



John D Flakne

April 24, 1934 - January 4, 2023

John D. Flakne passed away peacefully in his home overlooking the Siletz River on January 4th 2023.

John was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota on April 24, 1934 to Julius and Anne Flakne. He graduated with an ALA and a BBA from University of Minnesota. He married Gail, a nurse from Fort Collins Colorado, on August 18, 1957. They raised 3 daughters. He adored his grandchildren, Ernie, Thaleia, and Alma and loved all his family members dearly, taking great pride in their many talents and accomplishments.

John served as 1st Lieutenant in the US Army Security Agency. Lured to the Chicago area by Barton-Aschman, municipal planners in 1962, he spent the majority of his adult life there, living in Skokie and primarily working in the city. A dedicated and enterprising marketing professional, he joined Montgomery Ward as a media contracts specialist and progressed through roles of increasing responsibility, culminating as Assistant National Retail Merchandising Manager. After leaving Montgomery Ward, he became Vice President of Marketing for Bally Corporation before assuming ownership of two AlphaGraphics franchises. After retiring and enduring several more Chicago winters, John moved to Siletz, Oregon where he enjoyed the more temperate weather and wild natural surroundings.

John was a gifted and passionate hobbyist who loved to cultivate beauty. He adorned his houses with eclectic and elaborate gardens. He also filled the family home with an array of tropical fish in lushly landscaped tanks, earning it the nickname "the aquarium house" to neighbors and passersby who could glimpse some of his handiwork through the large picture windows. A classical music aficionado, he broadcast his expansive library of symphonic works from humongous speakers using the latest (always the latest) hi-fi equipment and treated his wife and sometimes a lucky daughter to live concerts at Chicago's Orchestra Hall. It wasn't all high culture, though. John was an avid fan of the Bears, the Bulls, and the Cubs, and his movie tastes ran from obscure art films to even more obscure B-movie sci-fi. He liked to keep up with news, debate politics, unwind with a glass of wine, and spend time doting on his canine companions. Finally, his facility with technology was the envy of many; even his grandchildren were known to seek out his advice.

John lost his wife Gail in 1980. He is survived, missed, and lovingly remembered by his three daughters, Dawn Flakne, Robyn Flakne, and April Flakne; their respective partners, Stephan Bennett, David Jefferson, and Ori Dasberg; his grandson Ernie Jefferson and partner Sarah Coleman; and his granddaughters Thaleia and Alma Dasberg.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Oregon Coast Aquarium or the Chicago Symphony Orchestra

Tribute Wall

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“ For Grandpa. The golden sunset of Florida days always hangs in suspension as dusk draws near and footprints scatter. In the park across from where I grew up it seemed to take on a particularly glorious hue, peeking behind corners, sailing down slides, and dropping with the squeak of the swing set. I've walked through that park in many moments-after graduation, before birthdays, late nights, early mornings, renewals and goodbyes....In my memories of Grandpa- as a little kid playing tickle monster, Christmas day movie marathons, Thanksgiving dinners, or an afternoon conversation on a porch that seemed to glide with the Siletz river- the golden encasing of those arrayed snippets glow in the bright apparitions of a childhood blessed with having had a grandfather like mine. A grandfather with care so detailed in each record, each plant, each fish. A grandfather who sat through the torture of High School Musical One, Two, and even Three and Frozen played one too many times just because what was important to his granddaughters was important to him. A grandfather I remember so clearly because of his laugh and his witty comments, his appreciation for humor and the perfect balance of self-deprecation. A grandfather with endless movie selections and the coziest at-home cinema I will ever see. A grandfather who mentioned his love for Casablanca once and now it's what I watch on every plane-ride screen. I will forever cherish that any Star Wars reference holds his presence, sitting in a Skokie theater- side by side. Childhood pictures with his embrace and the purple dress he bought me glittering as we stood on the sands of a velvety beach. Christmas evenings and mornings spilling into soft winter walks and apple cider, a warmth unreplicable anywhere else. Even now, sitting in Berlin, under the gray skies of what feels like an eternal winter, sometimes, in a deep relief of the spring to come, that golden sunset peeks out and each memory enfolds, connecting, dancing, indulging the whispered treasure of a life- so missed, so loved, so full.

Alma - February 17, 2023 at 12:00 AM



“ *John D Flakne*

January 29, 2023 at 12:00 AM



“ *John D Flakne*

January 22, 2023 at 12:00 AM



“ *John D Flakne*

January 17, 2023 at 12:00 AM