



John Edward Rettman

April 21, 1926 - October 7, 2018

Laughter and warmth when family and friends gather. So precious are these times we have together!

“We grieve, but not as those who have no hope.” 1st Thessalonians 4:13b

John Edward Rettman, age 92, of Gainesville, Virginia passed peacefully at his home on Sunday, October 7, 2018. One of seven children, Johnny was born in Wesleyville, PA on April 21, 1926, the son of the late John and Gertrude (Grenat) Rettman.

Johnny was a 1944 graduate of Wesleyville High School and his senior class valedictorian. He served his country in the United States Army during WWII in the 703rd Military Police Battalion TEC 4. He received the Good Conduct Medal, Meritorious Unit Award, American Theater Ribbon, and World War II Victory Ribbon. While stationed at Fort Myer, he met Mary Christeene Smith. They were married on July 6, 1946. Together they raised three daughters, Deborah, Joanne, and Sandra. Happily, he welcomed three son-in-laws into the family, David, John and Lee. Spoiled seven grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren. Johnny and Chris were lovingly devoted to each other for 72 years.

Johnny worked his way up from the line crew to engineer with the

Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company and retired after 30 years. His retirement years were filled with family, grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives near and far, wonderful neighbors, great friends, farming, and his love for the Belgian Draft Horses, Ebb and Willie.

Johnny lived a good long life filled with love, integrity, honesty, hard work, and a willingness to help others. He departs this earth to be with all the loved ones that have gone before and who are welcoming him home with open arms.

He is survived by his wife Mary Christeene Smith Rettman; his children Deborah Mary Compton (David) , John R. Kipp, Sandra R. Cunningham (Lee),his grandchildren Artemus Kipp, Levi Kipp (Jenny),Chloe Kipp Knight (Joe), Claudia Compton Sullivan (Tim), Corinne Compton (Scott),Carisa Compton Clifford (Rusty), his great grandchildren Carley Levell (Curtis), Corey Compton, Zoe Kipp, Aidan Kipp, Owen Kipp, Declan Kipp, Garrick Kipp, Joanne Knight, Pandora Knight, Dracon Knight, and Camille Clifford; his brother David Rettman, and many great neighbors, friends and relatives.

He was preceded in death by his daughter Joanne Christine Rettman Kipp, granddaughter Casie Nicole Compton, his parents, John William Rettman and Gertrude (Grenat) Rettman, his siblings Eleanor Rettman DeFoe, Roslind Rettman Hower, Donald Rettman, Ruth Rettman, Richard Rettman and Russell Rettman.

Viewing will be on Tuesday, October 16, 2018 at 12:30 PM at Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street, Manassas, Virginia. Services to immediately follow beginning at 1:30 PM with Rev. John Patterson officiating.

Interment will follow at Sudley United Methodist Church Cemetery, 6308 Sudley Road, Manassas, VA.

Cemetery Details

Sudley Methodist Church Cemetery

5308 Sudley Road
Manassas, VA

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **16**. 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Service

OCT **16**. 1:30 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
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Tribute Wall



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Edward Rettman.* ”



October 14, 2018 at 10:18 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of John Edward Rettman.* ”



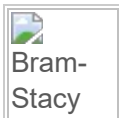
October 09, 2018 at 05:45 PM



“ *Always a smile a Papa's face...except when Levi shot the window out of the Ford with a BB gun..* ”

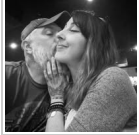


Artemus Kipp - October 08, 2018 at 05:52 PM



Best guy I ever knew. I will always remember the great times on the farm as a kid.

Bram-Stacy Hower - October 14, 2018 at 08:06 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



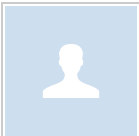
Artemus Kipp - October 08, 2018 at 05:50 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Artemus Kipp - October 08, 2018 at 05:49 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of John Edward Rettman.



October 08, 2018 at 03:59 PM

MW

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. John was such a kind man with a gentle spirit and I always enjoyed being around him. I am glad I got to visit with him about a month or so ago after Dad had passed. He was all smiles and that is how I will remember him! Hugs and love to you all! ❤️



Maria Smith Willis - October 08, 2018 at 03:06 PM

Jl

Johnny was one of my favorite uncles.
I remember visiting Johnny & Chris every year when I was young. I'm 73 now!!
I still remember those rattle snakes in the bowl out in the outhouse!! Lol
Not so funny the but funny as heck now!
I love you all in Virginia and hope to get there some day again!
John, Deborah & Sandra!!
I miss JoJo immensely, we were the same age and one of my favorite cousins!
God gave us the gift of memories to keep our loved ones alive in our minds.
Side note to John, Debby and Sandra....
I now live in Minnesota.
Call me sometime, I would love to hear from you all!!
Much love ❤️
Jim Defoe, son of Eleanor Rettman Defoe.
My number is 1-320-296-4718.
Text me first to let me know you are calling as I don't answer unknown numbers!!

Jim - May 12, 2025 at 08:54 PM

SC

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Sandra R. Cunningham - October 08, 2018 at 01:25 PM

CR

A great picture of your Dad. He was a living legion in Catharpin, Gainesville, and Haymarket. Will miss seeing him at the Sudley Bazaar.

Cathey Carpenter Robertson - October 08, 2018 at 01:54 PM

LW

I never had the privilege of meeting John Rettman, my knowledge of him comes from knowing and working with his daughter Sandra for many years. We met the first year Sandra transferred with AT&T to Indiana

.I know John was a good man, good father and husband. These facts were learned from the stories Sandra shared. One of my favorites was when she was young around 7 or 8 and working on the farm with her dad. It was time for lunch and Sandy went to make sandwiches for them. She made her favorite lettuce and mayonnaise, it may have had tomato. John took a big bite then he checked the middle. Sandy explained she made him her favorite and wanted to know if he liked it. John assured that was a good sandwich but did she think she might go back and add some meat to his.

The stories Sandra shared showed me how John displayed his love and pride for everyone and everything in his life. An example was the way John cared for his draft horses and how he for doctored them daily as they ended their days on the farm there was never a thought of putting them down as long as he could care for them also how he maintained the farm even it became harder for him in his later years. I could sense the pride he had for his family and how he cared for them.

In my working world we called the men in John's generation "the phone man" that was a mark of respect, they were self starters, reliable, the did it right the first time. They just don't make many men like that anymore.

My sincere condolences for the Rettman family.

Lou Webb - October 09, 2018 at 03:09 PM

SC

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Sandra R. Cunningham - October 08, 2018 at 01:23 PM