



John Verne Eason

April 23, 1926 - August 6, 2019

John Verne Eason, 93, of Ankeny, IA and formerly Clear Lake, IA died Tuesday, August 6, 2019, at Sunnyview Care Center in Ankeny, IA.

Having chosen cremation, a private graveside inurnment will be scheduled later for family and friends at Greenfield Cemetery in Greenfield, IA.

John was born April 23, 1926, the son of John Marden and Dolly Marie (Lynam) Eason in Hartley, IA. He was their oldest child and grew up in Sanborn, IA with his younger brother James and little sister Joan, affectionately known as "Mutt". His young adventures included sports and music in school, hunting and fishing outdoors, many summers spent around nearby Lake Okoboji, IA and a job running Sanborn's movie theater which gave him an exceptional knowledge later in life of old movie stars and movies.

After graduating Sanborn High School, class of 1944, John enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and served in the Pacific theater during World War II from 1944-1946. He was a Private First Class – Field Music, the company bugler for K Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Regiment, 6th Division USMC, so naturally received the nickname "Music" by his fellow soldiers, and was honorably discharged a Field Music Corporal. His war experiences influenced his life. He was awarded two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star for his service at Sugar Loaf Hill during the Battle of Okinawa where he fought with the remaining Marine Raider Regiment – considered the United States' first Special Forces unit – and was adopted into their unit. He enjoyed attending their reunions later in life. He struggled with back pain and increasing deafness the rest of his life due to military service but even in extreme old age he remained proud of his identity as a Marine Raider.

John completed his education at the University of Iowa after WWII where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees to teach history and geography. John taught at the junior high and high school level for many years and consulted with the Joint County System, the precursor to today's Area Education Association. He completed his career teaching history, geography, and ecology at the community college level in Mason City, IA at North

Iowa Area Community College.

Teaching allowed John some time off in the summer which he intentionally used to pursue activities he enjoyed - family vacations seeing the historical sights and natural geography of this country; fishing trips to Iowa farm ponds, at home in Clear Lake and his beloved Okoboji Lake, and occasionally lake trips to Canada; coin collecting; building models from plastic and balsa; and always reading books – especially historical old west and seafaring fictions. He helped establish, presided over and was active for many years in the Clear Lake Evening Lions Club. He was a proud member of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars outpost and a long time Masonic member. He loved old movies and had a good singing voice to sing along with all the old songs.

John had a knack at making friends. He seemed to have a charisma that invited strangers to approach and say hello. While at university, he met Mary Louise Huff and commented to a friend the first time he saw her that he was going to marry that girl. She eventually said yes and he married the love of his life on December 27th, 1952 in Greenfield, IA. They had two children, Melanie Kay in 1960 and John Jay in 1961.

John was a wonderful man, a devoted husband, and a proud father and grandfather. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Jim, and wife Mary. He is survived by two children, Melanie Eason and Jay (Sara) Eason, both of Ankeny; twin grandsons, Wyatt and Zane Eason; and a sister, Joan (John) Horne, two nieces and a nephew of La Mesa, CA. He's now eternally with the love of his life Mary.

Comments



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Jay - August 16 at 11:29 PM



“ I so enjoyed my visits with John and hearing his stories and seeing his smile. He was so proud of his family and talked a lot about the grandchildren. John P Malone

John P Malone - August 11 at 07:34 PM



“ Melanie, Jay and Families... I'm so happy I was able to meet your dad... and mom... both up in Clear Lake and when they moved to north Ankeny. My grandparents were Alvin and Frances Eason. On both occasions we (my sister Sue) and I went with my Aunt Mary Sue. We looked through many family albums and heard about our ancestors and many other stories. Such a great time. I'm so sorry for your loss... My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your families. Jane Heintz

Jane Heintz - August 12 at 05:51 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Jay - August 08 at 12:41 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Jay - August 08 at 08:54 AM



“ Two of my dearest friends++and such great photo. Mary and I were neighbors years ago on the farm=and I always remarked I wanted to be included in her family. John was a great guy and and always enjoyed our visits..They are missed...

shirley Lahey - August 12 at 01:27 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Ward-Van Slyke - August 07 at 05:58 PM



“ I feel lucky that I got to know your dad. He was a really good person. When I was a teenager visiting your home he would recommend books he thought I would enjoy and I I did enjoy reading them.

Becky Ackerman - August 16 at 09:33 AM