



John Norman MacKay

November 23, 1946 - January 4, 2025

John Norman MacKay, born November 23, 1946, in Rome, New York, passed away peacefully on January 4, 2025, at Hospice of Northwest Ohio.

John earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1968. After college, John served his country with honor in the U.S. Navy, stationed in Quonset Point, Rhode Island and Antarctica. After his military service, he pursued a legal degree, graduating summa cum laude from The Ohio State University College of Law in 1975. That same year, he began his distinguished legal career at Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, where he rose to partner and most recently served as of counsel to the firm. Not only was John a zealous advocate for his clients, but he also took great pride in mentoring future generations of lawyers. He was a frequent seminar speaker and taught legal drafting and commercial transactions at the University of Toledo College of Law.

John was engaged in community and professional organizations. He was an active member of the Rotary Club of Toledo and the National Museum of the Great Lakes. He was also involved in the American Inns of Court, Morrison R. Waite Chapter, and the Toledo, Ohio State, and American Bar Associations, serving on numerous committees for those organizations.

A lifelong swimmer, John's love for the sport began during his years as a

competitive swimmer in high school and college. He shared this love with his children and made lasting contributions to the swimming community as a longtime USA Swimming Official and General Counsel for Ohio Swimming. He cherished the countless hours he spent with his children during their competitive swimming careers and the enduring friendships he forged along the way.

John's insatiable passion for learning yielded other interests and hobbies. A self-taught sailor, John embarked on many adventures on Lake Erie, including several Mills Races. He valued the close friends he developed through sailing, particularly at North Cape Yacht Club. In recent years, he relished spending time on his sailboat, Sakonnet, at Catawba Island Club. The Toledo Club was a special place for John as well; it was the setting for family celebrations, wonderful dining experiences, and time spent with good friends. He was an ardent supporter of OSU football and for many years hosted a party before the Ohio State-Michigan game to celebrate the annual rivalry. John was an enthusiastic cook, photographer, technophile, and traveler, visiting his children all over the country. Through his appetite for learning, John cultivated a wealth of knowledge that he enjoyed sharing with others.

John was preceded in death by his parents, John and Jeanne, as well as his sisters, Sandra and Sheila. He is survived by his beloved wife, Cindy Rerucha; sons David, Mark, and James; daughter Anne and future son-in-law, Andrew Watson; brother Don; and extended family members, Jim and Kathy Rerucha, Amy and Rick Hoffman, Susan and Jeff Calmes, Kathy Jeanne and Eric Hermiller, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

John's legacy of professional excellence and personal devotion to his family, friends, and community will be fondly remembered by all who knew him. May his memory bring comfort to those who mourn his loss and inspire all whose lives he touched.

Details regarding a memorial service will be provided at a later time. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Toledo Rotary Club Foundation, National Museum of the Great Lakes, Hospice of Northwest Ohio, or a charity of the donor's choice. John's family is profoundly grateful to the many individuals who cared for John over the past several months at Lakes of Sylvania, Orchard Villa, Toledo and Flower Hospitals, and Hospice of Northwest Ohio.

Tribute Wall

NW

“ *Nancy Wonderly lit a candle in memory of John Norman MacKay*



Nancy Wonderly - November 23, 2025 at 02:33 PM

NW

Praying for your soul. RIP, John.

Nancy Wonderly - November 23, 2025 at 02:34 PM

DM

“ *1 file added to the album Family*



Dave MacKay - January 14, 2025 at 04:24 PM

MA

“ *A very sweet and kind person. You will be missed uncle John!*



markayah - January 12, 2025 at 11:28 PM

CM

“ John was always an enthusiastic volunteer on the pool deck and a huge supporter for all swimmers. May he rest in peace.

Cindy Roberts

Cynthia Millen - January 12, 2025 at 07:51 PM

BM

“ Brian McMahon lit a candle in memory of John Norman MacKay



Brian McMahon - January 12, 2025 at 12:56 PM

DM

“ 8 files added to the album Travel



Dave MacKay - January 11, 2025 at 03:25 PM

GL

My heartfelt condolences to Cindy and family. It was always a pleasure working with John over many years on multiple closing transactions. He was always so professional and nice - a lot of our conversations were about swimming - something we had in common. He was an honorable man and will definitely be missed.

Gretta Laskey - January 13, 2025 at 08:05 PM

MS

*Condolences to the MacKay clan,
John and I were mutual clients of one another. As an entrepreneur one of my favorite business stories was John helping me to navigate my purchase of Custom Shop out of bankruptcy court. His advice proved pivotal at one point in the bidding process securing the complete transaction for me. As my client John was a sartorial attorney who valued and appreciated looking professional with just enough flair to set him apart in his own inimitable style. God bless! Michael Smith*

michael smith - January 16, 2025 at 12:05 PM

GM

John was an instrumental mentor to me, he was so generous in sharing his business and legal knowledge with me, he helped shape my 40+ year Banking career in commercial lending and workout. When it was time for me to step out from the shield of the Bank, he was the one that gave me confidence and know how to forge a path under my own consulting shingle. I will be forever grateful for having known him and having been the beneficiary of his generous soul.

Cindy and Family, wishing you all God's embrace at this difficult time. May you find comfort in knowing John touched many lives. Well done John, may your rewards be many as your Father welcomes you home.

Gwen Micham

Gwen Micham - January 23, 2025 at 01:21 PM