



John Edward Monzingo

June 1, 1934 - April 15, 2021

John Edward Monzingo 6/1/1934 – 4/15/2021

John Edward Monzingo passed away on April 15, 2021, at the age of 87. He was at home with his family at the time of his passing. Dr. Monzingo was born on June 1, 1934, to Earl and Minnie (Miller) Monzingo in Fairview, Oklahoma. He was the 6th of 7 children, and the last born before their move to California in 1937.

He loved telling stories about his time growing up in Compton, CA. His family lived in a garage that had been sectioned off for a semblance of privacy, but there was no shortage of shenanigans with 5 older siblings and a baby brother in such tight quarters. His favorite part of living in a garage was instead of having a regular front door, they had large barn-style sliding doors, and he loved to pull them open.

He also recalled how the Internment of Japanese Americans radically changed his world view and started his interest in politics. He remembered watching neighborhood families reluctantly getting ready to leave, and then one day nearly a third of his second grade classmates were gone. He never saw his friends again and was forever shaped by the injustice of it.

At age 18, John started an Electrical Construction Worker apprenticeship and then worked as an electrician while furthering his education. He was a proud member of his union, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, for 15 years.

John met his wife of 57 years, Carolyn (Berry), at Pasadena City College soon after he started his higher education. They were married in 1963 in Pasadena, California, and remained there while John finished his PhD at Claremont Graduate University and taught at California State University at Los Angeles.

In 1970, John accepted an offer to join the political science department at NDSU in Fargo, ND. During his 33 years at NDSU, he was instrumental in establishing the Tri-College

chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha and served as advisor for 25 years. John made many lifelong friends while on the NDSU campus. The John Monzingo Political Science Writing Award was established at his retirement because he always felt strongly about the English language, research, and expression.

John and Carolyn raised two children in North Fargo. He claimed to never regret leaving sunny California for freezing North Dakota because it was just better here. And, although he moved several times since arriving in Fargo, all three of his houses were within one and a half blocks of each other in his favorite North Fargo neighborhood.

He loved spending time in the garage using his woodworking tools and was very skilled in making things. He completed countless projects and was always fixing something. When his children were young, he coached many softball teams, led a Boy Scout troop, and, with family, drove to many of the National Parks between the Mississippi River and the Pacific Ocean.

He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Monzingo, his son Peter Monzingo (Dana Jenkins), his daughter Elizabeth Monzingo (Derek Kube), and his granddaughter Olivia Jenkins.

John's family is grateful to his care team at Fargo Sanford Hospice. Without the caring support and expertise of the nurses, social workers, and CNAs, we would not have navigated these uncharted waters so well. Thank you for this gift.

In lieu of flowers, please send a contribution to one of the following:

Sanford Hospice
820 4th St. N #0274
Fargo, ND 58122

NDSU Foundation
P.O. Box 5144
Fargo, ND 58105

In the memo line, indicate either the Monzingo Writing Award or the Pi Sigma Alpha Outstanding Political Science Student Scholarship.

Events

AUG **Celebration of Life** 03:00PM

1
Unitarian Universalist Church of Fargo Moorhead
121 9th St. S., Fargo, ND, US, 58103

Comments



“ I greatly enjoyed John's friendship. For many years, we shared the same office alcove on fourth floor Minard Hall. Also, for many years, I joined John in working on projects to support local candidates. I remember painting and repainting plywood signs for several different local campaigns and joining both John and Carolyn in backyard political picnics. One of my favorite memories was returning from a lunch-hour swim on a cold, dry day and entering our alcove just as John was coming out of his office. He looked at me, startled, and asked, "What the hell happened to your hair?" He looked quite concerned.
My very thin hair was going in all directions after the swim and in the extremely dry air. Well, that was a confidence builder right before going into class! But, it made me burst out laughing because that was pure John. He said exactly what was on his mind, and he cared about others. I prized our friendship.

GEORGE YOUNGS - April 27 at 10:21 AM



“ Dear Carolyn and the Monzingo Family, We were so sorry to hear about John's passing. He was an NDSU colleague of Tim's for many years. How John loved to share political jokes and humor! May many wonderful memories sustain and comfort you at this difficult time.
Tim & Rosi Klobberdanz

Timothy J Klobberdanz - April 24 at 11:53 AM



“ My sincere sympathy to you, Carolyn, on the passing of your dear husband, John. I have fond memories of the good humor, political perspective and action, hospitality and friendship you both have given so generously. John's mischievous friendship with Lew was certainly memorable too.
Sending you and your family the blessings of fond memories,
Rhonda Loberg

Rhonda Loberg - April 22 at 04:54 PM



“ So many memories from my time at Social Sciences, too many to recount. Please know that I am thinking about you, Carolyn, as well as Pete, Elizabeth and Olivia.



Janis Kirsch - April 22 at 03:39 PM



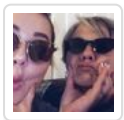
“ Carolyn,
I am so very sorry for the loss of your husband. Know that I am thinking of and praying for you at this difficult time. May your memories of fun times spent together with John bring you some comfort as you grieve his loss. Hugs to you.
Katie Wangstad

Katherine Wangstad - April 21 at 11:31 AM



“ I was lucky enough to have Dr. Monzingo as a teacher when I was at NDSU in the early 80's. I don't remember all my college instructors, but I remember him. He made his class very interesting and was a very knowledgeable, fair, and kind teacher. It sounds like he led a wonderful life and had a positive influence on a lot of people. Prayers to his family. This world will miss him.

Bill Ibach - April 18 at 05:54 PM



“ Dear, Aunt Carolyn, much love to you and the family. Love, Suzanne

Suzanne Firlotte - April 18 at 12:11 PM



“ Dear Carolyn, my heart goes out to you today. John added much to our world, and he will be missed by many. I share in your sorrow. Jim Fuglie

Jim Fuglie - April 18 at 10:18 AM



“ My heart goes out to Carolyn and family. Thinking of you today.

Emily Hilgers - April 17 at 02:58 PM