



## John Goertz

April 19, 1939 - February 10, 2020

John Goertz, age 80, of Mentor, OH passed away on Monday, February 10, 2020, following a long battle with cancer. He was born in Brzeziny, Poland on April 19, 1939. In 1952 John came to the United States via Ellis Island with his family to flee communism. John settled in and remained a lifelong resident of Ohio.

John obtained degrees from Bowling Green State University and Xavier University. He was the first from his family to attend college. John married the love of his life, Susanne Lehn from Canada, on June 19, 1965. They were married for nearly 55 years.

John taught for 30 years, 27 of those at Ridge Junior High School in Mentor. John lived a life that exemplified Christ's servant leadership and generously gave to all of his time, talent, and treasure. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Painesville for almost 40 years, and most recently attended Trinity Church in Mentor.

John was preceded in death by his parents Gustave and Elisabeth; brothers Heinrich and Fred, and is survived by his wife Susanne, his three daughters and families: Christine (Michael) Fultz and children Stephanie, Cullin, Rachael (Logan) Hundley, and Hannah; daughter Ingrid (Keith) MacDonald and children Ethan and Lauren; and daughter Anita (Thomas) Ferguson and

children Jacob and Luke; brother Gus (Herlinde) Goertz and sister Alice (Roy) Thompson.

Friends may call at the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060 on Friday, February 14, 2020, between the hours of 3-7 pm.

A celebration of life service will be 10 am Saturday, February 15, 2020, at Trinity Church, 9225 Johnnycake Ridge Rd., Mentor, OH 44060.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made to the Jewish Voice Ministries International, P.O. Box 31998, Phoenix, AZ 85046, or online at [Jewishvoice.org](http://Jewishvoice.org), a charity that provides medical care for the impoverished Jewish people of Ethiopia.

Offer condolences at [www.brunners.com](http://www.brunners.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Western Reserve Memorial Gardens

11521 Chillicothe Rd.  
Chesterland, OH 44026  
(440) 729-9465

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **14**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center  
8466 Mentor Avenue  
Mentor, OH 44060  
(440) 255-3401  
ajs@brunners.com  
<https://www.brunners.com/>

## Funeral Service

FEB **15**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Trinity Church  
9225 Johnnycake Ridge Rd.  
Mentor, OH 44060  
(440) 974-9614

# Tribute Wall

LS

“ Herr Goertz was my German teacher at Ridge Jr. High in 1967. Es war ein privileg ihn gekannt zu haben. He and his wife took a group of us Mentor High students to Europe to study in Austria. They were so very patient and forgiving of our teenage antics. Frau Goertz was so small in stature, but her smiles were so big. The trip to the Berlin wall and into East Berlin through Check Point Charlie is a clear, real, and powerful memory to this old gal. We were all so young. Beileid an sie und Ihre familie, und vielen dank .

*Lanaya Forshee Schepley*

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**Lanaya Schepley** - February 24, 2020 at 06:18 PM

RP

“ My condolences on the loss of John. He was my german teacher at Ridge Jr High. He taught us several songs in german that I remember to this day. May God bless his family

*Sincerely - Rick Painter*

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**Rick Painter** - February 13, 2020 at 09:53 AM

LH

“ In 2000, I interviewed with the First Baptist Church, Painesville Pastoral Selection Committee. It was composed of some pretty talkative members but a quiet member caught my attention. His name was John Goertz. When I had the opportunity to chat with him privately, I soon learned that here was a man of deep faith and real substance. And during my six years as pastor of FBC Painesville, these early observations brought these truths home to me and my wife Judy, over and over. He truly was a Christian gentleman who “walked the walk” and was on a mission for God. Our sincere condolences go to Susanne and the entire family. Larry & Judy Hicks

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**Larry Hicks** - February 12, 2020 at 03:18 PM

RM

“ I remember our time together at Ridge and the memories we have of visiting together as a family.. We are so sorry for you loss. Ron (Rinaldo) and Dawn Mastrodonato

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**Rinaldo Mastrodonato** - February 12, 2020 at 08:11 AM

