



John William McNaughton

October 1, 1943 - March 11, 2022

John W. McNaughton, 78, beloved son, husband, father, and grandfather passed away Friday, March 11, 2022.

John graduated from Ball State University and then worked as a designer for General Motors. Returning to Ball State, he obtained a MA, then earned his MFA at Bowling Green State University.

In 1970, he began his career with Indiana State University Evansville (now USI). He worked diligently with fellow faculty expanding the art department into the state-of-the-art program it is today. Several of his students achieved great success which brought him tremendous pride.

He was listed in *Who's Who of American Artists* and his work has been featured in 30 publications. John exhibited in art galleries from New York to Los Angeles and is in the permanent collections of the White House, the Smithsonian, USI, Evansville Museum of Arts, History and Science, and the David Owsley Museum of Art at Ball State University among many others.

After thirty-five years as a professor of art at USI, John retired in 2006. Then he devoted the rest of his career to creating sculpture in his personal studio. Although retired, he continued to be a prolific artist producing some of his most profound sculptures.

John's life exemplified Madeline Bridges writing, "Give to the world the best you have, and the best will come back to you." He was fun loving, adventurous, compassionate, an avid golfer, enjoyed spending time with family and friends, and had an infectious laugh.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Kathie; daughters, Carole McNaughton and Jill Nolan, their spouses Tonya Lamer and Pat Nolan; grandchildren Kylie Nolan and Erin Nolan.

Visitation will be held Saturday, March 19 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at Pierre Funeral Home, 2601 W. Franklin Street, Evansville, IN 47712.

Memorial contributions can be made to the USI Art Department (reference John W. McNaughton Award for Excellence in Woodworking).

Condolences may be made online at www.pierrefuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Evansville Crematory

318 N. Lemcke Ave.
Evansville, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 19. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Pierre Funeral Home
2601 West Franklin Street
Evansville, IN 47712
(812) 423-6471
info@pierrefuneralhome.com
<https://www.pierrefuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Pierre Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John William McNaughton*



Pierre Funeral Home - March 19, 2022 at 09:24 AM



“ *John William McNaughton*

January 16, 2023 at 06:53 PM



“ *John and i were both members of the "Class of 1970"--a large number of faculty who joined ISUE that year and helped transform it from a hanger-on to an established university. Though we worked in different departments, we crossed paths often (difficult not to do when your offices are all in the same building!) and that continued outside of school as well. John's interest in antique toys merged with my interest in vintage model trains and we often compared notes and ran into each other at flea markets. In recent years as we were both retired I used to run into him at Schnucks and we never failed to stop, chat, and compare notes. As everyone knows, John's work is literally all around us here in Evansville. Nonetheless, he will be missed.*

John Gottcent

John Gottcent - March 19, 2022 at 11:25 AM



“ 101 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Pierre Funeral Home - March 19, 2022 at 09:22 AM



“ Aunt Kathie, Jill, and Carole,
I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I was so fortunate to have enjoyed being in the presence of Uncle John. He truly was so magical and loving. I'll always cherish the memories of being around him at the house and the Saturday morning pet parade complete with playing carnival games! Wishing you all peace in your hearts.
Love, Casey Hahn

Casey Hahn - March 18, 2022 at 06:04 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of John William McNaughton.



March 18, 2022 at 10:07 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John William McNaughton.*



March 18, 2022 at 09:27 AM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of John William McNaughton.*



March 17, 2022 at 07:26 AM



“ *Dearest Carole and Family, my deepest sympathies at the loss of such a great man. I know he will be truly missed. I know wonderful memories of him and his legacies will sustain your through these difficult times. Much love, Jon Faust*

Jon Faust - March 16, 2022 at 10:05 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of John William McNaughton.*



March 15, 2022 at 05:20 PM

JM

“ Jennifer McDonald lit a candle in memory of John William McNaughton



Jennifer McDonald - March 15, 2022 at 01:59 PM

BP

“ Dear Jill, I was sad to hear that your Dad had passed away. While I was reading through all of the comments people have made I couldn't help but think about the wonderful legacy he left. That's why we are put on this earth, isn't it? You should feel proud. But I'll bet if you asked him, he would say that his most important contribution to this world was you, your sister and the many years he shared with your Mom. Give your Mom a hug for me.

Love, Beth (Jenny's Mom)

PS The year you and Jenny lived with me after graduation I will always remember as one of the best ever. We had so much fun.

Beth Powers - March 15, 2022 at 01:40 PM

CR

“ We were shocked and sad to hear about John. He was a kind man. Bless you, Kathie.

Carolyn Roth and Charlie Barber

Carolyn Roth - March 15, 2022 at 01:36 PM

KM

John Mcnaughton inspired me in the direction I am today. As a student with an unknown future John recognized my creative functional direction, thus inspiring me to go into Industrial Design. He helped me to find a summer job in wood working with a local artist (1989-1990). Then He helped me find a program at SIU where I met my wife and set off on my career direction. I have continuously praised John throughout my life and only wish he would of knew how much of an impact he was in my life. I also give him credit to my past history of toy collection. :)

John you will always be remembered & honored.

