



## John Macfarlane

January 1, 1943 - June 26, 2025

Services to honor John's life will be held on Saturday, August 2, 2025:

☐ Graveside Service at 10:00 AM Garden of Grace at Evergreen Memorial Gardens,

1101 NE 112th Avenue, Vancouver, WA 98684 – (360) 892-6060

☐ Celebration of Life at 2:00 PM at Hillcrest Church of the Nazarene,  
14410 NW 21st Ave, Vancouver, WA 98685 – (360) 571-0015

John Milton Macfarlane took Jesus' hand and peacefully departed this world on June 26, 2025, at the age of

82. A man of deep kindness, quiet wisdom and unshakable faith, John was cherished by many and will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Born on January 1, 1943, John was a New Year's blessing whose life was defined by humility, generosity, and brilliance. He was organized in thought and action, kind in word and spirit, and unwavering in his devotion to God. A devout student of the Bible, John built his house on the rock of faith and lived each day firmly rooted in his trust in the Lord.

His heart belonged to his beloved wife, Sharon, who predeceased him in 2020. She was not only his life partner but also his best friend and the great love of his life. Together, they created a home filled with joy,

laughter, and enduring love.

A gifted craftsman, John spent countless happy hours in his shop, where he reimagined and rebuilt cars and trucks, crafted custom parts, and pursued many creative feats of engineering and mathematics. He even built his own computer. John could bring ideas to life with precision and care. He devoted countless hours volunteering at church in many roles. He will be most remembered as the cheerful greeter standing patiently by the door waiting for the next person to arrive for worship. He smiled from the heart and was genuinely happy to see people come through the door. He had an unbridled passion for photography and the great outdoors. John loved children. They brought him great joy. For years, he spent much of the Fall season taking pictures of the participants of Upwards Sports and VBS making sure the families got them. His home is filled with pictures of majestic nature scenes and loved ones.

John's legacy is one of love, craftsmanship, faith, and quiet strength. He lived with humility and purpose, always ready to lend a hand or offer a word of encouragement. John shared many rich friendships reaching across decades – his ability to love was endless.

John is survived by his younger brother, Andrew William Macfarlane, 64, his cousin Kathy Annette Larsen, 81, of Brookings, Oregon, a nephew, Richard, and a niece, Caitlin Karin Macfarlane who is 27 and working as a nurse in NYC. John was predeceased by his beloved wife, Sharon, his parents, Madge and Elmer "Mac" Macfarlane, and his brother, Russell.

In lieu of flowers, you are invited to send donations to Upwards Sports and Vacation Bible School care of Hillcrest Church of the Nazarene.

We ask you to honor John's memory by building something with your hands, reading a passage of Scripture, or helping a neighbor—just as he so often did.

Kindly Please Share your memories of John <https://www.evergreenmemorialgardens.com/obituaries/john-macfarlane-6/#!/TributeWall>

# Cemetery Details

## Evergreen Memorial Gardens Cemetery & Funeral Chapel

1101 NE 112th Ave.  
Vancouver, WA 98684-4950  
<http://www.evergreenmemorialgardens.com>

# Previous Events

## Graveside

**AUG 2.** 10:00 AM (PT)

Evergreen Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Funeral Chapel and Crematory  
1101 NE 112th Ave  
Vancouver, WA 98684  
(360) 892-6060  
[info@evergreenmemorialgardens.com](mailto:info@evergreenmemorialgardens.com)  
<https://www.evergreenmemorialgardens.com/>

*In our Garden of Grace.*

## Celebration of Life

**AUG 2.** 2:00 PM (PT)

Hillcrest Church of the Nazarene  
14410 NW 21st Avenue  
Vancouver, WA 98685  
<https://hillcrestnaz.church/>

*In lieu of flowers, you are invited to send donations to Upwards Sports and Vacation Bible School care of Hillcrest Church of the Nazarene.*

