

John Edward Noran

JUL 13, 1925 - NOV 10, 2025



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6



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John Edward Noran of Lakewood, Ohio passed away the morning of November 10, 2025 in his room at O'Neill Health Care, also in Lakewood.

He is survived by his four children, John Eric, James (Susan), Jerald (Cyndy), and Nancy Odorizzi (Victor Regal); his grandchildren, Rebecca Noran, Rachel Minor (Zak), Jason Noran, Jennifer Noran, Julia Noran (Matt Johnson), John-Michael Noran, Raven Odorizzi (Will Matthews), Joshua Basone (Courtney), Rachel Dickman; his great-grandchildren Benjamin, Henry, Caroline and Abigail Minor, Taylor and Mason Basone, Ava, Lily, Grant and Claire Dickman, and his most recent great-grandchild Willow Moon Odorizzi Matthews, whom he was very excited to meet at his 100th birthday party shortly after her birth. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

John was born in Chicago, Illinois on July 13, 1925, and moved to Lakewood, Ohio, shortly thereafter. He attended Taft Elementary School until moving to Rocky River, where he graduated from Rocky River High School in 1942. He went to Muskingum College, and played collegiate tennis until World War II interfered with his college plans.

He was a PFC assigned to the 104th Infantry Division, the Timberwolves, whose specialty was night fighting. Landing in Normandy after the initial invasion, he fought across France, Belgium and Germany. He was given a three-day pass to visit Paris on VE Day; he said Paris on VE Day was like a party that seemed like it would never end (on a trip to Paris on the 40th anniversary of VE day, he was interviewed on CNN near the Arc de Triomphe). When he left the European Theater, he had enough combat points that he did not have to enter the Pacific Theater (for which he was very grateful) and served out the remainder of his Army career in Southern California. He was awarded the Bronze Star and the Combat Infantryman's Badge; and his Division won the Presidential Citation for actions taking over an industrial complex in Germany.

Upon the end of the war, he returned to Muskingum, married his college sweetheart, Lois McClarren, and completed college. John and Lois ultimately moved back to Lakewood, and after working a few jobs, he was hired by the American Greeting Card Company as Plant Manager.



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From there he took a position as Director of Maintenance for University Hospitals of Cleveland, where he stayed until his retirement. He was an excellent tennis player, a well-known soloist in the Greater Cleveland area, and a founding member of the West Shore Chorale.

He lived at his home on Manor Park with his daughter/caregiver, Nancy, until moving into O'Neill Health Care last fall, where he received excellent care.

He celebrated his 100th birthday July 13, 2025 with many friends and family, some coming from as far away as Seattle, Washington, Orlando, Florida and Loring, Ontario, Canada. At his birthday celebration, he was presented with a "Celebrating 100 years" memory photo book with many pictures and tributes from family members.

He was also presented with a proclamation from the City of Lakewood, read in person by Lakewood Mayor Meghan George, as well as a proclamation from the State of Ohio.

(Optional) In lieu of flowers, memorials in John's name may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. To donate, link to <https://www.stjude.com> and then click on Ways to Give.

To share a memory of John, please click on the 'Tribute' tab at the top of this obituary page.



Events

John Edward Noran

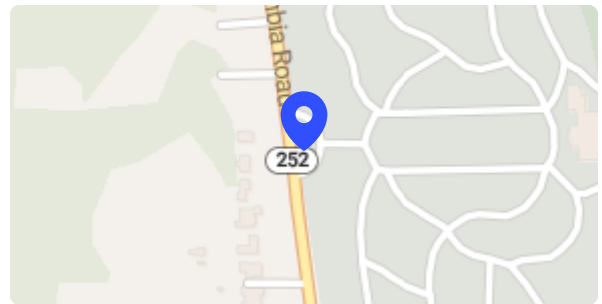
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Cemetery Details



Sunset Memorial Park

6265 Columbia Road, North Olmsted OH 44070





Tribute Wall

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JM

Jim McClelland posted:

Mr. Noran, was my dads best friend for? 30 years or so. I worked in johns maintenance department at UH for 14 years. A finer boss you couldn't ask for. Just a fine fine honest man. I shall truly miss him. Love to all jim McClelland

December 1 at 9:31 PM

DW

Deb Welker posted:

My heartfelt condolences are with each of you. Uncle John was a robust man who offered a smile and hug as he shared kind words of his love or pride of watching the progress of my adulthood. His assurance met the world to me. My childhood memories reflect back to our family gatherings. Thanksgiving was the treasured holiday as we gathered together, whether we met at our grandparents' farm or your Lakewood family home. It is difficult to accept his loss, yet I cannot help but think of the rejoicing that happened the day he arrived in Heaven. Aunt Lois' face comes to mind, her twinkling eyes, sweet precious smile and the tender hugs she was so willing to give. Although I live miles away from each of you, my heart is with you. We have great memories. We were taught the priorities in life and how to extend that love to the ones we hold dear.

November 13 at 3:27 PM

JN

James Noran posted:

The most vivid recollections I have of Dad (when I was very young) revolve around baseball and softball. One of my earliest memories is Dad taking me to a vacant lot at Detroit Avenue and Edwards Avenue (which later became Edwards Park) to play catch, since there wasn't enough room in our lot on Hall Avenue and it wasn't safe to play catch in the street. Also, he would take me to his American Greetings League softball games, which were held all over Greater Cleveland (mostly the West Side) and I would watch him play left field and bat left-handed. Originally, he played for Maintenance, but he changed to play with Shipping because they always had the best teams. I learned a lot about the real world from interacting with the players on the Shipping team. He took me to Cleveland Municipal Stadium to watch our beloved Indians and Browns play Major League ball. We saw Oscar Robertson and the Cincinnati Royals when they came to town. And who can forget seeing the Cleveland Barons play AHL Hockey at the Cleveland Arena? But it wasn't all about sports. He pulled us to the train tracks on a Radio Flyer Wagon when a train went by. He pulled us on a sled after it snowed, and he also made a "Fox and Geese" track after a snow where we played a modified version of tag. And who could forget "Space Guns?" Dad, for all you did for us kids - THANKS A MILLION!

November 13 at 12:57 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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