



John Henry O'connor

September 24, 1942 - November 28, 2025

FREMONT TOWNSHIP

John Henry O'Connor, age 83 of Fremont Township passed away on Friday, November 28, 2025 at home.

He was born on September 24, 1942. Son of the late Russell and Sue (Cross) O'Connor. Today we honor the life of a remarkable man, John whose strength, spirit, and unshakable resilience left an imprint on every life he touched. After more than sixty years of living with paralysis, he passed away peacefully, surrounded by the people who adored him. Confined to a wheelchair but never confined in spirit, John lived a life defined not by limitations, but by possibility. What began as a life-altering injury became the foundation of an extraordinary story—one filled with courage, humor, and a refusal to let adversity define him. He spent decades proving that true power does not come from the body but from the heart. He was born a farmers son and farming was always part of him. For more than six decades, he inspired everyone who crossed his path: family, friends, caregivers, community members, and strangers who became lifelong admirers after only a single conversation with him. He had a way of turning hardship into hope, of lifting others even on the days when he struggled himself. His wisdom was quiet but deep, his kindness effortless, and his perseverance legendary. He is survived by his loving wife, Colleen; daughters, Tracy Kritzman, Angie (Mark) Krzysiak; 5 grandchildren- Jennifer (Josh) Appleby, Ryan Rightenburg, Kelsey (Justin) Levitt, Cody Swarts and Connor (Lauren) Campbell. 5 great grandchildren,

Gaven, Lily, Laken, Greyson, and baby Cooper. Many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother Frank and a sister Sandra Balut. A Memorial Mass will be held on Saturday December 13, 2025 at 11:00 A.M. at the Ava Maria Parish- St. Denis Catholic Church in Lexington, Michigan. Memorials may be made to the family. May he rest in peace, finally free of all earthly constraints, knowing he changed countless lives simply by being who he was.

Cemetery Details

St. Denis Cemetery

Harrington Rd.
Lexington, MI

Previous Events

Church Service

DEC 13. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Denis Catholic Church
5366 Main St.
Lexington, MI 48450
(810) 359-5400
<http://www.avemariaparishmi.com>

Tribute Wall

RL

“ Colleen and family, First Prayers 🙏. John was one of the best humans on earth. I new his whole family. I know you had a wonderful life together. You are in God's hands.

Robert Laretz - April 02 at 03:18 PM

KO

“ John O'Connor was one of my favorite people, John and his wife Colleen were so much fun to be around,I was blessed to spend some time working with John several years ago,I appreciated his humor and his fun spirit,He will be missed,Love you John, Kenneth O'Connor

Kenneth O'Connor - December 30, 2025 at 06:13 PM

JC

“ Jaynetta Conroy purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of John Henry O'connor.



Jaynetta Conroy - December 08, 2025 at 09:37 AM

JC

“ Jaynetta Conroy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Henry O'connor.

Jaynetta Conroy - December 08, 2025 at 09:37 AM

RK

“ Robbie, Alec, Joe and Kevin purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of John Henry O'connor.



Robbie, Alec, Joe and Kevin - December 08, 2025 at 09:31 AM

RK

“ Robbie, Alec, Joe and Kevin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Henry O'connor.

Robbie, Alec, Joe and Kevin - December 08, 2025 at 09:31 AM

BS

“ May John rest in peace. My condolences to his family. I graduated with John from Cros/Lex., He was a very likely person..

Beverly (jones) Smith

Beverly Smith - December 01, 2025 at 11:22 AM

T(

“ My sincere condolences to Colleen, Tracy, Angie and family. I have fond memories of John. Rest in peace.

Tonia Gallagher (Sharpe) - November 29, 2025 at 06:31 PM

PH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



pomeroy funeral home - November 29, 2025 at 03:12 PM

PF

Sorry for your loss

Penney (Graham) Franzel - December 02, 2025 at 04:04 PM