remember Mr. Hartman leading them on summer trips to the boundary waters, Colorado, and St. Louis. Maybe not so fondly remembered, for 17 hot summers, John led groups of students to detassel corn!

John was an active member of the Cedar Falls Education Association, served on St. Patrick's and Waterloo Columbus School Boards, UNI Museum Board of Directors, volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, and was a founding member and first president of the Cedar Falls Pickleball Club.

In retirement, John and Jane wintered in Arizona where they enjoyed socializing and made many new friends. A lover of the great outdoors, you would often find John camping, hiking, hunting, or canoeing in the Boundary Waters, and biking during RAGBRAI. All of this was usually done alongside his family and friends. John was a dedicated fan of the UNI Panthers and St. Louis Cardinals. He was known to many as being willing to lend a helping hand, greeting everyone with a big smile, and his immense love for his family.

John was diagnosed with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP) in 2021. He was inspirational in the positive manner that he faced this disease. He faced this disease as he met all things in life with his strong Christian faith guiding him. As the disease progressed his love for his family and his faith in Christ only grew larger. He was involved in a study through the Mayo Clinic and donated his brain tissue for further research.

John will forever be remembered by his wife, Jane; sons, Jeff (Jennifer) of Cedar Falls, Iowa, Jason of Eugene, Oregon, and Justin (Amy) of Urbandale, Iowa; six grandchildren: Savannah (Andrew), Jacob (Payton), Luke, Amaya, Asher John, Andrew, along with great grandson, Theodore Everett; brothers Melvin (Muffy) Hartman of Florida, Dwayne (Mary) Hartman of Pocahontas Iowa, and sister in laws Margaret Hartman of West Bend, Iowa and Donna Wirtz of Emmetsburg Iowa.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Theodore and Violet Hartman; brother, Bernard; sister, Marlene, brother-in-law, Jerry; niece, Joan Hartman;

parents-in-law Fred and Dolly Wirtz, in-laws, Jean and Roy Reeves, Al and Eileen Wirtz, Mary and Duane Hanson, Jim Wirtz; and his beloved cat, Mugsy.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Habitat for Humanity (attn. Ali Parrish, 803 W 5th St, Waterloo, IA 50702), Cedar Falls Schools Foundation (602 Main St, Cedar Falls, IA 50613), and Cedar Valley Hospice (900 Tower Park Dr, P.O. Box 2880, Waterloo, IA 50704).

Memorial Mass will be 10:00 a.m. Friday, August 30, 2024, at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Cedar Falls. Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, August 29, 2024, at St. Patrick Catholic Church, where there will be 6:30 prayer followed by a time of sharing.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery

Rodman, IA

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 29. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Patrick Catholic Church
705 Main Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

There will be a 6:30 prayer followed by a time of sharing.

Memorial Mass

AUG 30. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Patrick Catholic Church
705 Main Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Tribute Wall

JB

“ John, or Mr. Hartman, as I knew him first, made a much larger impression than he ever realized. As my junior high science teacher, he showed me just how interesting science could be. It was the first time I ever enjoyed science, and I looked forward to his class every day. He inspired me to learn more and work harder than I thought possible. He showed me just how much difference a teacher’s passion can make. Since he was also the girls track coach, John encouraged me (a non runner) to just give track a try. I loved it, but I still didn’t have much confidence. The day before the Sturgis Falls 5K, I saw him at the parade. John told me I was a better runner than I gave myself credit for and encouraged me to try running the 5K the next day. That 5K led to a lifelong love of running. When I became a teacher myself, John made sure I knew how much faith he had in my abilities. Once again, his belief in me made me want to be even better. I will forever be grateful for his influence in my life.

Jill Brodahl - August 31, 2024 at 03:18 PM

MF

“ John was one of the 1st to welcome me as a teacher new to the Cedar Falls Community School District in the fall of 1978. As much as any individual, he helped me to understand and appreciate the importance of teaching in Cedar Falls.

In early years we coached 8th grade football together (I knew very little and he was so patient). We also coached girls track together (again I knew very little and again John was patient)

Whether in the classroom or coaching, he was always about the students. His personality was a "perfect fit" for the needs of a Jr. High student. He was loyal and dedicated to the profession and the district. As I later became an administrator at the school, I valued and trusted John's opinions and input. It was an honor to be a colleague with John in all the years and in all our capacities.

John Hartman represented ALL THAT IS GOOD about Peet Jr. High!

I extend special thoughts, prayers and memories to John's entire family and the Peet family.

Mark.D.Farland

mark farland - August 28, 2024 at 02:19 PM

YC

“ I remember John from his participation in the Cedar Falls Pickleball Club. He is one of the initiators of the club. A very nice and welcoming friend. My deepest sympathies to John's family during this difficult time. - Yvonne van de Camp

Yvonne van de Camp - August 27, 2024 at 12:56 PM

TF

“ Tom and Janet Hartman and family purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of John E. Hartman.



Tom and Janet Hartman and family - August 27, 2024 at 10:14 AM

JH

“ Jim and Rissa Hartman purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of John E. Hartman.



Jim and Rissa Hartman - August 27, 2024 at 09:36 AM

JH

“ Jim and Rissa Hartman planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John E. Hartman.

Jim and Rissa Hartman - August 27, 2024 at 09:36 AM

KH

“ We remember John from his participation in the Cedar Falls Pickleball Club. He was always so welcoming and kind to everyone who came to the courts to play pickleball. We will miss him terribly. Deepest sympathies to John's family during this difficult time. - Kevin and Linda Hall -

Kevin and Linda Hall - August 26, 2024 at 03:37 PM

MJ

“ John was a friendly face in the halls for a seventh grader scared out of her wits. He was funny and quick. May his memory be a blessing to all who loved him.

maria jaramillo - August 26, 2024 at 12:14 PM

MF

“ I had Mr hartman for a science teacher at peet junior high. He was a very good teacher and helped me through some troubled times in my life. He will be greatly missed. Alot of students really liked him as a teacher. Fly high Mr hartman your going to be missed dearly

Maria Fouts - August 26, 2024 at 11:38 AM

MJ

“ John was one of my favorite teachers at Hudson Junior High. He taught science and was a lot of fun. My sympathy to the family.

Marcia Schmitt Janssen - August 25, 2024 at 08:58 PM

PW

“ Remember John as a teacher when I was at Peet Jr High and coached against him for many years when I was coaching 8th grade basketball at Holmes. He was a great guy and friend. My condolences go out to his family and close friends.

Patrick Wagner - August 24, 2024 at 03:59 PM

BC

“ Had fun with John and his Cherrywood gang over the years, remember him as a kind soul with a great smile and love of his family! RIP John, may all the special memories bring peace to your loved ones!

Barbara Carlson - August 24, 2024 at 12:03 PM

JW

“ John was a man for all seasons, always ready to share his many talents. Two of our children were fortunate to have him for their teacher. He was always encouraging and supportive just what every junior high student needs.

God speed John.

The Weekley Family

Judy Weekley - August 23, 2024 at 02:12 PM

GH

“ John was the ultimate educator and supporter of education. He served tirelessly for many years on the CFEA negotiations team, always working hard to improve not only wages, but benefits and working conditions for the entire Cedar Falls teaching staff. Many of those multiple negotiation nights were long, contentious, and tense, but John tackled them knowing it was the right thing to do to attract and retain quality teachers in the district. And the next day? He was right back in the classroom.

I am thankful for the time and energy John dedicated to the CFEA, the students and staff, and the district. John ... you are appreciated.

Greg Hankins - August 22, 2024 at 06:53 PM