



John Griffin Watkins

July 12, 1961 - July 20, 2020

To view the Live Stream of John's service which took place on Friday, July 31 please

CLICK HERE (<https://vimeo.com/446612737/26f107207b>)

John G. Watkins, a longtime environmental health and safety engineer and lifelong Toledoan, died July 20, 2020, after an illness. He was 59.

John was born July 12, 1961, to Patricia and H. Griffin Watkins of Toledo. He graduated from St. Patrick of Heatherdowns School and St. John's Jesuit High School. It was at Bowling Green State University that he met fellow student Mona Bitar, a recent arrival from Lebanon, and they fell in love. After they graduated in 1981, Mona returned to Lebanon, but the couple soon realized that 6,000 miles was an unacceptable distance apart. They married in Byblos, Lebanon, on Jan. 7, 1987, and settled in Toledo.

John devoted his career to keeping workers and the environment safe as an independent contractor and for companies such as Hull & Associates, HazCorp Environmental Services, and Consolidated Contractors International in Qatar.

Between his irreverent nature and his musical talents, John was a natural rock-and-roller. A self-taught guitarist, he performed in local bands such as the

Nu-Tones, but he didn't have to be paid to play; he also loved jamming with his friends just for fun. He was also an enthusiastic golfer, and no one knew more about classic automobiles. His quick wit and deadpan humor masked a kind and generous nature.

John had an adventurous spirit. He loved camping and canoeing, and whether he was in Lebanon or Ireland, he never saw a ruined castle he didn't want to explore. Before illness overtook him, he was looking forward to breaking in his new kayak and motorcycle.

In addition to his wife, survivors include a brother, Dan (Sarah), of Toledo; a sister, Nancy (Brian Lavelle), of Chicago; nephews Griffin Wood and Antoun Bitar; a niece, Laura Bitar; and many loving cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Visitation is from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. July 31, immediately followed by a Memorial Service at 4:00 p.m., at Coyle Funeral and Cremation Services, 1770 S. Reynolds Road, Toledo, OH 43614.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Please view and sign our online "guest registry" at CoyleFuneralHome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 31. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home
1770 S. Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43614

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *John Watkins Funeral Live Stream*



Coyle Funeral and Cremation Services - August 10, 2020 at 05:32 PM

DH

“ *John you will be missed your friends will think of you daily God Bless You he will comfort you May peace follow Mona in her future, So sorry to lose You bud. we always enjoyed seeing you and Mona. The Helveys Dan Leeann Kristin Kelly and family*

dan helvey - July 31, 2020 at 06:44 PM

 Rick
Garlitz

“ *DEAR MONA,*

WE ARE VERY SORRY TO KNOW OF JOHN'S PASSING.

WHEN WE MET FOR DINNER AND MARGARITAS, IT WAS A VERY FUN TIME.

LET'S CONTINUE TO CELEBRATE JOHN AND SHARE A TOAST OFTEN.

*CHEERS, LOVE,
RICK AND PATTI*

Rick Garlitz - July 31, 2020 at 06:20 PM

VT

“ *Konz you will be missed! Wanted to share a picture from back in the MSU days. Will never forget the backpacking trip in the Great Smoky Mountains! Rest In Peace my Friend.*



Vince Tevere - July 31, 2020 at 05:22 PM

AN

*Dear john you left us to soon u were only 59 years old we miss you so much not a day goes by that we don't think of you if I could've traveled back in time and could've warned you about everything bad in the future it's been a year now and I keep on saying on my head if only John was here to help me with guitar I never got the chance to actually play the guitar with you I miss you so much I would give anything in the world just to see you 😞 I love you the best uncle someone could ever have we used to have the best chats I wish every-time u would call I would speak to you and spend hours with you I really regret not talking to you a lot
If I can trade anything in the world I would do it just to see you one more time
Your nephew
Antoun*

Anthony - August 03, 2021 at 02:38 PM

NB

“ *My brother John,*

You left us too soon!!

My wife Nauhila, my son Anthony, my daughter Laura, my Mom, me and all my friends will miss you a lot buddy.

