



## John Folsom Jr.

September 9, 1952 - September 19, 2015

John Folsom, Jr., age 63, passed away suddenly on Saturday, September 19, 2015 in Mt. Pleasant. John was born the son of the late John and Virginia (Drake) Folsom on September 9, 1952 in Anderson, Indiana. He was united in marriage to Jill Kapplinger on December 16, 1972. John was a graduate of C.M.U. in 1976 with a Bachelors Degree in Education. Through his work in education, he was a High School Math Teacher for 16 years, worked in the Michigan Migrant Education program before working for the Michigan Education Association as a Labor Consultant for 25 years. He was a strong advocate for public education. He believed all members of public education were essential to a child's growth and education. John had been active in youth sports and greatly enjoyed vacationing at the various Disney Properties. He was a huge Michigan State Spartan fan and enjoyed going to movies, fishing, ball games, spending time at the lake and campfires. John's greatest importance was the time he spent with his family.

Survivors include his wife Jill; children, John M. (Amy) Folsom III, Cindy Jo (Tony) Kirby, Greg Thomas (Danielle) Folsom and Jarrod William (Jennifer) Folsom; sisters, Sherry (Bob) Phillips and Gail (Matt) Hefner; a brother Dave (Alicia) Folsom; grandchildren Connor and Owen Folsom, Taryn, Alex and Gavin Kirby, Natalie, Steven, Gabby and Tara Folsom and Liam and Claire Folsom; as was as many nieces and nephews.

Services will take place at the Clare United Methodist Church on Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at 2 P.M. with Pastor John Kasper officiating. Visitation

will be at the Farwell Chapel of Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home on Tuesday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 P.M. as well as at the church on Wednesday from 1 to 2 P.M. Memorial Contributions may be made to the American Heart Association. On-line condolences may be made at [www.stephenson-wyman.com](http://www.stephenson-wyman.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **22**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Stephenson - Wyman Funeral Home (Farwell)  
165 South Hall St.  
P.O. Box 231  
Farwell, MI 48622  
(989) 588-9630  
wymanh@chartermi.net  
<https://www.stephenson-wyman.com/>

## Visitation

SEP **22**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Stephenson - Wyman Funeral Home (Farwell)  
165 South Hall St.  
P.O. Box 231  
Farwell, MI 48622  
(989) 588-9630  
wymanh@chartermi.net  
<https://www.stephenson-wyman.com/>

## Visitation

SEP **23**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Clare United Methodist Church  
105 E. Seventh Street  
Clare, MI 48617

## Service

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SEP **23**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Clare United Methodist Church  
105 E. Seventh Street  
Clare, MI 48617

# Tribute Wall

CS

“ Our deepest condolences to John's family and friends. We appreciate the work John did with our organization.

*Fulton Education Association*

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**Cari Smith** - September 24, 2015 at 08:46 AM

FB

“ John was a good friend and colleague. He and I got the opportunity to work together many times. He was a true advocate, always smiling, very giving of himself. He will be missed. My heartfelt prayers go out to his family and friends at this difficult time. May we be comforted by wonderful memories.

*Fred Baker*

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**Fred Baker** - September 23, 2015 at 09:46 AM

MN

“ To the Folsom family-I was very sad to hear of John's passing. He was a great guy and spoke often of his family, the joy of his lake home, and about the time he spent on vacations. I've had the pleasure of working under his guidance in union matters at Birch Run Schools for a number of years. He led us through some pretty rough times with conviction in his heart and a smile on his face. He had so many life experiences and loved to tell a story. He was a true fighter for his union brothers and sisters. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers as you heal from the loss of this wonderful person.

