



John William Schaer

October 3, 1930 - December 1, 2020

John William Schaer, 90, of Corvallis, Oregon died on December 1, 2020. John was born on October 3, 1930 in Pocahontas, Oregon to William Andrew Schaer and Anna May (Powell) Schaer. John was the youngest of their three children. The family was descendants of Swiss immigrants who farmed and logged in Oregon on his father's side, and ranchers in Durkee on his mother's. John grew up on the family farm working after school and during the summer alongside his father and brother. He remembered how happy he was when, as a young teenager, World War II ended and the family was able to stop farming with horses and bought their first tractor.

John graduated from Baker High School in 1948 and was hired by Witham Brothers Construction Company in Baker City, Oregon. He worked for Withams for seven years. John met his future wife, Glenda Marie Ward while in high school. After Glenda graduated from college from both Oregon State University and Western State University, they married in 1955 and John decided he would enter college to complete a degree at what is now Western Oregon University. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education and then a Master's Degree in 1963. John was hired by the Corvallis School District and worked as an elementary teacher and then elementary school principal for the district for over 30 years.

John and Glenda had three children, Mary, John and Karen and enjoyed

raising their family in Corvallis and participating in many community activities. John fished on the Alsea River and returned with Glenda and their children often on Thanksgiving and every summer vacation to visit family and friends in Baker City. In Eastern Oregon, he especially loved boating, water skiing, fishing and hunting chuckers in the Snake River Valley.

John and his wife Glenda took pleasure in traveling together. They first started traveling around Baker as a young couple on his Harley Davidson motorcycle. After they married, they visited many sites in the United States, Europe and North Africa. In the U.S.A. they visited Yosemite, California, Nevada, and Washington D.C., and drove across America retracing the steps of their ancestors on the Oregon Trail. They toured many countries outside of the United States including England, France, Switzerland, Canada and Morocco.

John is preceded in death by his wife Glenda and his siblings Arlene Spriet and brother-in-law Deal Spriet, brother Duane Schaer and sister-in-law Sherry Schaer. He is survived by his children and their spouses: daughter Mary (Schaer) Thompson and son-in-law Martin Thompsen, son John Schaer and daughter-in-law Christi Schaer, daughter Karen Schaer-Arib and son-in-law Ed Arib, grandson Jason Hirko and wife Megan Hirko, granddaughter Kelsi Schaer, grandson Will Schaer and wife Lauren Schaer, grandson William Arib and great grandchildren Jack Hirko, Henry Hirko, Claire Hirko, and Luke Hirko, and sister-in-law Beverly Schaer and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial Donations may be made to the Oregon PTA Teacher Education Scholarship

A celebration of John's life will be scheduled for a later date.

Cemetery Details

Oak Lawn Cemetery

2245 SW Whiteside Drive
Corvallis, OR 97333
(541) 753-4532

Tribute Wall

SR

“ *Mr. John Schaer was also my first principal, in Corvallis, at Hoover School. He was the kindest, calmest, gentlest administrator and friend. I was a brand new mom when I started and his compassion and understanding got me through my first year! He will always have a place in my memories and heart. Sharon Reid*

shraon reid - December 17, 2020 at 07:26 PM

RF

“ *Mr. Schaer was a great principal for us Hoover Elementary School kids. One of my great lessons was getting called to Mr. Schaer's office in second grade for fighting at recess. I vividly remember him pulling out a box full of index cards. He removed a single card from the box. He looked at me and said "Ryan, I'm going to write your name on this card. And if I see you in my office again for fighting, I'm going to call your parents." I was never in his office again! A great memory and a story I have told my own kids these many years later. Thank you for your service, Mr. Schaer. Rest in Peace. Ryan*

Ryan Flynn - December 10, 2020 at 10:59 PM

DW

“ John hired me and launched my teaching career at Mt. View Elem. School. His soft spoken, positive leadership style encouraged me through my first couple of years teaching in 509J and I know he helped many others as well. I loved how he would just all of a sudden be in my classroom sitting with a child doing whatever they were doing. He didn't stress and neither did we! He simply visited and got an authentic feel for what was going on. Corvallis was very lucky to have benefited from this very special person. I will deeply miss both John and Glenda. Love to the family.
Debbie Wray

Debbie Wray - December 10, 2020 at 03:02 PM

KK

“ Reading John's obituary brought back clearly many positive memories of 6th grade at Adams School, in 1962. John was such a patient and kind teacher, who was able to bring out the best in his students. I remember one disruptive boy, who John handled firmly, without ever raising his voice, or appearing at all flustered by his behaviors. I recall always looking forward to coming to school, never once feeling bored or restless in John's classroom. I feel fortunate to have been one of his many students.

Karin Krakauer

karin krakauer - December 08, 2020 at 11:47 AM

VB

“ What an amazing discovery for me. Just last week I asked an old friend if they knew how I could get in touch with John- and today I learned he had passed just yesterday.

John was my very first principal as I entered the world of public school teaching. I had done my student teaching at Hoover School and was hired the next year by John. He was and always will be my greatest leader. There were days he'd come into my classroom to observe and he would always leave the sweetest and most encouraging notes on my desk as he left. Many brought me to tears as he urged me on and gave me motivation. He came to a few of my more "difficult" parent-teacher conferences in order to offer up support. He was ALWAYS kind- ALWAYS. His approach is so missed today, as he was a man who found good in everything. Many times I would drive by his home and stop to visit he and Glenda- for decades! He'd retired but I'd still make sure to stop by several times a year to say hello. He'd talk of fishing, his children, and his grandchildren.

How lucky am I to be able to say I began my professional career with Mr. Schaer! He was an icon of positivity. I will never forget.

Valerie Boggs - December 02, 2020 at 12:48 PM