



János Faragó Jr

OCT 4, 1929 - NOV 6, 2025



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János Faragó was born on October 4, 1929 in Alsódabas, Hungary to János Faragó (born on January 20, 1901 in Kecskemét to Imre Faragó and Zsuzsanna Kocsis; died on February 2, 1978 in Ócsa) and Erzsébet Kecskés (born on May 24, 1904 to András Kecskés and Rozália Horváth; died in June 1955). He grew up with his older sister Irén and younger sister Magdolna in the family house at Szent István út 14 in Alsódabas on the same street as their maternal grandparents and paternal uncle, Imre, a stonemason. Reared in a Reformed family, János made his confirmation on June 3, 1943 at the Reformed Church in Alsódabas. After completing elementary school up to the eighth grade, he did a blacksmith apprenticeship at his father's shop from December 1945 to December 1947.

He successfully completed the examination for the blacksmithing industry on December 3, 1947 through the Gyón és Vidéke Átalános Ipartestület. He also served as a private (őrvezető) in the Hungarian Army. His first call to military service was on October 2, 1950, and he was released from the service on November 8, 1952. During his military service, he also became a driver (gépkocsivezető) and was authorized to drive cars and trucks. After the service, he was informed by his sister Magdolna and her husband, József Pető, that there was an opening for a driver position (sofőr) where they lived in Tata. He rented a room from a family in Tata and began working at the Tatabányai Teherautófuvarozási Vállalat on February 16, 1953.

János met Ilona, his first wife, while delivering coal to the kindergarten that she worked at in her home village of Kajárpéc. They only met in person about three times. After that initial meeting, he visited her and her family once by taking a train to Győr and then a bus to Kajárpéc only to repeat the long journey home the next day. Thanks to János's meticulous documentation of his life, we know from his 1956 calendar that another meeting occurred on July 28, 1956, when Ilona and her twin Irma Erzsébet visited János at his sister and brother-in-law's home in Tata. Shortly after the suppression of the 1956 Revolution, János had an assignment to pick up materials at a village near the Austrian border. He decided to flee and drove with an assistant driver to Kajárpéc



to see if Ilona would join him. She ran home to pack some things but told János that she would not leave without her twin sister Irma. They stopped at Irma's workplace, Richards Finomposztógyár in Győr, where Irma had to make a split-second decision of whether to join them or to remain in Hungary.

Irma chose the former, and they made their way to the Hungarian border with Austria, which they uneventfully crossed on November 22, 1956 at 1:50 PM. (The assistant driver returned to Tata because he did not want to leave his family.) They were stationed at the refugee camp at Ried im Innkreis from November 23, 1956 until January 4, 1957. Ilona and Irma had a maternal aunt in Cleveland, Barbara Nyári (née Bezsélics), who could sponsor them; however, János had no relatives in America. To stay together, he and Ilona married on December 15, 1956 in Ried im Innkreis. The next leg of their journey took them to Salzburg, where they remained in the refugee camp from January 4, 1957 until February 2, 1957. They arrived in Bremen on February 3, 1957 and departed from there on February 5, 1957 aboard the US Naval Ship General Nelson M. Walker.

They entered the Port of New York on February 14, 1957 and arrived at Camp Kilmer the following day. On February 20, 1957, they departed the camp and boarded a train that

arrived in Cleveland the following day at 11:00 AM. They remained with the Nyári family at 12209 Parkhill Avenue until May 1, 1957. János, Ilona, and Irma next moved to 9607 Buckeye Road, which they rented from Margaret Kushner (née Macey). During this time, they had an ecclesiastical marriage at St. Elizabeth Church on Lower Buckeye on December 12, 1959. A few months later, on May 24, Ilona and János's first and only child, Iboly (Violet), was born at Saint Ann Hospital. The small family of three moved three more times and rented duplexes in Cleveland's Hungarian Buckeye neighborhood at 2889 East 118th Street, 12519 Forest Avenue (from landlords Alfred and Olga Toth), and 11722 Parkhill Avenue (from landlords Joseph and Elizabeth Krusoczky). Unfortunately, their marriage did not last, and they divorced on February 9, 1965.

