



## John T. Starling

October 24, 2014

John T. Starling, age 96, a longtime resident of Dublin, OH died on Friday, October 24, 2014 at Friendship Village of Dublin. He was professor emeritus in the Department of Agriculture Education at The Ohio State University where he held a joint appointment with the Ohio Department of Education as an Assistant State Supervisor of Agricultural Education. He retired in 1984 after thirty-six years of service in the field of education. He was born May 31, 1918 in Pennsville, OH in Morgan County to Adelbert and Lolla (Newton) Starling. On January 27, 1951 he married Armeda Van Meter who predeceased him on April 6, 2001. John and Armeda were married for fifty years. He is survived by his son, John David Starling of Columbus, OH, his daughter and son-in-law, Susie and Jeff Gafford of Worthington, OH, grandson, Andrew Jacob Gafford (Jennifer) of Toledo, OH, grandson, Jordan Douglas Gafford (Maggie) of Redondo Beach, CA, and three great-grandsons, Eli, Caleb and Luke Gafford. He is also survived by a sister-in-law, Janet Starling of McConnelsville, OH and a brother-in-law, Byron Russell of Canal Winchester, OH. A number of nieces, nephews and good friends also survive. In addition to his parents and his wife, Armeda, he was preceded in death by his son, Steven Starling, sister, Betty Russell and brother, Rodney Starling. John graduated from Pennsville High School and received his bachelors, masters and PhD. Degrees from The Ohio State University. He spent forty-two months in the United States Air Force during World War II. He taught vocational agriculture at Lima Shawnee High School for fourteen years prior to his professorship at

The Ohio State University in 1962. During his time at Shawnee, he served as a cooperating teacher for the Department of Agriculture Education at The Ohio State University providing training for fifty-four student teachers. He served as president of the Ohio Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association in 1959 and the Ohio Vocational Association in 1960. He was a visiting professor at the University of Arizona during the summer terms of 1976 and 1981. He was an avid fan of Ohio State football and basketball. John was a member of Northwest United Methodist Church, The Ohio State University Alumni Association and the Franklin County and Ohio Retired Teachers Associations. John's family would like to thank the hard-working caregivers at the Meadows and Health Center of Friendship Village of Dublin for their skilled and compassionate care of John for the past three years. Family will receive friends from 5:00-8:00p.m. TUESDAY at the RUTHERFORD FUNERAL HOME AT POWELL, 450 West Olentangy Street, Powell, OH 43065 (614)-792-1471. (The funeral home is located on W. Olentangy St./Powell Rd./SR 750 ¼ mile east of Sawmill Parkway.) Funeral Services will be held 10:00a.m. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2014 at NORTHWEST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 5200 Riverside Drive, Columbus, OH 43220 with Reverend Tom Slack, officiating. Burial will follow at Dublin Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made Northwest United Methodist Church in John's memory. Please visit [www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com](http://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com) to send condolences to John's family.

# Tribute Wall



“ *John T. Starling*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *Bonnie and I send you our deepest sympathy for the loss of your father. We first met John and Armeda when I began teaching at Delphos with Lloyd Smith. The Ag teachers in Allen County would get together for evening social functions. Playing Hearts was the big attraction. We remember how Lloyd was always accusing everyone of trying to give him the queen of spades. Johns was the one that very quietly would slip the queen to Lloyd and never say a word but would just give a smile of accomplishment. John went on to The Ohio State University and I went to teach in my home high school Hardin Northern. John became my state supervisor where I too was a supervising teacher and one of my students was Craig Wiget who became a neighboring teacher at Riverdale. John was my encourager, friend and mentor. I too became president of both the state vo-ag teachers and the Ohio Vocational Teachers Association because of his encouragement. Bonnie was very active in the ag-teachers auxiliary and served as president of that group where Armeda was her friend and mentor. Karl McNeal and his wife Mary Lou, John and Armeda and Bonnie and I were always good friends. Karl, Craig and I visited John just over a year ago and I prize a photo of the three of us taken at that time. A true friend I will always remember! I am confident he and Armeda are in a better place for I know how much he loved his Lord and Savior. Bob and Bonnie McBride*

**Robert McBride** - October 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ Ann and I were saddened to hear of your father's death. He was my advisor for my master's degree and supervisor when I was an FBPA instructor. Words can never express how grateful I was for his never ending encouragement and friendship. We always enjoyed exchanging Christmas cards and letters. This summer my brother Jim and I enjoyed a brief visit where we shared some past memories. You are in our prayers.

