



## John Stanley Gerhart

March 19, 1952 - March 1, 2023

John Stanley Gerhart, age 70, husband of the late Sharon (Miskiewicz) Gerhart, of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, passed away on Wednesday, March 1, 2023 in the Paoli Hospital. Born on March 19, 1952 in New York, he was the son of the late Jean (Crego) and John Gerhart.

John was a devoted husband and father. Since retiring as a commercial lender in 2020, John spent much of his time visiting his daughter in New Jersey and joining numerous clubs. As someone whose favorite times were spent in nature he enjoyed fishing and bird watching. John also often participated in hikes with the National Audubon Society and other local hiking groups. His favorite hikes were those that ended with a social gathering so that he could spend more time with friends drinking beer, bourbon, or red wine.

John loved the exchanging of opinions and was always looking to learn from the viewpoints of others. He was a member of the Phoenixville Diversity Committee and the Ponderers Cafe - an online meetup, where members would discuss numerous topics. A devout Christian, he was also a member of a Spiritual Connection group. He spent many hours discussing his faith and sharing the joy it brought him with others.

John is survived by his daughter: Kathryn Rudderow and her husband

George; and granddaughter: Juliet Rudderow.

A celebration of John's life will be announced for a future date.

Memorial contributions may be made in John's name to the National Park Foundation or World Wildlife Foundation.

Arrangements are being handled by the Campbell - Ennis - Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc. Condolences may be offered online at [www.PhoenixvilleFuneralHome.com](http://www.PhoenixvilleFuneralHome.com).

# Tribute Wall

DF

“ It was God ordained that our life paths would cross as both of us were learning to live again. John without his wife and I with my new wife Lisa. We met hiking and soon realized that we had many things in common. Our mutual love of the outdoors, wildlife including birds, and beer gave us opportunities to develop a friendship that i will always cherish. We transitioned from everyday work to retirement together. John’s sudden passing left me with a hole in my heart that I feel sad for. I miss him and try to keep his memory alive every time I take a walk, every beer I drink, and every time I I remember our deep conversations about life.



David Forester - April 24, 2023 at 09:24 AM

MW

*Heartfelt comment from a true friend*

Martha Watson - April 24, 2023 at 10:38 AM

PW

“ I am so saddened by the world's loss of John. He was a kind and gentle and funny soul who first came on a Valley Forge Audubon Society birding trip that I was leading not long after the loss of his wife, and from the start he was open and honest. He became a treasured regular, and we took joy in continually kidding each other and repeating the same jokes over and over through the years. One of the last long conversations we had - over a beer, of course - was about his next big hiking adventure.

We both became grandparents around the same time and shared our mutual joy and excitement. He was thrilled to be a grandfather. I will miss him.

John, the birds sing for you this spring.

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**Patty Werth** - March 21, 2023 at 03:04 PM

MW

*Lovely memory*

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**Martha Watson** - April 24, 2023 at 10:39 AM

MK

“ I met John at the Ponderer's on line meet up group. I found John to be kind, sensitive and wise. I always appreciated his contributions to our on line discussions on Ponderer's. When John traveled to Asheville, he joined my friend Grace and myself in a hike on the Parkway. We had such a good time. I do so appreciate John's resilience and fortitude. He is missed.

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**mary Lou Kempf** - March 13, 2023 at 08:44 PM

CA

“ John and I became friend through on line Ponderers Group during COVID. He specifically came to Asheville NC to meet all of us and we took him in w open arms. I rem he took several of the women on outings. I rem telling him if coffee goes well we can check out the nature center here in town. We did and we became good friends, keeping the friendship alive via texts and conversations and a visit to me while I was in Florida. I seem to be one of the last ones to text chat w John and I will save that text forever. Things were left in limbo regarding travel plans for the summer and that is very frustrating. I miss u John. I hope u r seeing loved ones.

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**Cat** - March 09, 2023 at 05:50 PM

MW

“ To John's family & friends: I met John 3 yrs ago thru a hiking club. He also introduced me to the Audubon Club. We went on many hikes together, occasionally stopping for a beer or bite to eat afterward. I thoroughly enjoyed the family (pajama clad) Christmas card I received in Dec. When we spoke at that time, he was so excited to be expecting his first grandchild & I updated him on mine. We had planned to meet in the spring to share stories & pictures. John was a very loving & generous man. He will be missed by all who knew him, especially the daughter he adored & her family. My sincere condolences go out to them. I'm so sorry for your loss, but I am pleased he was able to spend time with his new granddaughter before he passed. Please keep us updated on memorial arrangements. With great fondness & sorrow, Martha Watson

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**Martha Watson** - March 07, 2023 at 10:08 AM

EM

“ *Eleanor Moser lit a candle in memory of John Stanley Gerhart*



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**Eleanor Moser** - March 06, 2023 at 08:57 PM

EM

*I met John 3 years ago at a Meetup where we decorated the Veteran's Graves with wreaths during the Holidays. I spent the day with him as we drove up together with other new friends. John was so glad to be with friends and told us he had recently lost his wife and retired and was trying to figure out how to spend his time. I was impressed by him as not many men at that point go out and try to build a different life. It was wonderful to hear his thoughts and aspirations. We went out to eat after we had a fun, rewarding day.*

*I ran into John over the next few years and texted with him now and then and was grateful to hear he met new friends and was keeping busy having fun & traveling.*

*I saw him 2 months ago and when he saw me, he said "I was hoping to see you tonight, I think about you once in awhile, because you were kind to me." That warmed my heart and we had a good hug. I could see his good heart from the first I met him.*

*He talked so lovely about his family and shared the pic of the matching pajamas this year. His faith will serve him well and he will be missed. Enjoy his memory.*

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**Eleanor Moser** - March 06, 2023 at 09:07 PM

SH

*I met John at our monthly widow/widower group. I was new to the group. John walks in and everyone stands up to get a hug from John. His first words were (echoed by the group) I give good hugs, and boy was that true. John was the best hugger, and funny thing is you didn't really realize you needed a hug until you got one from John. John was so much more than a good hugger, he was a kind soul, a good listener, someone who took an active interest in really getting to know everyone who joined our group.*

*John talked often of his family and how proud he was of them. He also told us stories of his travels, something he was really looking forward to doing more of.*

*I told John I needed to start getting out there walking more. The very next day he sent me a link to a meetup for walks. He told me how fun the group was and how nice the hikes/walks were. I never did get the chance to take that hike with John and the group, but you can be sure the next time I attend that meetup, I'll be remembering John. Gone too soon. Rest in peace, John. You are missed!*

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**Shirley** - March 07, 2023 at 10:18 AM

PW

*I am so saddened by the world's loss of John. He was a kind and gentle and funny soul who first came on a Valley Forge Audubon Society birding trip that I was leading not long after the loss of his wife, and from the start he was open and honest. He became a treasured regular, and we took joy in continually kidding each other and repeating the same jokes over and over through the years. One of the last long conversations we had - over a beer, of course - was about his next big hiking adventure.*

*We both became grandparents around the same time and shared our mutual joy and excitement. He was thrilled to be a grandfather. I will miss him.*

*John, the birds sing for you this spring.*

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**Patty Werth** - March 20, 2023 at 09:50 PM