



## John Marshall Fickes

April 22, 1946 - April 29, 2021

John Marshall Fickes of Moses Lake, Washington, passed away on April 29, 2021, in Spokane, surrounded by his loving family and wife of nearly 48 years. He was 75.

The youngest of three, John was born April 22, 1946, in Omak, Washington, to Frank and Elsie Fickes. John attended Okanogan High School where he excelled in sports and music. He was Captain of the Senior Varsity Basketball team; competed on the high school football team; and played cornet in the honors band. President of his Senior Class, John graduated in 1964.

John enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1967. He was a military dog handler in Korea, and was stationed in Gary, Indiana, and Chicago, guarding missile silos. One of his beloved dogs was named Dude. John exited the military in March 1970.

He then attended Central Washington University and earned his teaching degree. While at CWU, John met the love of his life, Mary Sue Wilkins, of Renton, Washington. Mary Sue also was pursuing a teaching degree. Together, they graduated summer of 1973 and married on Aug. 18 of that same year.

The two settled in Moses Lake. They raised a family and taught in Moses

Lake schools. John taught fourth, fifth, and sixth grades at Lakeview Elementary for 28 years from 1973-2001. They became members of Immanuel Lutheran Church where their three children were confirmed.

John had a passion for chess and started a chess club at Lakeview. John crocheted colorful bookworms and gifted them to his students—a skill he learned from Mary Sue's grandmother.

After retiring from teaching, John pursued something different: long-haul trucking. He proudly earned his CDL license from Big Bend Community College and signed on with Stevens Transport. After a stint, he realized his love of family meant more, so he returned home.

John was a loving and generous father and husband. He supported his children in all their interests. He adored his grandchildren: Max, 9, Oliver, 7, Jocelyn, 6, and Braeden, 1.

His greatest joys were family time, annual trips to Seaside, Oregon, family camping trips, fly fishing, and golfing. He enjoyed watching and attending sports games. Favorite musicians of his were John Denver and jazz pianist Dave Brubeck. John loved a good Western.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Sue, of Moses Lake, and three grown children, Jennifer Edson and husband David, of Bellevue, Washington; Andrew and wife Helen, of Lakewood, Washington; and Jonathan and partner Zoe Miller, of Seattle. He also leaves behind his brother, Gerald Fickes, of Issaquah, Washington.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Elsie; sister Joan Gustin and husband Larry; sister-in-law Kay Fickes; and nephew Don Gustin.

A funeral service will be held at 1 PM on Thursday, May 13, at Kayser's Chapel of Memories, preceded by a viewing from 11 AM-1 PM. The service will also be streamed live on Kayser's Chapel of Memories Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Kaysers-Chapel-of-Memories-104201534614825>  
In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Stroke Foundation at [americanstroke.org/donate](http://americanstroke.org/donate).

# Cemetery Details

## Guarding Angels Cemetery

2595 Road L N.E.  
Moses Lake, WA 98837  
(509) 765-7848

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 13. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (PT)

Kayser's Chapel of Memories  
831 S. Pioneer Way  
Moses Lake, WA

## Service

MAY 13. 1:00 PM (PT)

Kayser's Chapel of Memories  
831 S. Pioneer Way  
Moses Lake, WA

# Tribute Wall

RR

“ My first memories of John were from our time together in the Moses Lake Jaycees. Many a fun-filled year spent bowling, getting the trailer ready for the annual fundraiser at the fair, Valentine parties where rowdiness ended in parking the car right in front of his doorstep, driving drunks home New Year's Eve, and yes MarySue, the infamous pea chasing adventure.

As our friendship grew, so did our families. I fondly remember the summer pool parties and unplanned dip Jennifer decided to take through the pool cover. Who could forget the trip to Seaside, all of us crowded together in a single room, losing my glasses in the surf and camping with a baby Andrew shortly after the mountain blew? Cheryl and I would then be blessed and honored to be Godparents to Andrew.

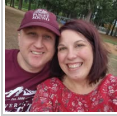
Birthday parties were regular and always shared together, as the kids grew up. New Year's Day was spent arguing over the Rose Bowl and breaking bread. We lived through the eruption of Mount Saint Helens together and lived to tell stories of shoveling ash off our roofs in May.

John was instrumental in my decision to leave my job as a chemist and become a teacher. I have never regretted that decision and to this day, I credit John for helping me see the wisdom of it. He was a quiet man, full of kindness, and always greeted people with a smile. Who could forget that smile? He had a way of letting you know that no matter what, his friendship was genuine.

I have an empty spot in my heart, but also a promise that we will be reunited through our shared faith. Our friendship is just taking a pause, as I complete the remainder of my journey through this life. When my time comes, I hope and pray that I meet it with as much grace. Till that day, rest in peace, my dear friend.

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Rick Rodden - May 08, 2021 at 08:25 PM



*So many great memories! Thank you for sharing, Rick!*

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**Andrew Fickes** - May 13, 2021 at 10:23 PM

ES

“ *I first met John at his wedding to my niece, Mary Sue Wilkins, in August 1973. I was given the honor of singing The Lord's Prayer at their wedding. After the ceremony, John thanked me for singing it as he and Mary Sue walked down the aisle. He said it helped him get down the aisle. :-) My heart goes out to M.S. and all her family. It is so hard to say good-bye to a loved one, but for those who know the Lord, we know we'll see one another again.*

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**Enid Sanford** - May 08, 2021 at 11:55 AM

AF

“ *Thanks to John I had my first and last experience with skiing. I learned that it's bad form to cause the skilift to be shut down. And I learned about his generous spirit. I hope the Rosignal skis went to a more deserving home.*

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**Alice Forsythe** - May 07, 2021 at 02:13 AM

CN

“ When I think of John, I see him walking through the front door of our home in Yakima with a wide grin on his face and ready to give everyone big hugs. He was the first person I met when I relocated to Moses Lake from Montana, quickly followed by Mary Sue and their darling toddler, Jennifer. Our two families shared many a trip and holiday get togethers where laughter and food was abundant! As our children grew into adulthood, we were fortunate to share the milestones of graduations, weddings and grandchildren. We are so blessed to have had our lives touched by John's presence.

All our love to Mary Sue, Jennifer, Andrew and Jon, along with their families. Remember always, he loved you well.

Love, Cheryl, Jessica, Amanda Jason and Maddie

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**Cheryl Nixon** - May 06, 2021 at 09:38 PM



He really did love us well! So many great memories! Thank you for sharing, Cheryl!

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**Andrew Fickes** - May 13, 2021 at 10:26 PM