



## John Lauer

November 25, 1940 - March 12, 2017

At 4:45 AM on March 12, 2017, at the David Simpson Hospice House, surrounded by the love of friends and family, John Lauer of Concord peacefully left this world. He was born on November 25, 1940 in Oil City, PA to John F. Lauer and Enid who preceded him in death.

He graduated from Oil City High School in 1958 and immediately enlisted in the US Airforce. While in the Airforce he attended Russian Language School at Syracuse University. He was on flight duty out of Rheim Mein in Frankfurt, Germany as an analyst, intercepting, translating and analyzing conversations between Russian Mig pilots. John took great pride in his military service and also the service of his son's, John and Andy.

After leaving the service in 1962, John attended Clarion University in Pennsylvania, graduating in 1965 with majors in History, Education and Russian. He joined the Social Studies teaching staff at John R, Williams Jr High in the Riverside Local School District (formally Painesville Township Schools). He spent his entire career in the district, mentoring and inspiring numerous students in Economics, World History and Current Issues and Problems classes. He earned his Master's degree in 1970 in the area of English History.

John taught students how to write and think critically. Through his current

events games his students became better informed citizens. Many of Mr. Lauer's students recall his love for renowned author, James Mitchner, and his novel, *The Source*. Many students will remember him as a coach of the Academic Decathlon and the championship Citizen's Bee teams.

After 35 years in his beloved classroom, John retired in 2000. However, his time as an educator had not ended. He tutored ESOL for the Townships schools and joined the staff of ABLE teaching immigrants to speak English. His final retirement came in 2014.

As a representative of the Painesville Township Education Association (RLEA), John initiated the Irene Demore (Teachers' Memorial) Scholarship which he partially funded with recycling. John also served as President of the union. He loved animals, especially chickens, cats and dogs, and was a pet parent to many.

John Lauer was many things: mentor, Anglophile, antique collector, gardener, hunter, world traveler, patriot, brother, father, husband and educator. He excelled at these.

He is preceded in death by his infant son, James Andrew Lauer; brother, Daniel Lauer; and stepfather, Bryan Gilbert. Also, his beloved four legged friends, Killer the cat and Fang the dog.

John is survived by his wife of 22 years, Sally; sons John F. (Jamie) Lauer, J. Andrew (Michele) Lauer; Jev (Ronda) Vaidean; and Chris Vaidean; Brother, Wesley(Jo) Lauer; grandchildren, Benjamin Vaidean, Brandon (Amanda)Vaidean, Nick (Erica) Vaidean, Duncan Vaidean, Angela Vaidean, Hunter Lauer, Liberty Lauer, Mitchell Keeney, Tucker Keeney and Kyan Vano. John's family thanks the staff at the Hospice House and the care team from Hospice of the Western Reserve, for the care and respect shown to John.

Funeral service will be held 1 p.m. Saturday at the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor. The family will receive friends from 4-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. Interment will be at Concord Twp. Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to The Lewey Body Association, Hospice of the Western Reserve or Caroline's Kids Pet Sanctuary.

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

# Cemetery Details

## Concord Twp. Cemetery

11650 Concord Hambden Rd  
Concord Twp, OH 44077

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 17. 4:00 PM - 8:00 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

MAR 18. 1:00 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/>

# Tribute Wall

EP

“ *Sonny and Ray wish to say how sorry we are Sally we love you*

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**Earl Painter** - March 19, 2017 at 04:26 PM

DO

“ *So very sorry to hear of your loss Sally. I knew John way back in 1974 when I graduated from RHS but didn't get to really know him until I began working at the school with the special needs class many years later. I was always glad when I walked into the library to see John was there. He gave me lots of advice and most of all encouragement when days weren't going so well with my student. He always had a kind word and told me many times "I don't know how you do it" when I was thinking to myself the same thing about him! The obituary was wonderfully written and such a loving tribute to this great man. Praying for you and all of his family. Donna (Spaller) Long... "Mrs. Long" :)*

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**Donna** - March 17, 2017 at 07:20 AM

