

John Howard Mackey

October 20, 1948 - August 18, 2025

John Howard Mackey, son of the late Howard Ivan Mackey and Esther Mae (Nickerson) Mackey, was born on October 20, 1948, in Catskill, New York. He was raised near Preston Hollow, in the foothills of the Catskill Mountains, on a dairy farm. It was during this time that John developed the quiet strength and work ethic that would define his life.

John graduated from Middleburgh Central School with the Class of 1966 and went on to earn a degree in Civil Engineering from Norwich University with the Class of 1970. When the class celebrated their 50th year reunion, they joined the respected ranks of the Norwich University "Old Guard".

Following his graduation, John was commissioned in the United States Army and served his country faithfully until his honorable discharge. He was stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and it was here that he met the love of his life, Margaret Louise Schulz. After John completed his military service, he and Margaret were united in marriage on December 6, 1975, in Richland, Missouri and were just a few months away from celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. John and Margaret were blessed with one daughter, MaryHelen, who they loved dearly and devoted everything to care for her.

John earned his Master's Degree in Engineering Management from UMR (now Missouri S & T). He built a respected career as the owner of J.H. Mackey Associates, licensed professional engineer and land surveyor. He served the local community with dedication, integrity, and honesty. He was known for his precision, fairness, and quiet wisdom. His work left a lasting impact on the region's development and on everyone with whom he worked.

In his spare time and especially after his retirement, John enjoyed working on "The Ranch" as he called the land on Hwy 28. He enjoyed cutting his own trees, working in his woodshop and sawmill, and just being outdoors. The trees he felled, measured and milled became the buildings he constructed by himself. He respected the land, loved being outdoors, and accomplishing his goals with strength and hardwork.

John passed away peacefully in his home in Waynesville surrounded by love, having attained the age of 76 years. He will be sadly missed but fondly remembered by all those that knew and loved him.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his beloved wife: Margaret Mackey of the home; daughter: MaryHelen Mackey of the home; one sister: Claire Mackey of Coxsackie, NY; two nephews: Christopher Valentino (Corinne) of Adairsville, GA and Nicholas Valentino (Deane) of Violet, LA; three great-nephews: Owen, Brayden, and Dylan; three great-nieces: Lydia, Kennedy, and Jazmin; cousin: Marcia Anderson of Kinderhook, NY; other relatives and many friends.

In addition to his parents, John was preceded in death by his mother and father-in-law: Helen and Robert Schulz.

John will be remembered for his deep love of family, his sharp mind, and his steadfast presence. Whether in the field with his surveyor's equipment, at home sharing activities and laughter, or sharing traveling adventures with family and friends, John lived a life of quiet purpose, steady kindness, and great strength. His life embodied the quote "A life well lived is not measured in years, but in the lives touched and the love shared." (quote attributed to Peeta Mellark)

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of John Mackey to the Waynesville R-VI School Foundation and may be left at Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert.

Cemetery Details

Missouri Veterans Cemetery - Fort Leonard Wood

25350 Hwy H
Waynesville, MO 65583

Previous Events

Graveside Service

AUG 28. 2:30 PM.

Missouri Veterans Cemetery Of Waynesville

Visitation

AUG 28. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM.

Memorial Chapels And Crematory Of Waynesville / St. Robert

Celebration of Life Service

AUG 28. 6:00 PM (CT)

Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville/St. Robert
202 Historic 66 W.
Waynesville, MO 65583
(573) 774-6111
memorialchapels@embarqmail.com

Tribute Wall

KE

“ John Mackey & I played on Norwich’s Freshman football team; we were in “F Troop” as “Rooks”, (Freshman year) and we both were studying Civil Engineering, our first year @ NU. I spent a lot of time with John, our Rook year. He was an amazing guy. I didn’t make the grade, and transferred to the English Dept. after our Freshman year. But John was definitely destined to be an Engineer. What I remember most about John was his great big smile, amazing athleticism & always, his friendly nature. I am so sorry to learn of his passing, he was taken too soon. But I believe John’s strength and memories of his genuine kindness, will remain with his loved ones & those who knew him, forever.
Rest Peacefully, John....