Shortly after their divorce, János became a naturalized American citizen on July 23, 1965. The following year, on November 19, 1966, he married Yolanda Toth, but they divorced on June 24, 1968. Between his two divorces, he lived at 2809 E. 120th Street, 11902 Buckeye Road, and 2953 E. 120th Street. He purchased his first house, a duplex at 12305 Buckingham Avenue, on October 10, 1972, half of which he rented to Theresa Lustig. He married his third wife, Julia Gondor, on



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November 29, 1974. They sold the duplex on July 14, 1976 and bought a home at 14 West Bel Meadow in South Russell. After nearly seventeen years in Geauga County, they sold their house on March 19, 1993 and decided to spend their retirement in Hungary.

Originally, they settled in Kecskemét, where János's paternal cousins lived. In June 1993, they lived at Nyiri út 14/a and had plans drawn up for a new house on Egyetértés utca. They eventually abandoned that construction and moved to Tata, where János's sister Magdolna Pető, niece Magdolna Mayer (née Pető), and her husband György Mayer lived. There, they rented a house at Juharfa utca 21 and in February 1994 received permission to begin constructing a house on Tácsics Mihály utca 52 in Naszály, Hungary.

On May 23, 2001, they divorced, and János returned to the United States on January 28, 2004, where he rented a home at 2603 Torrington Avenue in Parma for about one year. He briefly lived on Glenbreigh Circle in Barberton before renting apartments at 3859 Long Drive Apt. 01 in Norton, 6134 Stumph Road Apt. 101 in Parma, and finally at 20100 Lorain Road Apt. 112 in Fairview Village from September 2016 until he could no longer live on his own due to advancing dementia. From May 17, 2018 until his death on November 6, 2025, he was a resident of Lutheran Home at Concord Reserve in Westlake, initially in assisted living and later as a resident in the Vineyards unit, where he was well-loved and cared for by the staff.

János was a hard-working man who took great pride in his work. For his first job in America, he worked as a blacksmith and iron worker from February 28, 1957 until he was laid off on February 18, 1959. Trico Machine Products on Grand Avenue (May 13–July 6, 1959), Bamberger Reinthal Company on Kinsman Road and E. 61st Street (July 14, 1959–March 1963), Artcraft Metals Inc. on Euclid Avenue (March 11, 1963–April 14, 1968), Shaker Rapid Car Shop on E. 71st Street (April 14–October 13, 1968), Van Dorn Plastic Machinery on E. 79th Street (October 14, 1968–August 6, 1970 and December 14, 1970–February 1991), and Brite Metal Treating Inc. on Bessemer Avenue (August 24–December 11, 1970)

benefited from his precision and commitment. Even after retirement, he worked at Nick Bucar's Sohio station on Rt. 306 and Bell Road in South Russell from 1991 until 1993.

An avid biker, János rode his bicycle every day for several miles well into his 80s. He also had a particular interest in medicinal plants. Until he went into assisted living, Swedish bitters, propolis, garlic, and nettle leaf tea were part of his daily regimen. A proud Hungarian, János enjoyed



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attending various Hungarian festivals in the Greater Cleveland area. Every Labor Day weekend, he attended the Hungarian Scout Festival (Cserkésznap) at German Central Farm in Parma, and he also frequented the picnics at the Hungarian Cultural Center of Northeast Ohio in Hiram.

He was preceded in death by his parents, János and Erzsébet Faragó (née Kecskés), his stepmother Lidia Kecskés, and his sisters Irén Faragó (September 12, 1926–August 28, 2004) and Magdolna Pető (May 30, 1933–August 29, 2020), all of Hungary. He is survived by his daughter, Violet Boros of Parma; his grandsons, Andrew and Nicholas Boros; his niece and goddaughter, Magdolna Pető of Tata; and his niece, Anna Spitzer (née Konta) of Budapest. His burial will take place on November 25, 2025 at 2:00 PM at the Hungarian Memorial in Sunset Cemetery (6265 Columbia Road, North Olmsted) with a prayer by Bishop Csaba Krasznai of the First Hungarian Reformed Church in Walton Hills. A Mass in his memory will be celebrated at St. Emeric Church (1860 West 22nd Street Cleveland) in December 2025. He will be buried next to his dear friends, Lajos and Teresa Kalasz. May he rest in God's peace!



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