



John A. Poppe

July 1, 1938 - February 13, 2019

Attorney John Allen Poppe, 80, of Wapakoneta, passed away on Wednesday, February 13, 2019, at home with his wife and family by his side. He was born in Piqua, Ohio on July 1, 1938, the son of Arnold Poppe and Irene Rismiller Poppe who preceded him in death. He and his devoted wife Elaine, were together nearly 40 years and she survives.

A New Bremen High School graduate, he also graduated from The Ohio State University and the Ohio Northern University Petit College of Law. He was a member of the Auglaize County Bar Association, the Ohio State Bar Association, the Ohio Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the American Trial Lawyers Association, and many other legal professional associations.

He was the Patriarch of a large extended family including Barbara Poppe (Bill Faith) of Clintonville, Columbus, Jill Mackenzie (Patrick) of New Bremen, Kris R. Poppe, (Susie) of Cameron, North Carolina, Michael E. Smith (Melissa Ann) of Wapakoneta, Susan Stevens (Terry) of Queenstown New Zealand, Wayne D. Smith of New Bremen, Casey Crisp (Missy) of Columbus, Jamie Allen (Eric) of New Albany.

Other survivors in his extended family include a sister, Barbara Block (Thomas), Rockford, Illinois and grandchildren Michael A. Smith (Alyssa), Alysia Smith (Brendan O’Ryan),

Elise Faith (Zeeshan Paracha), Amanda Smith (Jon Baumgardner), Madelynn Kitlinski (John), Alexandra DeGayner (Michael), Lucas Poppe (Cassie), Katharine Poppe, Benjamin Faith, Sophia Mackenzie, Ila Allen, Areli Allen, Everleigh Allen, Ellis Allen and Kian and Liam O’Ryan. He was also survived by Dylan Crisp (Hannah Lane) of New York City and great-grandchildren Eliza and Zaydan Paracha, Selene and Jacob Frady, and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by granddaughter Jessica Ann Smith and a sister, Eileen Pugh (George) of Lima, Ohio.

John was a devoted husband, father and grandfather, groundbreaking lawyer, philanthropist, horseman, published author, served on several Boards and was well known for his unstinting courage in protecting the constitutional rights of his clients. He began his law career in 1972. He loved the practice of law and his lamp could often be seen burning in his office window into the early morning hours as he sought justice for his clients. John also had a unique approach to the practice of family law that focused on building a strong family unit consisting of two parents living under separate roofs effectively co-parenting and raising happy well-adjusted children.

He proudly served as the State President of the Ohio FFA in 1956-57. He also wrote articles about horse training which were published in “Hoofbeats” and In Indiana Harness Racing publications. He trained horses himself during his standardbred owner years from 1985 to 2018 and often took children and grandchildren to races throughout Ohio and neighboring States and raised many excellent race horses on his farm in New Knoxville. He was the President of the Auglaize County Horseman’s Association, and he served on the Board of Directors of the Ohio Harness Horsemen’s Association for many years. John was also a member of the Church of the Eternal Optimist.

The plaque on the track at the Auglaize County Fairgrounds bears his name on a stone noting that he donated the wall and winners circle. He always sought ways to upgrade the harness racing programs throughout Ohio.

John was a seed salesman in Missouri when he graduated from Ohio State and liked to tell stories of his travels there. He also owned and operated Bremco Mills in New Bremen for several years.

He was instrumental in establishing the New Bremen Historical Society. He knew the history of Auglaize County well, often recounting stories about Tecumseh and Chief Blackhoof. He was a Civil War buff reading many volumes about the conflicts and, over the past 40 years, visiting nearly all of the major battle sites.

He served on the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce for many years and was active in The Lions Club and the Jaycees in early years. He also was a former Auglaize County Prosecutor. He often donated his legal time to organizations who had special problems like the Humane Society when they needed shelter, food and care for abandoned horses.

John's favorite weekend of the year was when many family, friends, and neighbors gathered the Saturday before Thanksgiving to help put up the figurines and lights in the yard for Christmas. He considered this a gift to the community, young and old, to enjoy during the Holidays.

John and his wife established the non-profit Children's Hometown Holiday and that remained his passion through his declining years. John provided the materials for the students in Wapakoneta High School to build the Santa House that has been used annually in Wapakoneta for the past 12 years. He named the Santa house "Santa's Wapakoneta Outpost" and supported CHH financially through 2018. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be

directed to Children's Hometown Holiday in care of the funeral home.

