



## John Russell Cunningham

December 7, 1939 - November 21, 2025

John Russell Cunningham, 85, of Mason City, IL, passed away on Friday, November 21, 2025, at OSF in Peoria. John was born on December 7, 1939, to his parents, Robert Cecil Cunningham and Clara Lenora Cunningham (nee Steubinger) in Easton, Illinois. He graduated from Peoria Manual High School where he played football.

John married his sweetheart, Janet Marie Leinweber, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in rural Manito, Illinois, on November 8, 1959. Throughout their sixty-six years of marriage, they were inseparable. She survives, along with three children: Becky Allen (John); Linda Allen (Andy); and Lori Worner (Steve); grandchildren, Shelley Klingbeil (Kent), Jason Allen (Christy), Alicia Hernan (Will), Abby McCarty (Ryan), Kristin Harman (Zach), Cole Allen (fiancé, Morgan), Katie Worner, Kyle Worner, Jenna Worner, and Bailey Worner, as well as 12 great-grandchildren. John was preceded in death by his parents, and his siblings: Bob Cunningham, Stan Cunningham, Betty Onken, and James Cunningham.

John was a devoted husband and loved his family. He worked hard farming for 50 years. He put up one of the first irrigations in Mason County. He also loved to have fun - whether it was pulling the sled behind a tractor (doing his best to make everyone fly off the back), taking off on the wave runners, snow skiing down a mountain, or water skiing on the Illinois River. He was always ready to

navigate and go anywhere on a boat. He once headed north in a ski boat along Lake Michigan after warnings from the Coast Guard to turn around. John was also known to make people laugh with his quick wit and sense of humor.

A funeral service will be held at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in rural San Jose, 15757 N CR 3600E on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at 1pm, with Pastor Offerman to officiate. The family will receive friends from 11am until service time. Burial will immediately follow the service at Mason City Cemetery.

Memorials can be made in John's memory to St. Luke's Lutheran Church, of which he was a member. Hurley Funeral Home in Mason City, IL, has been entrusted with John's arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Mason City Cemetery

N pierce St  
Mason City, IL 62664

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 25. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

St. Luke Lutheran Church  
15757 NCR 3600E  
San Jose, IL 62682

## Funeral Service

NOV 25. 1:00 PM (CT)

St. Luke Lutheran Church  
15757 NCR 3600E  
San Jose, IL 62682

# Tribute Wall

RP

“ *Dearest Family  
So very sorry to hear  
You are all in our hearts, sending prayers for  
strength & healing  
Randy & Pam Phelps*



Randy & Pam Phelps - November 24, 2025 at 10:20 PM

LH

“ *Larry And Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in  
memory of John Russell Cunningham*



Larry and Mary Hundt - November 24, 2025 at 07:02 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for  
the family of John Russell Cunningham.*



November 24, 2025 at 03:09 PM

SM

“ *Sunrise FS Manito planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Russell  
Cunningham.*

Sunrise FS Manito - November 24, 2025 at 02:29 PM

SM

“ Sunrise FS Manito purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John Russell Cunningham.



---

Sunrise FS Manito - November 24, 2025 at 02:29 PM

KB

“ When I was a teenager working at Knuppel's in the mid seventies . John came in as he and so many locals did . He asked me to replace one of his headlights in his pickup . Which I did, he bragged about how bright it was ! He beamed for about week and then it burned out . Turns out it was for a 6 volt system so I replaced it again . We laughed about it for decades ! He was quite a character . He always gave me a hard time which I always enjoyed . I'll miss him he always was a bright spot in my day .

---

Kevin Bare - November 24, 2025 at 12:15 PM

TC

“ Trisha, Clayton & Michael Culbertson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Russell Cunningham.

---

Trisha, Clayton & Michael Culbertson - November 24, 2025 at 10:17 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Russell Cunningham.



---

November 24, 2025 at 10:17 AM

WR

“ *With deepest sympathy, Love Liz Rizzo purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of John Russell Cunningham.*



---

**With deepest sympathy, Love Liz Rizzo** - November 23, 2025  
at 11:26 PM

CH

“ *My sincere condolences to John’s family. Praying that God will bring comfort and peace to you all.  
I am sorry I cannot be at the funeral, I will be in Michigan.*

*Love, Cheryl Harfst*

---

**Cheryl Harfst** - November 23, 2025 at 10:02 PM

DV

“ *Dave Vaughn lit a candle in memory of John Russell Cunningham*



---

**Dave Vaughn** - November 23, 2025 at 08:01 PM

MP

“ *John will forever be missed. Thoughts and prayers to his family during this time!*

---

**Megan Purdy-McFarland** - November 23, 2025 at 05:50 PM

LA

“ *Larry/Kim Allen lit a candle in memory of John Russell Cunningham*



---

**Larry/Kim Allen** - November 23, 2025 at 04:49 PM

BY

“ *Sincere condolences from my family to yours...Beverly Young*



---

**Beverly Young** - November 23, 2025 at 04:35 PM

LY

“ *Lynne lit a candle in memory of John Russell Cunningham*



---

**Lynne** - November 23, 2025 at 04:28 PM