



John Wallace Pyke

June 16, 1964 - May 16, 2026

John Wallace Pyke, age 61, of Powell, Ohio, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his family.

Born in Columbus, John was a graduate of Bishop Hartley High School, Class of 1983. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Mary Jo Pyke. He is survived by his devoted wife, Kristi Pyke; his sons, Jonathan Pyke of Las Vegas, Nevada, and Christopher Pyke of Los Angeles, California; and his sister, Margaret (Jason) Persan of Long Island, New York. He is also lovingly remembered by several nieces and nephews.

John dedicated 31 years of service to The Ohio State University, retiring from the College of Arts and Sciences.

After retirement, John embraced his love of baseball as an OHSAA umpire. He was a lifelong fan of The Ohio State Buckeyes, the Las Vegas Raiders, and the New York Yankees, cheering passionately for all of the teams throughout his life.

An avid car lover, John found deep happiness in the simple, meaningful ritual of taking drives and attending car shows with Kristi in their beloved 1962 Ford Falcon, affectionately named Rose. Those drives became treasured moments in his final years.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that donations be made in support of Kristi's 100 mile ride in Pelotonia, benefiting cancer research at The Ohio State University—an effort carried forward in John's honor. Donations can be made online at: <https://my.pelotonia.org/profile/KP728692>.

Viewing will be held on Thursday, May 21, 2026, from 6:00–8:00 p.m. at Rutherford Funeral Home at Powell, 450 W. Olentangy St., Powell, Ohio. A private service and burial for family and close friends will take place on Friday, May 22, 2026, with interment at Union Cemetery in Columbus, Ohio.

Cemetery Details

Union Cemetery

3349 Olentangy River Road
Columbus, OH 43202

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 21. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford Funeral Home at Powell
450 West Olentangy Street
Powell, OH 43065
(614) 792-1471
info@rutherfordfuneralhome.com
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ Rutherford Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of John Wallace Pyke



Rutherford Funeral Homes - May 19 at 01:06 PM

MS

“ I grew up with John in Bexley till age 12. I brought 4 kids home from school 1st day of kindergarten in 1969. John was one of them! Parents had no clue where they were! Him and 2 others were allowed to stay and play once their mothers were called. Lots of great childhood memories . Last time I saw him was 1984. You'll be missed old friend. Till later

Matt Schall - June 05 at 02:22 PM

AA

“ So sorry to hear of Johnny's passing. He was a great guy. Many fond memories from our younger days. My sincere condolences.

Andy Abele - May 31 at 02:13 PM

TP

“ The Blue Ponies planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Wallace Pyke.

The Blue Ponies - May 29 at 08:21 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Wallace Pyke.

May 21 at 11:53 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of John Wallace Pyke.



May 21 at 11:53 AM



“ *I am sorry to hear of John's death. I was his boss for quite a few of those years at OSU, and he always did his best, with a smile and often a corny joke. John was a good man who loved his family and made the world a brighter place.*

Joan Herbers - May 21 at 08:38 AM



“ *We will always remember John. He was a dedicated friend and neighbor who worked hard to make Liberty Ridge a great place to live.*

Karen and Emil Slavik - May 20 at 02:52 PM



“ *We are so sorry for your loss.*
Fred Persan, Heather & Eric Soto

Heather (Persan) Soto - May 19 at 07:14 PM

AA

“ Anthony A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Wallace Pyke.

Anthony A. - May 19 at 04:07 PM

AA

“ Anthony A. purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of John Wallace Pyke.



Anthony A. - May 19 at 04:07 PM