# Tribute Wall

“ John loved Jesus. Those words are easily the sum of how John lived his life. He was constantly and consistently a teacher and a pupil, a counselor and a rock. John was patient, clear, slow to criticize and quick to praise as he instructed. He was totally methodical in the way he determined how things should be done - from how to fabricate amazing parts for just about anything you can imagine in his shop to the proper way to cut up vegetables for his omelets to the best way to mow his field. His desk is filled with tablets where he took meticulous notes on everything. His shelves are filled with photo albums – organized into groups and each photo meticulously labeled. His file cabinets are in alphabetical and chronological order. When John set out to do something, he would take the time to figure it out and do it right. He spent years rebuilding his dad’s green truck out front and crafted a lot of the parts himself. “Brilliant” seems like an understatement for a man who thought Calculus 2 was fun.

Early on, John took a look at Jesus’ life. He became an ardent pupil of the world’s greatest map to living a good life. His Bible is circa 1964. His analytical mind digested every word. In true John style, there are neatly printed notes everywhere. Passages are highlighted, underlined, re-highlighted in a different color and cross referenced. John knew there was a narrow path to navigate with many distractions along the way. He stayed on the course and along the way reached out to lend many a helping hand. He would tell me “we need to save souls”. Looking at the words in the Bible through John’s eyes opened my eyes.

John as a counselor had the rare gift of silence. He would listen without interrupting. He would often hold back on giving advice until it was requested. So many people, myself included, let their own arrogance rule their mouths – jumping in to share unsolicited opinions, passing judgment, making assumptions on what others are thinking or feeling, presuming what they have to say is more important than the one speaking. John gave people the benefit of the doubt. He looked for logical explanations and the good in people.

John was a rock in faith and love. He was absolutely sure of his

*destination when he left this world. Like everything else, when John made up his mind it was time to get on with the business of going to be with Jesus, he got to it with laser focus. He gave me clear instructions on what he wanted me to do, and I promised to do exactly as he asked me. In Peter, 4, the verse says you must be self-controlled and alert to be able to pray. John was a rock in his determination to pray and to talk and to give comfort till he took Jesus hand and left us. I'd be sitting crying and he would be holding my hand letting me know it was going to be okay. I pray that I have a fraction of his strength when my time comes. He wouldn't take even a Tylenol – he didn't want anything that might impact his ability to completely focus on the busyness of getting ready to stand in the presence of the Lord.*

*He was Dear Ol' Dad to me. He set a beautiful example for all of us to follow as we make our way up that narrow path. And so Dear Ol' Dad, I thank you with all my heart for the lessons you taught me, the encouragement you gave me and the love you showed me. I will miss your quirky jokes and hearty laugh. I will miss our agreements to disagree and the liveliness of your voice when we talked about Jesus. I will miss just sitting with you in peaceful silence.*

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**Fran** - August 06, 2025 at 06:25 PM

TB

“ John was one of the most capable men I have ever known. He could repair or build anything he set his mind to. I spent a great deal of time working with John in his home machine shop, where he helped me turn many ideas into reality. John was a wonderfully patient teacher and never became angry, no matter how many taps or drills I broke or how long the job took.



John worked hard his entire life. Even his last couple years after he turned eighty he kept on working. John and I spent a significant part of last summer clearing the slope behind his shop with picks, shovels, and a wheelbarrow. He kept records of how many cubic yards we had removed the whole time and had estimates of where all the low spots on his property were so that he could fill them with the soil we took out.

He always made time for his friends and family. He would make the trip from his home east of Battleground each Thanksgiving to my parent's home in Ridgefield to celebrate with us. Anytime he came by he would always offer to fix anything that might be broken around the house.

I'll never forget John's laugh or the sight of him in a flannel stepping out of his green pickup truck to say hello.

-Trevor Brown

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Trevor Brown - July 25, 2025 at 01:00 PM

KW

“ John was the best brother-in-law Sharon could have blessed the Krein family with. He was a great husband to my sister. He was man after God’s own heart and so humble even though extremely intelligent and talented in so many things.

