



## John Preston Wilcox, PhD.

September 1, 2010

John Preston Wilcox, PhD, age 73, of Delaware, Ohio, died Wednesday, September 1, 2010, at Riverside Methodist Hospital. He was born in Columbus on August 18, 1937 to the late Donald K. and Virginia Dare (Hall) Wilcox. John was a graduate of Columbus North High School. He attended Ohio State University, receiving Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in mechanical engineering in 1960 and returning to earn a PhD in 1969. The OSU College of Engineering honored him as a “Distinguished Alumnus” in 1986. He spent his professional career with the Columbus Laboratories of the Battelle Memorial Institute, receiving several patents and worldwide recognition for projects as varied as front wheel drive concepts, an early prototype electric car, steel belts, golf club swinging machines, and tank tracks. He had a lifetime passion for all things mechanical, collecting and restoring old stationary gas engines and other antique machinery, and was a founding director of the Coolspring (PA) Power Museum. As Chief Cartographer for the Cave Research Foundation, he spearheaded the discovery and mapping of a connection between the Flint Ridge Cave system and Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, now the longest cave in the world. John was featured in Roger Brucker’s book, *The Longest Cave*, as well as a National Geographic TV special, *Mysteries Underground*, and the Guinness Book of World Records. Surviving are his wife of 33 years, Patricia P. Wilcox, her daughters, Sandy (George) Lawrence and Laura (Percy) Carter, and grandchildren: Ben, Alex, Harry, Isabelle, Sam, and Caleb; and first cousins:

Anne (John) Foltz, Fred (Mildred) Hoskins, and Suzanne (Robert) Merkle. A Memorial Service will be held at 2 PM on Tuesday September 7, 2010 at RUTHERFORD-CORBIN FUNERAL HOME, 515 High Street, Worthington 43085, (614) 885-4006 Family will receive friends starting at 12:30 PM. Friends may consider memorial gifts to: Cave Research Foundation, 4700 Amberwood Dr., Dayton, OH 45424 or to Coolspring Power Museum, Box 19, Coolspring, PA 15730. Condolences may be sent to:[www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com](http://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *John Preston Wilcox, PhD.*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *Pat, I am very sorry to hear about your husband. You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

**Dan & Kathy Scanlon** - September 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Pat and Family, Our thoughts and prayers are with you in this sad and painfilled time. Sincerely, Chris and Kathy Young*

**Christopher A. Young and Mary Kathleen Young** - September 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Pat - I'm so sorry to hear about the loss of your husband. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

**Kevin & Monica Flynn** - September 06, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *John and I shared the fun of genealogy in the hills of Jackson County. He was patient, focused, inquisitive and very good at finding the "elusive" cemeteries. I will miss him. My sincere condolences to you, Pat, and your girls and their family. Please see email I sent to John's email address for you. Helen Cott*

**Helen Cott** - September 04, 2010 at 12:00 AM

GP

“ God bless the family. I liked being around John. I worked for Waukesha motor Co, later knoen as Waukesha Engine Div. of Dresser Industries. I know John worked on Waukesha "things" as I found his name in some reports. Gary Pegelow

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**Gary Pegelow** - September 04, 2010 at 12:00 AM

WK

“ John's grandmother and mine were sisters. I only met John a few times, but I always admired him for his brilliance, his engines, and his caving.

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**Wilma Kahn** - September 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM