



John M. Summers

June 28, 1965 - February 13, 2024

John M. Summers, 58, of Mentor, died February 13, 2024 at Hillcrest Hospital in Mayfield Heights, OH. When he was born June 28, 1965 in Warren, OH, he was already an uncle five times over.

John spent a year and a quarter at Youngstown State University before graduating from Kent State University in 1987 with a degree in Spanish, and a minor in Business. He earned his master's degree in guidance counseling from John Carroll in 2002.

John (aka Señor) was a Spanish teacher at Beachwood Schools for 33 years before his retirement in 2021. He was passionate about helping others and advised service organizations at Beachwood such as Esperanza, and Amnesty International. He was proud to have traveled to Cuba, bringing humanitarian supplies in the 1990s in opposition to "the immoral blockade."

John enjoyed singing and listening to music, especially his favorite band Rush, who he saw 17 times. He was an avid fan and frequent in-person and couch critic of all Cleveland sports, as well as international soccer. He had seen a game at almost every major league baseball stadium, including several that no longer exist.

In his free time, John enjoyed bowling and golfing. He also loved to travel internationally, inspired by a semester abroad during his time at Kent, in

Merida, Mexico. He was incredibly skilled at picking up language and traveled extensively with his wife Linda, and the two were engaged 28 “magical” years ago in Portugal at the south-western-most point in Europe.

John was known to grasp life by the horns (literally, as he ran with the bulls in Pamplona). Friends, family and former students all remember him as being charismatic, quick-witted and kind. He was known for bursting into song or subtly inserting a relevant Simpson’s reference into a conversation.

Survivors include his wife, Linda (nee DelaCourt) Summers; daughters, Alexandria “Alex” J. Summers, and Jacqueline “Jackie” M. Summers; and his sisters, Judith Gates, Carol (Billy) Cessna, and Elsie (Ken) McElhaney. Additionally, John loved and is loved by countless nieces and nephews, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jesse and Pearl Summers; and his sisters, Phyllis Summers, Margaret McVicker, and Nancy Bell.

The family will receive friends to celebrate John’s life from 3-8 p.m. Friday, February 23, 2024 at the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060.

A funeral mass in his honor will be held 10 a.m. Saturday, February 24, 2024 at St. Bede the Venerable Church, 9114 Lakeshore Blvd., Mentor, OH 44060 (Please meet at the church.)

Interment will be held in Raleigh Memorial Park, Raleigh North Carolina on March 2nd.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made to Mathews Local School District, 4096 Cadwallader – Sonk Rd., Cortland, Ohio 44410, to

create a special fund for the Spanish Department. The family wishes to pass on John's love of Spanish and travel to future generations.

Please offer condolences at www.brunners.com.

Cemetery Details

Raleigh Memorial Park

Raleigh, NC

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB **23**. 3:00 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 Mass

FEB **24**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Bede The Venerable Catholic Church
9114 Lakeshore Blvd
Mentor, OH 44060
(440) 257-5544

Tribute Wall

MS

“ I was a colleague of John’s at the middle school during his tenure there. He always kept us laughing whether it was in the lounge, during lunch, at staff meetings or on the bus rides to Washington D.C. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to his wife, Linda, and his daughters. May the wonderful memories of your life with John help you through this difficult time. Michele Soeder

Michele Soeder - February 25, 2024 at 06:48 PM

SS

“ John was a happy person always willing to share a smile. My sympathies go out to all of your family, Linda, Alex, and Jackie.

Susan Stacho - February 23, 2024 at 09:51 AM

BM

“ Having worked on the same floor with John at Beachwood for so very many years, I will say he brightened the lives of all of us with his natural wit, and incredible humor. I always told him that he should have been a stand- up comedian or a comedic writer. John kept us laughing thru all kinds of “ weather” and it gave us the chance to dump a bit of stress and to reset. John was amazing with his students and incorporated his natural comedic talents to teach Spanish and keep the attention of all. Rest in peace my dear colleague!

Bonnie Morosi - February 22, 2024 at 09:42 PM

JB

“ Like so many of John's former teaching colleagues at Beachwood Middle and High Schools I am stunned and saddened by his sudden passing last week. At the same time, I am heartened by knowing that his was a life well-lived - big events like humanitarian travel to Cuba, semester in Mexico, running with the bulls, marriage proposal in Portugal to name a few. What we also remember Señor Summers for is, as many have mentioned, his great sense of humor, which he seemingly applied to every situation encountered during his decades of dedicated teaching - engaging students in class and extracurriculars, dealing with the politics of the building and the district, being a good friend to those of us fortunate to share the halls with him. As his classroom faced mine at the end of the hall, we commiserated often about our beloved and benighted Kent State and Cleveland sports teams - John practicing his German and me attempting to respond in Spanish. Yes, we were "...intellectual entrepreneurs with a social conscience". John's love of music has been mentioned by others and I can say that had the privilege of joining him in the chaos of the "mosh pit" at a Ramones concert at the Agora, and the honor of being the Elwood Blues to his Jake Blues on the BHS White and Gold stage. Finally, my thoughts go out to John's wife, Linda, and his daughters Alex and Jackie. It is my hope and belief that as time passes, the tears of grief will give way to tears of laughter, and smiles as they remember a man who brought so much love, so much laughter, and so many smiles to so many.

Adios, Juan...Hasta luego.

Joe Burwell - February 22, 2024 at 09:23 PM

SH

“ I also taught with John at Beachwood for 20 years. I never saw him teach, but I didn't have to, to know what kind of educator he was. To see how much his students loved him and were entertained by him speaks volumes as to how effective he was as a teacher. A teacher such as John, who always had an incredibly quick wit and who was so generous in sharing that humor with all who knew him, whether student or colleague, is someone who has the natural gift of making learning fun. And that is the sure way to win over students. They enjoy themselves so much, they forget how much they are learning in the process. John had that special gift.

Everyone who is, or ever has been an educator knows how much burnout can rear its ugly head from time to time. As a colleague, John was a mood-lifter, making his co-workers momentarily forget just how short their wick was when being graced with one of his one-liners.

Thank you, John, for so freely sharing the gift of “you” with all those around you. We are all so much richer for having you in our lives.

I only wish I had been fortunate enough to go toe-to-toe with you on an improvisational comedy stage. What a hoot that would have been!

Rest in peace, John.

My condolences to your family. May your memory forever be a blessing.

Sheila Heyman-Schwartz

Sheila Heyman-Schwartz - February 22, 2024 at 08:47 PM

Justin
Brenis

“ I can say, with unwavering certainty, that Mr. Summers was the reason I took to Spanish as a language. He made it fun to learn, and super accessible, with an energy and attitude I have only seen matched by Robin Williams. I am truly sorry to hear of his passing, and I send my deepest condolences to his family.

Justin Brenis - February 22, 2024 at 02:17 PM

CM

“ Craig Alexander & Lisa Morgan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John M. Summers.

Craig Alexander & Lisa Morgan - February 22, 2024 at 01:39 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John M. Summers.



February 22, 2024 at 01:39 PM

WC

“ William C. purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of John M. Summers.



William C. - February 22, 2024 at 09:52 AM

JM

“ John was one of the great teachers of my time at BHS. I will always remember his great sense of humor and musical talents! He will be deeply missed.

Jeff Moss - February 21, 2024 at 01:10 PM

TB

“ John and I taught together at Beachwood High School for 20+ years. Each one of those years had trials and tribulations that provided John with the fodder necessary to cleverly and humorously put everything into a lighter perspective that only John knew how to do. He was truly a beacon of light, helping to make sense of a world that often didn't make much sense to begin with. I am grateful to John for the years we got to spend together. It was a great gift.

Onward to the next one Señor.

You will be missed.

Todd Butler - February 20, 2024 at 08:37 PM

TF

“ The Daum family purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of John M. Summers.



The Daum family - February 20, 2024 at 03:43 PM

MH

“ I remember John from back in his Hilltop School days. He always brightened your day with a smile and a joke and seemed to effortlessly make you feel comfortable in some very uncomfortable situations. We both moved on to the High School where his sense of humor broadened as well as his love of baseball. He and I would always talk about his Indians and my Reds. But, when we first got computers I looked forward to a daily or weekly email of something that would have me laughing my butt off. John was such a joy to be around whether at work, at camp, at our school parties, or really anytime. God must have run out of humor in heaven and needs a good laugh. You're on the big stage now! When we have a big loud long thunder, I'll know God's laughing and it's because of you my friend.

Mark Howdieshell - February 20, 2024 at 02:50 PM

JP

“ My memories of John go back 27 years when I first met him at the middle school. He introduced himself by telling me an “inappropriate” joke (go figure.) Needless to say, we became fast friends. From there we traveled together many times, usually to Vegas, where all kinds of “shenanigans” ensued. Throughout the years, we shared a lot of love and laughs and all of the ups and downs of life at the “Wood.” (Of course, John would likely make a funny comment or reference about some items in my last sentence.) He was also adept at making some very subtle and funny comments during our school trip to Washington D.C. referencing the Washington Monument. Quick, perceptive, funny... the list is endless. I also loved the times he would come to me befuddled by modern technology (i.e. electricity) and, alas, I was no help. I think we brought out the worst in each other trying to make sense of this internet thing, Infinite (infinitely frustrating) Campus, broken projectors, loose wires, setting up our phones, and the list goes on. I will miss him and all the fun and laughs we had. But we also shared some life-truths. I was lucky to be with him a few days ago and despite the situation, there was still that comedic, knowing, and fun-loving sparkle in his eyes. Safe travels, my friend.

John Perse - February 20, 2024 at 11:47 AM

JS

“ I am Janet Schweitzer's sister-in-law and I taught with John at Beachwood Middle School. Since I was fluent in Spanish having lived in Venezuela for 8 years, we often conversed in Spanish. Very shocked to hear of his passing. My condolences to all the family.
Jane L Schweitzer

Jane L Schweitzer - February 20, 2024 at 08:34 AM

LS

“ Graduated with John back in 1983. Prayers go out to his family.



Lynn Giering Smith - February 20, 2024 at 07:13 AM

JP

“ What a wonderful friend, colleague, and travel companion. We had 27 years of work, fun, excitement, and respect.

John Perse - February 19, 2024 at 03:38 PM

LP

“ My deepest sympathies to the Summers family and friends.



Lorletha Pritchett - February 19, 2024 at 03:04 PM

JH

“ My deepest sympathies to the whole family. John was a wonderful guy and a real light in my life, and I know he was a light for so many others. I met John in Merida, Mexico in 1986 on a college program, living together for five months with our friend Robert and a loud and boisterous Mexican family, with John's caring demeanor, humor, and music right in the middle of it all. I find myself laughing on a fairly regular basis at the memory of things he said and did during that time and during too-infrequent reunions and get-togethers. A real loss for those who knew and loved him.

Jeff Hopkins - February 19, 2024 at 02:45 PM

RR

“ *Rich and Beth Rowell purchased the Love's Journey for the family of John M. Summers.*



Rich and Beth Rowell - February 19, 2024 at 01:58 PM

TF

“ *Tetrick, Trimble, and Decker families purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of John M. Summers.*



Tetrick, Trimble, and Decker families - February 19, 2024 at 12:57 PM