My husband and I these past several years would drive up from Southern California every year to see them. John would amaze me with how much of the Bible he had memorized while walking so many hundreds of miles on the treadmill. We would laugh when in a year’s time he could have walked all the way to where we live. I truly miss John and Sharon but know they are together again with the Lord whom they loved very much and lived out His love to others

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**Karen Wood** - July 25, 2025 at 10:23 AM

RM

“ My Uncle John as many know, was a unique character. He always treated me with kindness and respect and he had that special friendly humorous Spirit about him. Even made my younger sister Rebecca laugh one time when visiting there, and that was something she just didn't do that easy. He was such a creative type, and had that kind of backwoodsman spirit that seems to run in the family. He helped me get more into archery and learn it better. He fixed up a gun that had been in my immediate family for decades making sure that it would be actually safe to fire, and after all those decades I was able to. I didn't get to see him as often as I would have liked, but it was always a fascinating pleasure when I did. He definitely helped create a legacy that I do my part to carry on as he was also a very inspiring individual. He will not easily be forgotten.

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**Richard Macfarlane** - July 24, 2025 at 05:39 PM

JP

“ 4 files added to the album *Pop Pop and Sharon*



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**Joni Peschka** - July 23, 2025 at 09:18 PM

“ I met John and Sharon in 1982 when they started attending the same church that I was attending. They were quiet, humble, gentle and loving. As a newer Christian, they took me under their wing and cared for me when I faced some difficult times, teaching me, encouraging me and loving me, no matter what. They were fiercely loyal and protective friends. Over the years they both took on leadership roles in the church. John was my Sunday school teacher for a while and probably one of the most knowledgeable ones I’ve ever had. His appetite for the Word was insatiable. He never felt comfortable teaching or leading though, feeling unworthy of such a high calling. I jokingly called him “Johnah” once when we were talking about being reluctant to teach, referring to Jonah in the Bible, and we got a good laugh over it. The nickname stuck and after that he was always “Johnah” to me. He never had a sister, so he called me his “Sissy”. Sharon worked mostly with the children, teaching Sunday school and directing in children’s church. Though they never had children of their own, they fostered and “adopted” many people.

They were such a blessing to so many lives. They lived modestly and simply and gave generously of their resources. They were prayer warriors and had servant hearts to the core. They were reluctant to talk about themselves, always interested in helping others however they could.

I had so many experiences with them over the 40+ years that it’s hard to narrow it down but I think the most impactful thing I remember was when I struggled, living at the beach and John would write me letters of encouragement, even though it was very challenging for him to write. Eventually he started making cassette tapes and sending them instead. Words of comfort, teaching and encouragement. Without those things I’m not sure I would’ve survived that year and a half.

After Sharon died, I tried to check in more frequently, calling weekly or bi-weekly to make sure he was okay. No matter how much time passed between our conversations, we were able to just continue on like no time had passed at all. He would talk about being a greeter at the church and spoke fondly of the people who he

*interacted with that week. He also loved his role as photographer for the Upward Sports program in the fall. He would laugh telling me about the antics of the little kids that he just adored.*

*I will miss those conversations and being able to call and talk regularly, but though I am sad for my loss here, I am so happy that he's not suffering anymore. He has gone on to his great reward of hearing Jesus say "well done, good and faithful servant.....enter into the joy of the Lord".*

*Thank you Lord, for this special gift of friendship that has made such a huge impact on my life, as well as countless others. I'm sure his crown is full of many jewels!*

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**Sheila Beirwagen** - July 22, 2025 at 11:33 AM

“ John was a very kind, tenderhearted and trusting person who also had a very good sense of humor. He was very true to his Christian beliefs and wanted everyone to know the God he served and helped him through his trials and tribulations. He was very knowledgeable in the word and loved to share with others the true meaning and importance of the word of God.

John was very thankful he met Sharon who was always there through better or worse and introduced him to the church. They complimented each other very well and were a great couple. They did not dwell on material things of this world, and they did a lot of behind the scenes work to help those in need without expecting anything in return or expecting any praise.