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**Carmern & Ann Cummins** - October 29, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ A NOTE OF CONDOLENCE TO THE FAMILY OF JOHN STARLING. WE HAVE FOND MEMORIES OF THE TIME SPENT WITH JOHN AT LIMA SHAWNEE AS A STUDENT TEACHER AND LATER AS A TEACHER TAKING CLASSES AT OSU TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FARM RECORD KEEPING AND FARM MANAGEMENT.

WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT I(JIM) HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT WITH JOHN OCT. 6, 2012 AND HAD A GRAND TIME AND BRINGING EACH OTHER UP TODATE FOLLOWED BY A TRIP TO THE SNACK BAR FOR POPCORN. I WAS THRILLED TO RECEIVE A CHRISTMAS CARD FROM JOHN DECEMBER, 2013.

RESPECTFULLY, JIM AND MADONNA KETCHAM

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**JIM & MADONNA KETCHAM** - October 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ John once told me that one of the greatest measures of a person's life is what they leave behind when they are gone. John's incalculable legacy is the legion of people whose lives he so profoundly affected and who have in turn gone on to positively influence so many more. One of the greatest blessings of my life has been to know John Starling. Rest in peace, our friend.

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**Dave Shewmaker** - October 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Dr. John Starling once told me as we discussed the termination of the FBPA programs, "That all good things will come to an end."  
As my teacher, FBPA Supervisor and friend, John had a profound influence on my teaching career.  
John always had a sincere interest in the lives of the teachers he supervised and their families.  
John will truly be missed.  
Doug Mercer, retired FBPA teacher

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**Doug Mercer** - October 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

NM

“ Dr. Starling was one of those unique individuals who was able to be an outstanding teacher, mentor, and when needed--friend.  
I don't believe that there was ever a time when Dr. Starling did not make me feel like I was one of his most important students when in reality, he made every student feel that way.  
Please accept our condolences and know that time and God will help heal. Nate McNeal

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**Nathan W. McNeal** - October 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ As a former FBPA instructor under John's direction, I always had the utmost respect for Dr. Starling. He was what all teachers should emulate. You have all my condolences.  
Sincerely,  
Thomas E. Coe

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**Tom Coe** - October 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ To the family of John Starling; Other than my parents and my wife, John, had more influence on my life than any other human being. I, along with Bob Cole and Dick Bertz (now both deceased) were three of the fifty four student teachers at Lima Shawnee who were under John's guiding hand for three months. I was also from Morgan County and in 4-H programs while Rodney also in 4H was in High School at Penn while I was at M & M. We (the three student teachers), first watched John teach classes before we started to practice. John was a super, masterful teacher. He was the main reason I changed my major from Animal Science to Ag. Ed. and taught Vo. Ag. for 20 years. I have so much respect for John. I know the other two student teachers would feel the same. if alive. My wife, Helen and I remained very good friends of John and his wife for all of these years since 1956 when we started our student teaching. I sincerely offer our condolences and as many others have lost a good friend. who we know will be taken good care of forever in heaven.

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**Jack Devitt** - October 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

HU

“ God Bless/RIP, to ALL who served in WWII. The USA would NOT be as it is today. Thank You for your service, John..... And Semper Fi.

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**Herb Guyer-Sharfenaker USMC** - October 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ John Starling was and remained one of the most influential and important persons in my life. I was a student of his 1951-1955 at Shawnee High School. He opened doors and gave example for ways for me to grow in so many ways as a person that it would take a long essay to describe them all. But they include the encouraging me to compete and win a public speaking contest as a junior, becoming a FFA State Officer, understanding that college was my next step all way to a PhD in biochemistry and a career as a college professor. And still behind it all creating a love of agriculture that has always kept me involved even at the national level. John Starling was more than someone who was a vo ag teacher --he valued every student for what they were and what they could become. A few years ago -right when he moved from his home to assisted living housing I visited with John and am so glad i was able to thank him for how important he was in my life-- I have a sad but grateful heart. Tom Settle mire, Yarmouth, Maine.

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**Tom Settle mire** - October 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM