



John Rykaczewski

August 18, 1946 - October 12, 2021

John Rykaczewski, age 75, of Bethlehem, WV, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Tuesday, October 12, 2021.

He was born August 18, 1946 in Natrona, PA. Son of the late Edgar and Elinor (Cicholski) Rykaczewski, he is survived by his loving wife of 47 years Patricia (Logsdon) Rykaczewski, son Derek (Lexington) Rykaczewski of Pittsburgh, PA, daughter Trisha Rykaczewski of Wheeling, WV, sister Catherine (James) Garraux of Pittsburgh, PA, brother Karl (Maureen) Rykaczewski of Pittsburgh, PA; five grandchildren, Noah Holley, Aniah, Keira and Cruz Sparks, John “Jack” Logsdon Rykaczewski, and another grandbaby on the way; two sisters-in-law, Susie McCardle (Carl Wayne) of Fairfax, VA and Carol (Chris Nelson) Gongola of FL; one brother-in-law, James Perry Cochran of Glen Dale, WV; several nieces and nephews, including Matthew (Kylin) McCardle and great-nephew Graham McCardle, and numerous friends, including his best friend, Gary Snodgrass.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his beloved brother, Stanley Rykaczewski.

John was a graduate of West Liberty State College and West Virginia University where he earned his Master’s Degree in Education. He proudly worked for 37 years as a Guidance Counselor for the Marshall County Board of Education and later, for 13 years, at Lowes in Wheeling.

Upon his retirement, John enjoyed sitting on the back porch in the mornings with his wife, a cup of coffee and a good book, which he said “started the day

off on a good note.” An avid reader, John particularly enjoyed historical fiction and American history, and was a frequent visitor to the Ohio County Public Library. In addition to reading, John enjoyed listening to music, playing the guitar, testing his knowledge on Jeopardy, cheering Penn State Football, and his favorite pineapple upside down birthday cake. But his most treasured moments were spent with his family. John was extraordinarily proud of his wife and two children, and was an adoring “Pappy” to his grandchildren, whom he loved to watch play basketball, laugh, and share in the joy of their accomplishments. John was Catholic by faith.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made in John’s name to one of his favorite charities; St. Jude Children’s Hospital, an animal shelter, or a local library.

Private services and interment will be held at the convenience of the family. Arrangements entrusted to Grisell Funeral Home & Crematory, 1 Ridgecrest Road, Wheeling/Bethlehem.

Cemetery Details

Grisell Crematory

Moundsville, WV

Tribute Wall

BH

“ John was one great teacher and a gentleman , had him as a teacher at Moundsville Jr High , , talked to him from time to time after he retired and was working at Lowe's

Barbara Hretzok - October 27, 2021 at 01:21 PM

KW

“ Kathy Wilson lit a candle in memory of John Rykaczewski



kathy wilson - October 16, 2021 at 09:16 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Rykaczewski.



October 15, 2021 at 09:57 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Rykaczewski.



October 15, 2021 at 09:10 AM

KB

“ I am so sorry for your loss.
John was my 7th grade music teacher. Under his instructions I became part of the choir. He was one of my favorite teachers at Moundsville Jr.High school. John was a wonderful teacher. Later I met John at Lowe’s while looking for window treatments. He was still the wonderful teacher I know from 7th grade. He was kind and a gentle soul. May your soul John Rest In Peace and may The Perpetual Light always shine upon John.



Kathy Bee - October 15, 2021 at 07:37 AM

JY

“ I am so sorry for your loss.He was my 7th grade music teacher,he made me a part of the choir.He was one of my favorite teachers at Moundsville Jr.High school. Mr.Rykaczewski was a wonderful teacher & one of the good guys. Sending prayers to his family. Jana (Allison)Yocum

Jana Yocum - October 14, 2021 at 10:29 PM

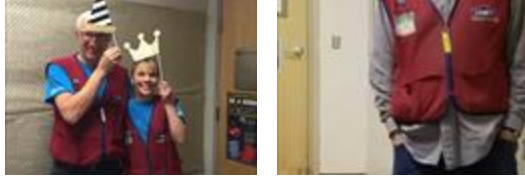
DK

“ Pat, So sorry to hear of Johns passing. He was a nice guy and will be missed by a lot of people. He loved his wife and his family. call if we can help in any way. Glenn and Dixie

Dixie Kesselring - October 14, 2021 at 02:17 PM

SH

“ John was an amazing person, I worked with him at Lowe’s, he was always there when you needed help doing a blind order or mixing paint, he will be greatly missed. I will keep your family in my prayers.