John enjoyed many sports including photography, archery, target shooting, skiing, hiking, the great outdoors and nature. Because of his engineering background he would hand make his very own bows, guns, etc. as he was very detail oriented and his craftsmanship was much better than the average sports equipment. When he had visitors, he would take them to his shop and show them how the tools worked and how he made items work better than they were originally intended (of course he never gloated on his knowledge to do that, he was just excited to show people how his machines worked). He was an amazing man. As Brittani would say “Pop Pop” (John) can fix anything” and he could. He was always happy to have company and enjoyed the quality time and fellowship.

Before 1985 John and Sharon tried to adopt a little red headed boy “T”. They had him for about a year when his mother decided she wanted him back. They were both heartbroken and still talked about him throughout their days. Both of them loved kids very much and it showed. John and Sharon would always take them under their wings and help in any way they could.

In 1991 they had the opportunity to take care of a little one while her parents worked, her name was Brittani. They were both so good to her and loved her very much, they called her their granddaughter. It was a God send for both of them as well as for Brittani. They picked strawberries, peaches, made crafts, birthday and get-well cards for

*people, played hide and seek and went to Enchanted Forest, and much more. They had a ton of fun times and memories together, and it showed as they still have a lot of her pictures, homemade items from when she was little and gifts, etc. from her around their house and even a picture she made for them still on their refrigerator. They did all the things that grandparents love to do with their grandchildren. John and Sharon were not only “grandparents” to Brittani, but they were also considered a Northwest mom and dad to us (Joni and Harold) as our parents were across the US. John and Sharon would come over for birthdays, graduations, special events and holidays after all they were part of our family. After Brittani was married and had 3 girls of her own, John would still come over for all these special events at Brittani’s house. John loved those three girls dearly and his face would light up when he saw them. It didn’t even have to be in person, it could just be a picture of them or watching a video. Sadly, the visiting events soon came to an end when John couldn’t drive very far anymore. We still spoke on the phone often, exchanged texts and pictures of the girls and would go to visit him, but he was missed at the family events. John was a true inspiration to me. He always saw the good in people even when it was hard to find. He will always be very dear to my heart, and a special part of my family. I loved him very much. Rest in peace my dear Northwest Dad for now you are with the Lord and celebrating in heaven with Sharon.*

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**Joni Peschke** - July 22, 2025 at 11:30 AM

“ In 1988, my wife and I, along with our 8 year old and 3 year old daughters, were appointed to pastor the East Portland Church of God of Prophecy, where we continued until 1995. Upon our arrival we found a congregation that was very welcoming and loving toward our family, as well as dedicated to the Lord.

*It was during our first Sunday service that I became acquainted with John and Sharon, and it began a friendship that would last long past our pastorate there. John was a licensed deacon and Sharon had worked for many years in children’s ministry, but my first impression of them was that they came across so unassuming and modest to me. They not only believed in humility, they lived it. I learned so much from their lives.*

*First, while they lived a modest lifestyle, they actually gave more to others than people would realize. Sharon not only volunteered by working with children, but she volunteered as clerk and treasurer many years for the Spanish church in her area. John found out that I was interested in a deck for the parsonage and he led in installing it. They were constantly seeing to us. Few people realize it, but they actually sent love offerings to us for many years after we moved to Arizona. I learned of humble giving from them.*

*Secondly, while they were shy about being in the forefront and never promoted themselves in any way, it didn’t take me long to find out that John was highly intellectual and educated, but they never mentioned it. In fact, I discovered that John could make about anything and do about anything he wanted to do, yet I never heard him promote himself. This taught me the power of humility.*

*Third, from my very first visit with John, I soon found out that in the middle of a conversation, he could break down crying, often over a topic of others being a blessing or others going through hard times. I soon learned to expect this from him. This taught me tender-heartedness and compassion for others.*

*Fourth, Sharon had a love for children, and John loved to play with children. One time they took our two daughters to their humble single wide mobile home, and John let them use his expensive bow to shoot arrows down the hallway of the trailer! My oldest daughter, Stephanie, recently told me of her memory of John taking her to*

