



John J Karl

September 12, 1932 - June 2, 2022

John Jay Karl, age 89 of Toledo, passed away peacefully while surrounded by his family on June 2, 2022.

He was born to Rudolph and Elsa (Kasper) Karl on September 12, 1932 in Litchfield, CT. John worked on Arethusa Farm, when he was a kid, as a cousin of the Webster family. He was a graduate of Litchfield High School and Bates University where he received his Bachelor's degree. John served his country proudly in the U.S. Army during the Korean War as an Explosive Ordinance Disposal expert. After the war, he worked in the advertising industry in New York City where he met the love of his life, Ursel Pfannendoerfer and together they raised 3 daughters. They moved to Toledo where John became the President of the Buckeye Cablesystem until the time of his retirement. In his retired years he was an avid angler. John enjoyed singing opera, with the barbershop quartet and will be remembered for bursting into song at random times when something came to mind.

John was preceded in death by his loving wife, Ursel; his parents; siblings, Marjorie Fredsall, Kasper Karl, Dorothy Zenowich, Joan Weik, Fred Karl and Judy Rasero. He is survived by his daughters, Christine (Alan) Phares, Erika Karl, Deirdre Karl; sister, Anne Karl, as well as several nieces and nephews.

A Graveside Service will be held for John and Ursel on Saturday, September

10, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. at East Cemetery in Litchfield, CT. A Celebration of Life will be held afterwards.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the staff at Parkcliffe Alzheimer's Community for their compassionate care.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can take the form of contributions to Parkcliffe Alzheimer's Community, 4226 Parkcliffe Lane, Toledo, OH 43615. Please view and sign our online "guest registry" at CoyleFuneralHome.com

Cemetery Details

Inactive - East Cemetery Litchfield, Connecticut

Tribute Wall

“ As I read the emails from cousins coming through, I realize that we have this collective memory of Uncle John as a man who expanded our worlds. Each of us said it a little differently, but we were all saying the same thing. He was a man so full of life and knowledge and excitement - we were all caught up in it each time he visited.

His stories, his interests, and his passion for life were contagious. I would wait for a visit from Uncle John never knowing what excitement he would be bringing - but knowing the close walls of my world on Looking Glass Hill would be blown open for the time he was there. Dad would be happier and more talkative. I'd end up with a new project. Mom might even have a little fun.

And when Aunt Ursel was added to the mix, things got even better. German delicacies were served. I was allowed to eat marzipan from the Dutch Epicure shop. These prior excesses were now little treats given lovingly. And she brought me cousins - and thankfully, they were girls. Aunt Ursel had a way of bringing the things I'd thought needed to be hidden out in the open. I could ask about girl stuff without being embarrassed. It was such a relief. And Uncle John was right there too - he'd talk openly about any subject, but he knew when to walk away and leave it to the girls.

Together, these two people seemed to encourage us to embrace life. Experimentation and questioning were encouraged. It felt powerful. There was a new awareness that we had the power to change our lives - there was more, much more, out there and any part of it could be ours if we just took the leap.

I like to remember Uncle John as the original Mad Man of Madison Avenue. I imagine what life must have been like for him in the city back then. I wish I could travel back in time and watch him - the country boy become the master of Manhattan. I feel fortunate to have heard some of his stories, maybe even been part of a few of them!

*I hope we will all continue to tell them to each other so he and his
tales live on.*

*Love,
Liz*

Liz Zenowich Cauchon - June 10, 2022 at 07:25 PM

EK

“ He was singing a lot in his final days. I'm not sure why, but he would sing *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* a lot. I thought I'd share the lyrics here...

*Somewhere over the rainbow
Way up high
There's a land that I heard of
Once in a lullaby*

*Somewhere over the rainbow
Skies are blue
And the dreams that you dare to dream
Really do come true*

*Someday I'll wish upon a star
And wake up where the clouds are far behind me
Where troubles melt like lemon drops
Away above the chimney tops
That's where you'll find me*

*Somewhere over the rainbow
Bluebirds fly
Birds fly over the rainbow
Why then, oh, why can't I?*

*Somewhere over the rainbow
Bluebirds fly
Birds fly over the rainbow
Why then, oh, why can't I?*

*If happy little bluebirds fly
Beyond the rainbow
Why, oh why can't I?*

Erika Karl - June 07, 2022 at 04:18 PM

EK

“ 16 files added to the album *Photos of John Karl*



Erika Karl - June 06, 2022 at 07:42 PM