The family will receive friends at Eley Funeral Home and Crematory, 1102 Lincoln Avenue, St. Rt. 501, Wapakoneta from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm, Sunday Feb. 17, 2019, followed directly by services at 4:00 p.m., with Rev. Becky Sunday officiating. Condolences may be expressed at www.eleyfuneralhomeandcrematory.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 17. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Eley Funeral Home & Crematory
1102 Lincoln Hwy
Wapakoneta, OH 45895
(419) 738-7676
eleyfuneralhome@gmail.com
<https://www.eleyfuneralhomeandcrematory.com/>

Service

FEB 17. 4:00 PM (ET)

Eley Funeral Home & Crematory
1102 Lincoln Ave.
Wapakoneta, OH 45895
eleyfuneralhome@gmail.com
<http://www.eleyfuneralhomeandcrematory.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Eley Funeral Home & Crematory created a Webcast in memory of John A. Poppe*



Eley Funeral Home & Crematory - February 16, 2019 at 03:07 PM

DK

“ *We have many good memories of John through the years. David particularly liked the Sunday "sermons" at McDonald's. Take care of yourself, Eiaine. We are thinking of you.*
David and Gloria Koch

David Koch - February 18, 2019 at 05:29 PM

SS

“ I was away at Ohio Northern when mom and John fell in love and I’ve lived away for most their married life, so you’d be justified in thinking that we wouldn’t have much of a connection.

But, John had a way of drawing people close.

Whenever I came home, John would greet me at the door and his face would light up like one of mom’s Christmas trees. He’d shout, “Susie’s home!” with a huge smile on his face and his arms wide open waiting for a hug.

As weak as he was, John’s face lit up with a smile when I reminded him of that last week.

I reckon that’s how God greeted John on Wednesday. With arms open wide, grinning ear to ear, shouting, “John’s home!” like he was the most important person in the world - which, to his family and many others, he was.

Susan Stevens - February 17, 2019 at 06:30 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of John A. Poppe.



February 16, 2019 at 10:35 AM

CD

“ Carolyn and Nick Dammeyer purchased the Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." for the family of John A. Poppe.



Carolyn and Nick Dammeyer - February 16, 2019 at 09:12 AM

CD

“ We are very sorry for your loss! We truly loved John, not just as our attorney, but for the kind hearted and caring man that he was . He was truly the best at everything he did and had a very genuine, loving, and honest personality. He will be missed by all! Prayers to you and your family! Carolyn and Nick Dammeyer

Carolyn and Nick Dammeyer - February 16, 2019 at 09:00 AM

TF

“ Sorry to the Poppe family for their loss. Best attorney I've ever seen. We consider ourselves lucky to have been able to have him represent us and he will truly be missed.

the Koenig family - February 15, 2019 at 04:23 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John A. Poppe.



February 15, 2019 at 03:38 PM

MD

“ To The Poppe Family...Our thoughts & Prayers to all of you. So many memories over the years. From Mark working for the Poppe Family at Bremco Mills, to more recent years when we would see him and Elaine out shopping or dining out. First thing that comes to mind is Spaghetti Night at the Coffee Cup, and they would always bring John the Tabasco sauce. We too, always look forward to our yearly Christmas card, and we loved the little barn tree ornament this year. We have it carefully boxed up to use again each year. John will never be forgotten. May he... Rest In Peace.

Mark & Terri Doenges - February 15, 2019 at 02:24 PM

LW

“ John taught me to ride horses. I will never forget being on Cristy. We were riding on the road near their farm. She took off to the barn. I just remember John yelling “Hang On”. That’s exactly what I did!

Lori Winner

Lori Winner - February 15, 2019 at 05:43 AM

JS

“ John was our lawyer back in the 80's. Every year since then, we have received a Beautiful Chrstmas Card from him, signed.,not printed..John Poppe. Never seen him without his *cowboy hat* & boot's. Blessing's to his family ❤️ June & Forest Sawmiller



June & Forest Sawmiller - February 14, 2019 at 11:59 PM

JM

“ John was my lawyer for one of the toughest times of my life. He could put you at ease right away. So sorry for your loss Elaine and family. Truly a compassionate strong man!
Jo Miller Martin



Jo Martin - February 14, 2019 at 11:11 PM

PB

“ John will be missed very much he was such a wonderful man and attorney. John taught my daughter alot while she worked for him, thank you John. I looked forward to receiving your Christmas card every year. Prayers and condolences to the family. God bless you all.

Pamela Braun

Pamela Braun - February 14, 2019 at 09:38 PM

SM

“ John was such a great man. He will be missed by many. My condolences to his family and friends



Staci Moore - February 14, 2019 at 06:54 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of John A. Poppe.



February 14, 2019 at 05:01 PM

JK

“ *John we will all miss you. U were a good man and loved by many. Thanks for all you have done for me and my family will always hold you close in there hearts. Good bless you and your family in these times.. John Kehoe*

John Kehoe - February 14, 2019 at 07:50 AM