Sherri Herron - October 14, 2021 at 02:03 PM

CS

“ RIP Mr. Rykaczewski - - You made a difference in this girl's life. You were my 7th grade music teacher. You played "where have all the flowers gone" on your guitar. So sorry for the family. He was a terrific teacher!

Cindy Hartley South

Cindy South - October 14, 2021 at 01:55 PM

JG

Sorry for your loss, I first met Mr. Rykaczewski as a neighbor when he lived on Hancock Street in Moundsville, he was always friendly to us kids
And it was a surprise and nice to have him as my seventh grade music teacher he was great with teaching us about folk music.
He played "puff the Magic Dragon" on his guitar and we all was hippies for the day.
Some teachers never make lasting impression in their students minds not this man.
I along with many of his former students would stop and say hello at Lowe’s every chance we got. God Bless all his family and friends

J R Gorby - October 15, 2021 at 05:06 AM

JB

“ We were so sorry to hear about Uncle John. If you need anything please give us a call. Love and prayers to you all, Chip and Beth

Jim Cochran and Beth - October 14, 2021 at 12:41 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Rykaczewski.



October 14, 2021 at 11:11 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of John Rykaczewski.



October 14, 2021 at 11:05 AM

EW

“ I worked with John. So sorry for your loss. He was such a nice guy and would help anyone.



Edie ward - October 14, 2021 at 09:37 AM

CY

“ Mr. Rykaczewski - my 7th grade Moundsville Jr. High School Music teacher. I loved his passion for music and the choir I was so proud to be a member of! I didn't think I could do it and his encouragement started it all. remember him often and smile at the passion he inspired in me and my continued love of choirs that has now spanned 50 years. Thank you for that spark that lit my fire!



Cyndee Holden Yeater - October 14, 2021 at 09:19 AM



“ We worked with John for most of our tenure with Marshall County Schools. We will always warmly remember him. Our sympathy to your family. George and Marsha Lewis

George Lewis - October 14, 2021 at 08:46 AM

MA

“ Mary Ellen Hall Anderson lit a candle in memory of John Rykaczewski



Mary Ellen Hall Anderson - October 14, 2021 at 08:32 AM

MA

“ Just yesterday, I heard the song “Where have all the flowers gone” and it took me back to my Junior High music class with Mr Rykaczewski. A great memory and teacher! Many thoughts and prayers to his family. 🙏

Mary Ellen Hall Anderson - October 14, 2021 at 08:26 AM

PR

“ My heart is breaking fir Pat and the family. My memories go back to 1970. He was my 7th grade music teacher at MJHS. Mr. Ryc , as our class called him, was such an amazing teacher. I was in his chorus class for the 3 years I was at. MJHS. We has so much fun there. In later years our boys were in the same scout troop. Then we were a constant customer at Lowe’s. It never failed we would run into him and have wonderful conversations catch-up on his family. His infectious smile always made you feel better leaving Lowe’s than when you went in. The comment was always. “It was nice to see him” when we left. Pat my sincere sympathies to you and your family during this difficult time. Memories last a life time. God is your rock lean on him for strength. Love hugs and prayers.
Peggy Richmond

Peggy Richmond - October 14, 2021 at 06:33 AM

FC

“ I worked 7 years with John at Lowes. He was always helpful and I liked working with him very much. He will be surely missed by family and friends.

Frank Carpenter - October 14, 2021 at 01:14 AM

RK

“ I worked at the Wheeling Lowe’s for years with John. Our departments were across from one another. Never was there a time he wasn’t smiling or not willing to give me a helping hand. He truly was a gem of a person. You have my deepest sympathy. He truly was a wonderful man.

rebecca kessler - October 13, 2021 at 11:25 PM

GC

“ My heart is just breaking for Patty, Derek and Trish and the rest of your family. Heaven has surely gained an Angel way too soon. I loved working with John at the Junior High for 9 years. He just didn't show up for a job, he genuinely cared for the students that he counseled. I found him to be wonderful husband to Patty and a proud father of Derek and Trish and then later off his beautiful grandchildren. Although his passing is a tragedy, I hope the family finds comfort in knowing that he passed peacefully and that he is with our Father in heaven. May the love of God comfort you all during this time of sorrow. Greg and I send our love and prayers.

greg and jeanie campbell - October 13, 2021 at 09:45 PM