We all love you so very much.

My loss is too big. I not only lost my brother but also my best friend whom I shared all the details of my life with. We always enjoyed spending time together, enjoyed laughing together, enjoyed our chats, and teasing my sister Mona!

We now have an angel in heaven!

We will never forget you!

RIP

Your brother Nakhle

Nakhle Bitar - July 31, 2020 at 10:54 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Griffin Watkins.*



July 30, 2020 at 10:37 PM

SH

“ *I'm so sorry to hear of John's passing. He and his family are in my prayers.*

Sarah Harms - July 30, 2020 at 10:15 PM

MO

“ I had a lovely chat with John probably about a year ago. We're paternal cousins. His Dad and my Mom were siblings. He called out of the blue just to say hi and catch up. I was so surprised and happy to hear from him and what he and Mona had been up to. That's the last time we spoke. I'm glad we did. He will surely be missed by everyone in our family and all of his friends. My heart goes out to Mona. They were so happy together and so crazy about each other. 33 years of love and devotion.

Molly - July 30, 2020 at 07:14 PM

KG

“ John and I worked together at DOMINICS restaurant while in high school. When we graduated we took a month off together and headed west for a month, hiking, camping, traveling, lots of great memories. I still have the pictures. Sorry for your loss.

Kevin Gormley - July 30, 2020 at 05:40 PM

RS

“ I am really sad to hear John passed away. John & I were housemates at BGSU. Mona, my deepest condolences. John, buddy, may you Rest In Peace 🙏🙏🙏



Russell Santos - July 30, 2020 at 05:19 PM

CV

“ 1 file added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS - July 29, 2020 at 04:47 PM

MO

Fantastic video! So fun to see John and Mona through the years and all the other people who love them. Thanks, whoever did this.

Molly - July 30, 2020 at 07:09 PM

NC

*Lovely to see this story of John and Mona on this video. What a happy couple! How they both were loved always by John's parents and our good friends, Pat and Griff.
Sending peace to all who loved John...*

*nancy savage coyle
Indiana*

nancy s coyle - July 31, 2020 at 04:42 PM

CV

“ 1 file added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS - July 29, 2020 at 12:00 PM

BP

“ *My deepest sympathy, Mona. So sorry for your loss.*

Becky Plummet - July 28, 2020 at 12:10 PM

RK

I still cannot believe that John has left us.. Our Heartfelt condolences to Mona and all the family! John was a great man, a very loving and caring person, we will miss Him dearly ! May his soul rest in eternal peace 🙏🙏🙏

Fouad and Roula Khoury

Roula Khoury - July 30, 2020 at 08:16 AM

JA

“ *Grew up with John on Belvedere...many many fond memories over the years.*

Enjoy your new journey John...

Jeff Arman

Jeff Arman - July 28, 2020 at 09:44 AM

JC

“ *I had the privilege to work with John for a few years. He was an intelligent, thoughtful and knowledgeable person. He had a great sense of humor (maybe even a wicked sense of humor). He was a good writer and he was well versed in many subjects. I had him proof read many things we did as he would have made a good editor at a newspaper or publishing house.*

He was also deeply informed about music. He knew the musicians, the albums, and he knew different genres of music, and he was a very good guitarist. He was a guitar collector when I knew him and he appreciated the guitar for the way the instrument both looked and sounded.

He was a good guy, I am very sorry to hear that he has passed. I was lucky to know him for a few years.

John Campbell (HazCorp)

John Campbell - July 27, 2020 at 03:33 PM

MI

“ John will be missed by all who knew him. He and Mona shared a truly beautiful love story together, and his absence will never go unnoticed. He was a passionate, truly funny man, who always left us laughing whenever we spent time with or talked to John. He was a great husband, son, brother, and truly a great friend. We will meet again John, but until then, keep everyone up there entertained with your beautiful music and true wit. We love you, friend!! Ali & Michele

Michele - July 27, 2020 at 09:58 AM

DW

“ Please accept my sincere condolences



David Westmark - July 26, 2020 at 01:36 PM