Keith Metcalf

Keith Metcalf - March 20, 2022 at 05:44 PM

KP

“*Dear Jill, I am so, so sorry to hear about the passing of your beloved father. May the Lord surround you and your family with His angels and keep you safe and bring you comfort. With all my love and prayers, Kimber*



Kimber Bentley Parks - March 15, 2022 at 10:38 AM

BI

“*I took John's woodworking classes as well as design in materials classes at USI in the late 90s to 2000s. He was an awesome teacher and encourager. His passion for the arts was contagious and I enjoyed my time with him at USI. He wasn't afraid to let students take risks with their work as it allowed them to explore the possibilities with their design. Many times the failures of my work were the greatest teaching I received. His encouragement through the failures and the praises during successes are forever engrained on me. I was glad to know him.*

Bill - March 15, 2022 at 09:53 AM

BB

“ I am truly saddened to hear of John's passing. John was my instructor at USI. I originally went to school for elementary education. I think I took an some form of art class that brought me to the woodshop; the smell of the shop was all it took to make me switch majors. Immediately. I had always loved industrial arts classes in high school, and making my way through the woodshop brought me home.

John was a tremendous human being. He was always passionate about everything he did--and you too. As in, if you are a lazy, entitled college student with a penchant for skipping class, he was NOT EVEN CLOSE TO AFRAID to tell you off for said idiot behavior and put the fear of God in you. Ask me how I know.

I have often thought fondly of John and his wife through the years--it's been 25 now since I first met John. He truly was a wonderful person, a true mentor and friend to all around him. I'm so thankful he shared his talent with the world. Prayers for peace and comfort to his wife and daughters.

Benicia Broeker - March 15, 2022 at 08:19 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John William McNaughton.



March 15, 2022 at 07:02 AM

JC

“ John and I were first cousins (his Dad and my Mother were brother and sister) and we visited each other a lot when we were little boys - I to Muncie and he to Connersville. Our families also went on vacations to Miami Beach, Florida for a number of summers when we were little boys. We had great times together on the beach, in the ocean, swimming to the sand bar, eating at Howard Johnson's restaurant with their "28 flavors of ice cream," eating breakfast together in the motel restaurant and pancakes or waffles and bacon and talking to Al the chef who was from Romania and talking to the waitress for years who was a wonderful waitress and was always nice to us and took care of us real well.

One summer weekend (when we were probably 11 years old) he was visiting me in Connersville. We went over in the mid-summer morning to the baseball field two blocks from my home and getting near the factories and where all the factory workers parked their cars right over the 7 foot fence of the baseball field.

Well, John and I were playing home run derby to see who could hit it over the fence the most. I was right-handed; so, I hit it over the left-field fence. John was left-handed; so, when he came up to bat, he hit it over the right-field fence.

Behind the right field fence was an off-street where factory workers parked their cars and then walked a block or so to the factory.

One time, John (I called him "Johnnie" back then!) hit a home run with the ball going over the right field fence.

The problem was that the ball hit the front right window of the car and smashed it!

We walked out there and at first, we were shocked and did not know what to do.

Then I went up to the car and opened the car and rolled down the

broken window (it was an warm summer day), thinking that when the worker comes back from the work day, he will not notice the window, maybe until he gets home!

We laughed at this that we laughed so hard that we both fell on the ground laughing!!!

Now, what actually happened to the worker when he came to his car hours later--we do not know. We just knew that we wanted to "be out of there" by then!!!

Anyway, Johnnie and I remembered that and laughed about that for years!

Close cousin,

Jim Crone

James Alan Crone - March 14, 2022 at 06:42 PM

BS

“*Dear Kathie, Carole and Jill. Our hearts go out to you and your families on your loss. May you find peace and comfort knowing that he left such a great legacy through family and art - those things will never go away. His vision and smile will be missed, but the memories will help to sustain you through this difficult time. All our love and sympathies -*
Michelle and Ben Spedding

Ben and Michelle Spedding - March 14, 2022 at 02:10 PM

MJ

“*John was my mentor , a friend and one of the most awesome artist I've known . I will never forget him . He will be missed but never forgotten*

Mike Weidner Jr - March 14, 2022 at 01:18 PM



“ *John was such an inspiration. Without his guidance I would not have the career I do. I will forever be grateful to him.*
-Alena Kiefer

Alena Kiefer - March 14, 2022 at 01:15 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of John William McNaughton.*



March 14, 2022 at 09:42 AM

DE

“ Dear Kathie, Carole and Jill. Tonight, we learned of John's death and we are so very saddened by this news. We have so many wonderful memories of John, dating back to the Bowling Green days and of course, our years together at ISUE. As a colleague of his for seven years in Evansville and during the 1970's and the forming of that art program, I was always so impressed with his talent, his dedication, and his vision of what an excellent art program should contain. We dreamed of what we could do to put ISUE Art in a respected position in the region. It was such an honor to be a part of those early years working with him, developing curriculum, faculty and facility. His work was amazing; often poignant, humorous and insightfully powerful all at the same time. We treasure all the memories we have of him outside of the art department too, including his great laugh and interesting dance moves, skating and swimming parties on your lake. We send our love to you Kathie and think of you now during this difficult time.