Ken Erickson - October 06, 2025 at 08:49 PM

JB

“ My condolences to your family. John and I were in the same Company in our freshman year at Norwich. We also shared an adventure to Expo 67 in Montreal. We hitchhiked there and viewed all the exhibits, then proceeded back to Norwich. We got as far as Burlington and the rest of the trip was provided by a Vermont Transit bus driver who gave us a free ride. May he rest in peace. John K Bieschke

John K Bieschke - September 06, 2025 at 07:26 AM

BA

“ So sorry to hear of John's passing. We had a nice conversation at our 50th reunion recalling several NU memories. John will be missed and we are thinking of his family.

Bib Anthony

Bob Anthony - September 05, 2025 at 12:16 PM

BO

“ John was in the 1970 class with me. We called him the gentle giant for his size and strength. We had a fun group of guys who worked and studied together. I always remembered John's penmanship it was the neatest of all of us, so we always made him take the notes, No Surprise to see that he was into surveying, I wish I was able to attend the 50th class reunion but was unable due to health reasons. My deepest sympathy goes out to his family. Believe me I will always remember him.

Bob Mancino class of 1970

Bob - September 05, 2025 at 12:03 PM

DA

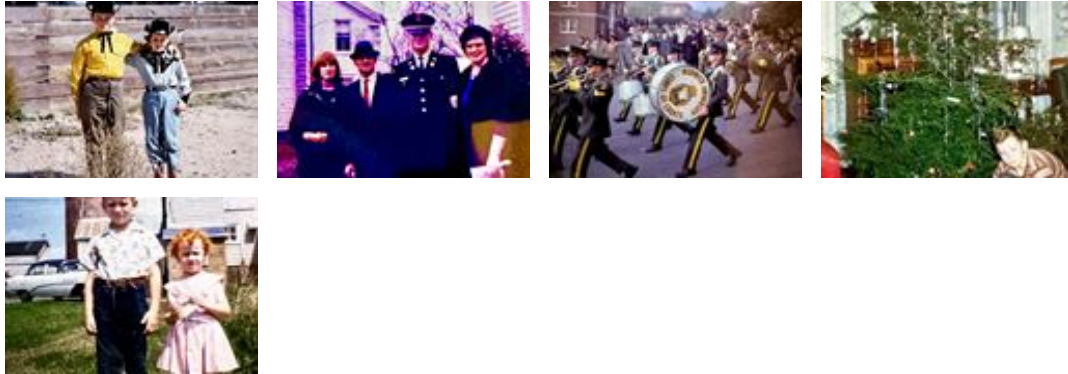
“ *Debbe Adkins lit a candle in memory of John Mackey*



Debbe Adkins - August 29, 2025 at 02:50 PM



“ *15 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - August 28, 2025 at 09:22 AM

NC

“ *Having reconnected with John prior to our 50th reunion at Norwich, it was good to see him at Norwich for the 50th.*

John was a roommate and Civil Engineer classmate. We have kept in touch over the last 5 years and we were able to visit with him and his family several years ago, to see the new barn he was building at his "ranch".. I was and still am truly amazed at the work John did on his barn. It was a superhuman feat he did on his own and spoke well of John's work ethic

We have reminisced about our years at Norwich and went thru several rounds of trying to identify old photos.

I will miss talking to him. We wish all the best to Margaret and Mary and realize you have lost a truly great man. You will be in our prayers.

Neil & Mee Kiew Cavanagh

Neil Cavanagh - August 27, 2025 at 04:52 PM

CM

I was shocked when I just read the notification of John's passing. He was a stand up guy who was quiet in demeanor but gleaned strength, confidence and intelligence. I am so sorry for your loss. God bless you!!!

*Bud Mihalek
Norwich, Class of 1970*

Conrad Franklin Mihalek - September 05, 2025 at 10:37 AM



“ 148 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - August 27, 2025 at 02:36 PM

AM

“ *Our hearts are grieving with you in your loss of John! He was a good man! Prayers for you, Margaret and family !! May your broken hearts be healed!!*



Amber - August 26, 2025 at 11:15 PM

MS

“ *Marge Scott lit a candle in memory of John Mackey*



Marge Scott - August 24, 2025 at 08:53 AM

DM

“ *Debby (Johnson) Myers sent a virtual gift in memory of John Mackey*



Debby (Johnson) Myers - August 23, 2025 at 09:49 PM