SW

*Thank toy*

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**Swvl** - March 17, 2017 at 08:32 AM

SW

*Can't type thank you*

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**Swvl** - March 17, 2017 at 08:33 AM

SR

“ *He will be missed. So sorry for your loss, Sally and the Lauer family.*

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**Scott Reed** - March 16, 2017 at 07:32 PM

SW

*Thank you Scott - Ms. V*

Swvl - March 17, 2017 at 08:34 AM

GF

“ *Gayle Freeman lit a candle in memory of John Lauer*



Gayle Freeman - March 16, 2017 at 10:05 AM

GF

“ *So so very sorry for your loss! We will all miss John!*

Gayle Freeman - March 16, 2017 at 10:03 AM

BS

“ *Our condolences. One of the sharpest people I have ever met and an all around great man. RIP John you will be missed by many.*

Brian Stark - March 16, 2017 at 06:42 AM

JS

“ *Mr. Lauer was my coach in Academic Decathlon for years. He was a good teacher and was always ready with a joke and advice. Whenever I interview I think of him and the skills he taught me.*

Joshua Shelley - March 15, 2017 at 09:05 PM

SW

*Thank you Josh  
- V*

Swvl - March 15, 2017 at 10:27 PM

RS

“ John will be missed. Through his enthusiasm for teaching and his knowledge of history, he has positively impacted generations of students. I was blessed to have known him as my teacher and later as a co-worker and friend. My prayers go out for all the family as they go through this difficult time. What a wonderful tribute you have written to celebrate his life!

*Robin Shelley*

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**Robin Shelley** - March 15, 2017 at 08:31 PM

SW

*I appreciate you kind words  
Sally*

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**Swvl** - March 15, 2017 at 10:28 PM

NH

“ I have a picture of our few family reunions hanging on the basement stairwell and I see Johns' smiling face everyday! I wish I had gotten to know my cousin, God rest his soul. (Nancy Stone Henderson)

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**Nancy Stone Henderson** - March 15, 2017 at 11:09 AM

SE

“ Sally,

*My heartfelt sympathy! I know you will take comfort in the fact that John lived a life in service of others, a life well-lived.*

*I met John the teacher in Current Issues. From there, 9th grade World History was the obvious choice – and one of his many “personal copies” of The Source traveled across the pond with me later. Academic Decathlon was one of the highlights of my year as exchange student at Riverside High. where John was one of the very few teachers who took the trouble to correct my grammar as well as “ze” German accent – though, just as John had predicted, the accent served me well during the Academic Decathlon interview and presentation...*

*I have been blessed to be John’s friend, too. Our discussions and my time spent with both of you let to many deep insights across the cultural divide for me. I cherish the memories of dining at different times and in different places over the years – whenever and wherever we were in reasonably close proximity on this globe.*

*All the best in this difficult time – may the fond memories of John, who touched so many lives, help you smile.*

*Love, SeaBass*

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**SeaBass** - March 15, 2017 at 10:59 AM

SW

*Thank you SeaBass, I appreciate your kind words*

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**Swvl** - March 15, 2017 at 10:27 PM

SW

*We have had so many positive comments about the Source. John would be proud.*

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**Swvl** - March 17, 2017 at 08:36 AM

BF

“ John was my 9th grade World History teacher in 1984-85 at JRW. Of all the classes I ever had in school, his class was the one that I enjoyed the most. His love of history and of teaching were both obvious and infectious. He inspired me to become a teacher, and 32 years later, I still think of him and his class. I hope that I impact my students half as much as he impacted me.

*Bill Forney*

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**Bill Forney** - March 15, 2017 at 09:49 AM

LC

“ Sally and family, Our condolences to you. Memories of you and John through the years as teachers of our children. It was fun the many times we crossed paths at places such as Panera. God bless you at this difficult time and may you treasure the memories.

*Laura & Tom Corrigan*

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**Laura Corrigan** - March 15, 2017 at 08:51 AM

SH

“ Thoughts and prayers to the Lauer family, Mr. Lauer was a great friend to our family. I will remember him with his big smile and hug while I visited ABLE.