*OMSI, just the two of them in her young teen years, and how much it meant to her. Even though they didn't have children of their own, they actually have many children everywhere that they have shown love and attention to. This taught the importance of children, not only to them but to God.*

*Finally, I considered John and Sharon a diamond in the rough, because they had so many strong qualities and godly traits, yet they were so unassuming. The world often gives attention to the rich and famous, but I will take a John and Sharon any day. It was an honor to know them and be considered a friend. God is good to place such people in our lives for the purpose of revealing that He loves us.*

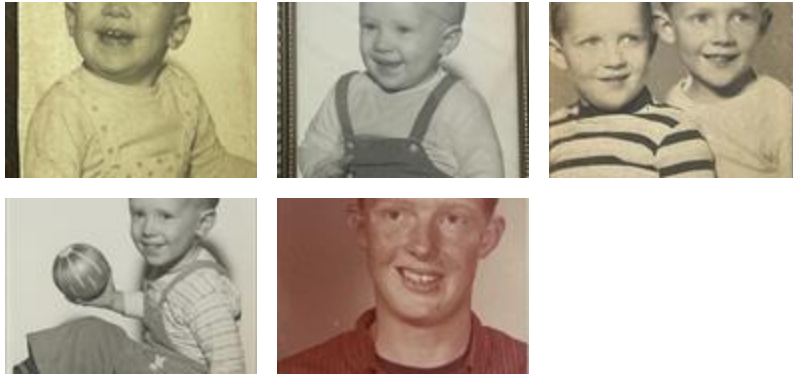
*Pastor Terry J. Blair*

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**Terry Blair** - July 22, 2025 at 11:28 AM

AM

“ 16 files added to the album Family shots of John



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**Andrew Macfarlane** - July 21, 2025 at 07:04 PM

“ Memories of my brother John:

*I was a very late child, so John was 17 years old when I was born. He was the thoughtful and studious son, and my earliest memories are of him reading, often the bible, but sometimes technical books or magazine articles. I was a small child when he was in college at Southern Oregon College, but he came home as often as he could. I remember when I was about 5, he and our other brother Russ dressed me up in his judo outfit and made a series of carefully framed photos that made it look like I was picking them up and throwing them around.*

*He had a natural inclination to be meticulous and precise about every task, and he had a native understanding of mechanics. When he looked at a tool, he didn't just admire it or try to understand it, he thought about how he could improve it. These aspects of his personality played a role in how close he was to our father—he was with dad when he died and was the executor of his will. They manifest in his job as a machinist and in the numerous projects he had at home. When they were a young couple, Sharon crashed their VW Superbeetle, and he rebuilt it with a fiberglass body so it looked like a little Corvette convertible. That little car was a hot rod, because it weighed a fraction of what it had with its original body, and eventually he let me drive it, and even left it with us for a while. After our father passed, he undertook the daunting task of restoring dad's 1955 Chevrolet pickup. He worked on this for many years, and the end product was spectacular. It was a genuine work of the heart.*

*He loved shooting targets and loading ammunition, and did a lot of gunsmithing work on his own and later on other peoples guns. Again, not just repairing, but modifying and improving them. When he was young, he simply used cotton balls in his ears, and as a result he failed his physical when he was drafted for Vietnam because he had too much hearing loss. If you found it difficult to talk to John in his later years, that was why. Back then, we had a target*

*range on our property in Rogue River, so we did a lot of target shooting and he was very good at it.*

*John's other real passion was photography, which appealed to his exacting nature in other ways. Over the years, he acquired a collection of excellent cameras and lenses, and computers and software for imaging and presentation. He sent us numerous gorgeous pictures, normally nature and landscapes, and thousands of images on DVDs. He always enjoyed nature and the outdoors, and photography gave him a way to be in it, to study it, and to create images of it for everyone to enjoy.*

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**Andrew Macfarlane** - July 20, 2025 at 07:27 PM

AM

“ *We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Evergreen Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Funeral Chapel and Crematory*

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**A Memorial Tree was planted for John M. MacFarlane** - July 03, 2025 at 12:00 AM