JP

“ We loved our Uncle John and feel such great sympathy for Tante Susanne, cousins Christine, Ingrid, Anita and their husbands and children. What a wonderful, absolutely outstanding man he was! Words cannot fully express the profound impact he made on so many. We were all blessed to have had him in our lives and he will be greatly missed. Remembering with fondness all our family vacations back and forth between Ohio and Ontario - even that phone call asking us why we hadn't yet arrived at their house during our Canadian Thanksgiving long weekend. As it turned out, they thought it was one week earlier and had the turkey cooked and table fully laden with their traditional home baked desserts just waiting for our arrival. We loved those special times together - laughing and watching old family slides, playing tennis, Sunday morning church service, and just hanging out together. Uncle John will be greatly missed but his memories will carry on forever. Love Judy (Neufeld) and all our family

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**Judy Pali** - February 12, 2020 at 08:05 AM

DM

“ Nearly fifty years ago I moved to Ohio from NYC. My first day at Ridge found me in a German 1 class with Herr Goertz and so began a friendship that lasted to this day. My entire adult life and my teaching career at Euclid (German teacher) were directly influenced by him. His own daughter was in my German class in '78-79. Trips to Germany in '74 and '85 with the Goertz family, periodic visits to his home and shared life occasions ( he was an usher at my wedding) made our time together memorable. Not many students get the opportunity to grow old together with the teacher who touched their life most. Susanne, Ingrid, Anita and Christina were truly blessed as were all who knew Herr Goertz.

*der grosse Max*

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**dan maxson** - February 12, 2020 at 07:55 AM

GR

“ It's been thirty some years since I had him for Geography at Ridge. I still quote some of things I remember him saying in class. He told a funny story about Anita leaving the door of the house open and letting in cold air. I can still hear him saying, in his accented English, "Anita, I'm not paying to heat the world!" I'm very sorry for your loss. He lives on in the lives of thousands of students!

Grant Rost - February 11, 2020 at 09:05 PM

PR

“ Es tut mir leid. So many memories of the Goertz's and the girls weave throughout my childhood. I loved running into Mr. & Mrs. Goertz during college and grad school at the Painesville YMCA where we were all 3 swimming laps and catching up. It's hard to put into words the kindness, honor, faith, and inner strength Mr. Goertz exuded each time I saw him from being a little girl to an adult. I am richer for having known him. Many prayers and much love to Mrs. Goertz, Christine, Ingrid, Anita, and their husbands and children. May the angels welcome him into paradise and may he Rest In Peace. -Paula Roediger

Paula Roediger - February 11, 2020 at 08:19 PM

CC

Paula, I think you are friends with my brother, Charles. I knew your sister Amy. Any chance we will see you at the service?

Cheri Carter - February 11, 2020 at 09:04 PM

PR

Unfortunately, I'm living in the NYC area and will not be able to be home.

Paula Roediger - February 11, 2020 at 09:32 PM

LF

“ I have the privledge of being an extended member of John's family. Many of my fondest memories are of Christmas' past.  
John was such a kind,  
Quiet Christian man  
Who will never truly be gone for he has left a loving presence in our hearts.  
Please know I am sharing in your sadness.  
Lois Fultz

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**Lois Fultz** - February 11, 2020 at 08:13 PM

RO

“ I had the privilege of attending a Civics class he taught at Ridge Jr. High. So sorry to see him go, and I hope he finds peace in heaven.

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**Roberta** - February 11, 2020 at 07:57 PM

CC

“ I had the great honor of growing up next door to the Goertz family. Ingrid became my best friend and her parents and sisters became my 2nd family. I was one lucky kid! It's impossible to put into words the impact that Mr. and Mrs. Goertz had on me. They helped shape me as a human being. They both exemplify selflessness, kindness, hard work, faith and love of your fellow man. I had the great fortune to see them in 2018 and to let them know what they mean to me. My memories and love of all the Goertz's will forever run deep and put a smile on my face now and always.

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**Cheri Carter** - February 11, 2020 at 06:30 PM

TF

“ John was the kindest, strongest, and most humble servant of the Lord I’ve ever known, and Anita and I were blessed to call him Dad. We have no doubt he is with our Lord and savior enjoying his heavenly reward. We thank all of our family and friends for their love and support. PHI 4:13

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**Tom and Anita Ferguson** - February 11, 2020 at 06:09 PM

KS

Anita, I think of you often. So sorry for your loss. I understand your pain.

Your running and driver's ed partner,

Kelley Skidmore

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**Kelley Skidmore** - April 02, 2023 at 09:40 AM

JC

“ So sorry to learn of John's passing. He was a good man and neighbor. God bless his widow and daughters.

Jimmie & Dusty Carter

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**JN Carter** - February 11, 2020 at 05:58 PM