*He seemed the happiest during those years helping the students.  
Shari Colburn*

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**Shari** - March 15, 2017 at 08:04 AM

CW

“ Sally, Jev, Ronda & all of John Lauer's family. I'm glad I met John he told me many stories on antiques since I have a love for this subject he gave me some pointers of what was a true antique. After reading all the comments he touched my people and John will be missed my many. Always remember the good days and keep the close to your heart.

Cindy

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**Cindy White** - March 15, 2017 at 05:43 AM

CS

“ Heartfelt sympathy to the Lauer family. So glad to have gotten to know John and Sally better, through our shared love of antiquing. John was an amazing teacher who touched so many lives. He will be missed by so many. Chris and Steve Signore

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**Christine Signore** - March 14, 2017 at 09:04 PM

EM

“ My sympathies to the Lauer family. John was a student at Venango Campus of Clarion State College here in Oil City when I attended there. I remember his teaching me to say in Russian, "I have a headache, " and "No." He had a great sense of humor and kindly tolerated those of us who were at least five years younger than he and certainly much less world traveled. May he rest in peace, and may the Lord comfort you in your grief.

Sincerely, Edwina Coughlan Michel (Clarion class of 1968)

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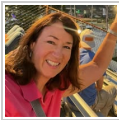
**Edwnia C. Michel** - March 14, 2017 at 08:36 PM

CS

“ To Sally, Jev, Ronda & all of John's many loved ones - so sorry for your loss. You have written such a nice tribute to him & I learned a lot of things that I did not know. I am sure that your many memories will comfort you in the days and weeks to come.

Cheryl

Cheryl Stoltz - March 14, 2017 at 08:21 PM



Mr. Lauer was one of the greatest teachers I ever had. He inspired me many times to learn more about history. Thank you, Mr. Lauer!

Cindy Onderisin - March 15, 2017 at 09:23 AM



“ I had him as my teacher at John R. Later we renewed our acquaintance when he lived at Brookdale where my father also resides. I visited with him often. He insisted I now call him "John" instead of "Mr. Lauer." He will be missed.  
Marilyn Nichols Trumbull

Marilyn Trumbull - March 14, 2017 at 05:17 PM

LO

“ Prayers are with you and your family.

lori - March 14, 2017 at 03:10 PM

CS

“ it was nice to have known you... you will be missed..  
rip.....cindy scott of brookdale of newell creek.....

cindy scott - March 14, 2017 at 03:05 PM

TF

“ You will definitely be missed you were a great teacher and mentor!  
Class of '97 here!

Tiffany F - March 14, 2017 at 01:05 PM

MR

“ Mike Randa lit a candle in memory of John  
Lauer



mike randa - March 14, 2017 at 12:15 PM

PA

“ He was an inspiration to us all. What a great world history teacher.  
He taught us how the world really is an so brilliantly. He will be  
missed by so many students that were lucky enough to have  
experienced his LIGHT!

Pamela Jayne Alexander. - March 14, 2017 at 10:39 AM

PF

“ Wes and Jo:  
It's hard to say good-bye to brothers; they are  
special, indeed. Hold on to your many years  
of family memories.



Jim and Pam Fry

Pam and Jim Fry - March 14, 2017 at 09:17 AM

SR

“ *Amazing man and teacher. Will certainly always remember him and his smile. Thoughts to his family and the many lives he touched and inspired.*

*Stephanie Royko*

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**Stephanie Royko** - March 14, 2017 at 09:01 AM

BD

“ *Mr. Lauer was a wonderful teacher and mentor. After retirement he gave back to others by continuing his teachings. You will be greatly missed. You touched so many lives, if only for a moment; students, staff and others were blessed by your presents. Rest in piece dear teacher.*

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**Brenda Dey** - March 14, 2017 at 08:31 AM

VT

“ *He was a very good teacher, fond memories.*



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**Vickie Lynn Tenney** - March 14, 2017 at 08:28 AM