



## John D. Ruoff

July 27, 1939 - March 26, 2019

John D. Ruoff, 79, of Otterbein Cridersville, and Wapakoneta, died 11:33 p.m., Tues. March 26, 2019, at Mercy Health-St. Rita's Medical Center, Lima. He was born July 27, 1939, in Franklin Co., OH, the son of Williard L. & Clara L. (Bausch) Ruoff, who preceded him in death. On June 18, 1961, he married Kay Anne Neff, and she survives at Otterbein-Cridersville.

Other survivors include,

2 sisters, Norma A. Pitts, Columbus, OH,  
& Delores E. (Bobby) Coleman, Douglas, GA,

sister-in-law, Connie Leist,

brother-in-law, Jerry Powell,

nieces & nephews, Pennie (Dale) Caradonna-Kinnear,

Richie (Michelle) Leist,

Jill (Richard) Rose

Matthew (Donna) Coleman,

& Raymond Powell,

great nephew, Angelo Caradonna

numerous cousins,

and close friend, Kendall Krites, and many other close friends, & colleagues.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Marilyn J. Powell.

John retired from the Ohio State University Extension Service after 27 years

of service. He began his career as a 4-H educator in Clermont Co., served later as a district 4-H program specialist, and then returned to a 4-H county position in Auglaize Co. for over 9 years. John impacted many children through his work. He was a graduate of Fairfield High School, Madison Co., OH. He later received his Bachelors and Masters degrees from The Ohio State University. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church, Wapakoneta. His other memberships included the Moulton Gun Club where he taught gun safety classes, numerous Dahlia societies, Shawnee Long Rifle Club, N.R.A., National Muzzleloader Rifle Assn., National 4-H Agents Assn., and a life member of the the Epsilon Sigma Phi fraternity. John had many interests in life, that included growing dahlias, and in later years enjoyed painting at Otterbein. He was also a skilled woodworker and made furniture and muzzleloaders.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m., Mon. April 1, 2019, at the First United Methodist Church, 504 Glynwood Rd., Wapakoneta, with Pastor Josh Tissot officiating. Burial is to follow in the Greenlawn Cemetery, Wapakoneta. The family will receive family and friends 2-6 p.m., Sun. March 31, 2019, at the Eley Funeral Home and Crematory, 1102 Lincoln Ave. (St. Rt. 501), Wapakoneta, and 1 hour prior to the service Mon., at the church. Memorial contributions may be directed to the First United Methodist Church, 504 Glynwood Rd., Wapakoneta, 45895, or the Ohio 4-H Foundation, 2201 Fred Taylor Dr., Columbus, OH, 43210.

# Cemetery Details

## Greenlawn Cemetery

Presar Road  
Wapakoneta, OH

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 31. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

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

## Visitation

APR 1. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church  
Glynwood Road  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

## Service

APR 1. 10:30 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church  
Glynwood Road  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895



# Tribute Wall

PH

“ *Norma and family,  
Sending thoughts and prayers to you during this time of loss.*  
*Pat Holmes*

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**Pat Holmes** - April 01, 2019 at 08:11 PM

MW

“ *We are saddened by this news. Our thoughts and prayers for  
comfort and peace go out to the family of John Ruoff, especially to  
his sister, Norma. The OSU Extension family grieves with you.*

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**Myra Wilson** - April 01, 2019 at 10:53 AM

BP

“ *John was one of my first friends I made when I joined Ohio  
Extension. He was a great mentor for a young educator. I still use  
some of the lessons he shared with me - throughout my Extension  
career and now in retirement. May God Bless him and his family.*  
*Barb Phares - Mercer County - retired*

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**Barb Phares** - April 01, 2019 at 10:10 AM

CB

“ To Kay and the Family of John Ruoff,

*I had the privilege of working closely with John as I was the Activity Leader on his unit and he was very involved in most activity programs. He never allowed his limitations to stop him from doing anything he wanted to do. I want to extend my condolences to Kay and the Family! He will be missed by all, including myself, his peers and partners at Otterbein Cridersville. My prayers are with you in your loss!*

*Cheri Benroth*

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**Cheri Benroth** - March 31, 2019 at 07:44 PM

  
Richard  
Leist

“ *I went to many OSU games with uncle John and always had a great time. As a kid I had fond memories going to visit him and aunt Kay on thanksgiving. I remember watching him carve out a bison out of a big hunk of cherry wood. Thought that was neat. RIP uncle John. You'll always be missed.*

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**Richard Leist** - March 31, 2019 at 12:51 PM

LS

“ *Kay and Norma,*

*John was a member of the Greater Columbus Dahlia Society for many years and helped with our annual show every year. He will be missed by me and all of our members. My late husband Wilbur and I always considered John and Kay our dearest friends and I will remember our time together at many Midwest Dahlia Shows.*

*My prayers and thoughts are with you.*

*Lilly Ann Seipel, Gahanna, Ohio*

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**Lilly Ann Seipel** - March 30, 2019 at 11:50 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John D. Ruoff.*



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March 29, 2019 at 01:21 PM



“ *Sure am sorry to hear about John. I, always, enjoyed being around him at state 4-H functions. He was always so uplifting. My wife and appreciated the dahlias that he shared with us. I thought about John every time I saw dahlias.*

*God Bless You!*

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**BOB LAHMERS** - March 28, 2019 at 10:13 PM



“ *Kay & Norma,  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Enjoyed many times with John. National 4-H Agents meetings, Agent training sessions. card games etc. The conversation usually centered around hunting or fishing. He will be missed.  
Joe McClanahan*

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**Joe McClanahan** - March 28, 2019 at 06:34 PM

FP

“ Kay, Norma, Delores and Family...

*We were so sorry to learn the news of John's passing. He was a wonderful man who made a tremendous difference in the lives of so many... We will miss him very much, and share your loss. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. Deepest sympathy. Thinking of you....*



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**Fred & Kathy Pepple** - March 28, 2019 at 06:27 PM