Kathie, we are sorry we will not be able to attend since we will be in California for my sisters memorial at that time.

*Our love,
Dan and Jean Engelke*

Dan Engelke - March 13, 2022 at 10:49 PM

TW

“ Dear Kathie, Carole and Jill, I am so sorry to hear about “Johnny Mac's” passing! I have such great memories of his visits to the Wallaces in Indy! John mesmerized us by his humor, wit and descriptions of his latest wood sculptures he was creating! We were all so proud of his work! I wish we could have seen more of him in recent years! He will be missed by so many people! Live, Terry Wallace and family

Terry Wallace - March 13, 2022 at 09:57 PM

LR

“ John was an amazing individual! Truly one of the great gentleman which is rare to find these days. He loved his family with all his heart and always treated people as if they were part of his family! He was an incredible husband, dad and grandfather and friend. He will be missed by anyone that knew him.

One of the best gifts I ever received was from John. I was invited to John and Kathie's house one year for Thanksgiving when I was going through a tough time. He taught me how to me how to "shoot the crouch" when opening a bottle of Prosecco. This involved trying to shoot the cork through the Y of a tree in their backyard. We had a great time that evening trying to accomplish this task. A month later at a Christmas dinner at the Nolan's, John handed me a gift. I unwrapped it to find a sculpture of a Y of a tree with a cork through it that John had created just for me! He was so talented and I very much appreciated the thought and his humor!! I will treasure the gift forever! RIP my dear friend.



Lisa Ripley - March 13, 2022 at 05:53 PM

LG

“ This man is truly one of the greats. I had him for Illustration at USI. We hit it off immediately. He convinced me that I had to try his woodworking class. That I would absolutely love it. After Woodworking 1, I was hooked. I took 2 more woodworking classes with him after that. None of my ideas were too big and man did I have some big ideas. He said I could do anything I wanted but that it might just take some time. I would tell him I'm good with that and he would help me figure out how to make my ideas come to life. That was John McNaughton to me. Always encouraging, positive, patient, excited for new ideas and how to make them become a reality for his students. He encouraged me to enter the USI art show. From that I sold a table and won an award that show. Something I never would have thought of doing without his encouragement. I feel blessed to have known him and have had him as a teacher. He was insanely talented as well. The best to learn from. He will be missed. ❤️😭

Lisa Lorenz Grantz - March 13, 2022 at 04:52 PM

RC

John was my art teacher in 1972 and his classes were not only highly instructional, but fun as well! He was such a ball of humorous energy as he went from student to student, encouraging and/ or correcting them in their work. Oftentimes, he would be working on one of his pieces and all of us students were in awe of his talent and amazing ideas. I have never had such an amazing instructor in any class and am so thankful for his guidance that gave me the courage to start my own decorative art business years later. He will always be remembered with such joy and gratitude as I look at the art hanging on my walls in Chattanooga that I created in his classes. My heartfelt condolences to his family on their loss of this one in a million man. Robin Church

Robin Church - March 14, 2022 at 02:49 PM

SC

John was my art instructor in the early 1970s. His classes were fun and instructional. He was always encouraging. He will be missed. My condolences to his family.

Stanley M. Campbell

Stanley Campbell - March 14, 2022 at 04:02 PM

EN

March 18, 2022

Dear Kathie, Carole and Jill,

Dottie and I are so sorry to learn about John's passing. As we think back on our time in Evansville, we remember having a lot of fun dining in your lovely house, swimming in the pond and, most important, fishing for bass. Also memorable were the rides we took with the kids in Roy, the old pickup truck I brought with me from Iowa City, where I attended graduate school. With you and John we started a tradition of dining out on Friday nights at Funkies, which we have continued to this day with a group in Middlebury that we call Pizza Night. One thing that I, Dottie, would like to add is how much I enjoyed the fact that John had a genuine silly side. He laughed easily over simple, funny things and got everyone else laughing too. One time we had all gone to the racetrack. There was a horse we decided to bet on who was named BooBooShoo! I can still remember John cracking up as he yelled, "Go BooBooShoo!" It still makes me laugh to think of it!

I benefitted a great deal from my professional relationship with John at ISUE as the Art Studio Technician and as his leave replacement during my final year in Evansville. As he was with everyone he worked with, including faculty colleagues and students, John was patient, kind and respectful of the other person's knowledge and intentions when it came to teaching or making art. John taught by example, in that he made his own sculpture and furniture design work in the studio at ISUE along with his students. I learned a lot from John's temperament and approach and have applied it to my own teaching over the past forty years. I also saw how, with his colleagues, he developed a program, a curriculum, and a facility at ISUE that was recognized for its quality in the greater Evansville region and beyond.

When we look back at our time in Evansville we think fondly of the good times we had with John and you, Kathie, along with Carole and Jill. May the memory of John and his legacy sustain you and your daughters at this difficult time.

Love, Eric and Dottie Nelson

Eric and Dottie Nelson - March 18, 2022 at 03:50 PM