*Marilyn Napolitano, Birch Run ESPA*

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**Marilyn Napolitano** - September 22, 2015 at 02:55 PM

MC

“ *My thoughts and prayers to the Folsom family. I grew up with John in Alma, so many good memoires as a Cub Scout and Boy Scout. Being a couple years older than me, I looked up to John in my youth. John was a heck of a football player in high school, I knew when I handed the ball off to him someone was going to get pounded. I am saddened that his time on earth was cut short. Peace with you all! :(*  
*Michael Covington*

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**Michael Covington** - September 22, 2015 at 01:59 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Folsom Jr..*



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September 22, 2015 at 01:05 PM

KP

“ *Kriss & Renee Klaus, Primerica purchased the Basket of Joy for the family of John Folsom Jr..*



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**Kriss & Renee Klaus, Primerica** - September 22, 2015 at 10:55 AM

NO

“ *Nora, Burt and Ethel (Cass City MEA office) purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of John Folsom Jr..*



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**Nora, Burt and Ethel (Cass City MEA office)** - September 22, 2015 at 09:00 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Folsom Jr..*



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September 22, 2015 at 07:37 AM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of John Folsom Jr..*



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September 22, 2015 at 07:31 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Folsom Jr..*



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September 21, 2015 at 09:45 PM

TP

“ *Jill, we are so sorry for your loss. John truly gave so much of himself and never asked for anything in return. He did all he could for MEA members and so much more for his PSA brothers and sisters. John was our Columbo and always right on time with a thought or an answer. His sense of humor was undeniable and his wit was one not to tangle with. He so loved his family vacations. I remember an NEA training in Denver in which we just had to go up those mountains to the casino, for you know he could never pass up a casino. Let's just say after that ride, around the bends and curves, watching the rocks fall down the edge of the cliff I put my trust in John and I never looked back. Thank you for sharing him with us! He may be gone, but he will never be forgotten. Tanya & Ervin Pratt*



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**Tanya & Ervin Pratt** - September 21, 2015 at 09:06 PM

TO

“ *Tom&Beth&Bob&Marilyn&Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John Folsom Jr..*



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**Tom&Beth&Bob&Marilyn&Family** - September 21, 2015 at 07:20 PM

MH

“ Dear Jill and Family. I was absolutely stunned and saddened when I heard the news of John's passing. I have know him for the past 30 years when I became active in MEA staff union activities. He was always knowledgeable about member rights which he never failed to pass on to others. He and I always shared a laugh even when times weren't funny. I remember a time when I was sending him directions using my so-called 'smartphone'. The phone wasn't so smart when it substituted the name of a street with a female body part. Needless to say I was embarrassed but it was so funny. All John would say was "I'm not familiar with that street" while laughing his head off.

*John, my brother, you will be missed but never, ever forgotten. May the family find peace that passes all understanding during this difficult time but may the memories carry you forward.*

*Mary Henson  
MEA UniServ Director and  
PSA Sister*

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**Mary Henson** - September 21, 2015 at 06:56 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Folsom Jr..



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September 21, 2015 at 03:43 PM

CA

“ My condolences to your family. John was a great person and passionate advocate for his members. He was not only a colleague but also a good friend. John was always quick with a joke and fun to be around...The staff meetings will never be the same. He will be deeply missed!!

Cyndi Austin

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**Cyndi Austin** - September 21, 2015 at 02:52 PM

PM

“ To Jill and Family:

*I was so very sad to hear of John's passing. I worked with him as a local MEA leader, sharing many hard work sessions and many laughs as well. He was a great friend, a great supporter, and a strong advocate for educators. I'll miss his dedication and his wit. My deepest condolences to all of you.*

Peggy McLellan

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**Peggy McLellan** - September 21, 2015 at 02:07 PM

LM

“ Jill and Family, I'm so sorry to hear about John. My heart is heavy and sad. John was a great guy! I could always count on him for sound advise, a funny story and a good laugh. Over our many working lunches, he shared stories about his children, grand-kids, the cabin and his vacations at Disney. He was very proud of his family and the life he built with you Jill. He will be missed by so many people. I'm so sorry

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**Lisa Maike** - September 21, 2015 at 01:32 PM

MH

“ Dear Jill, My deepest condolences to you and your family. I am the USO Bargaining Chair and have worked closely with John during the course of bargaining. He was amazingly funny and quick witted. We laughed every time we met. We also worked on a bargaining module training last winter that we laughed our way through. He was a great UD, colleague and friend. I will miss him greatly. May you and your family find peace in the memories he left you with.  
Sincerely, Marcy Hartung UD Jackson

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**Marcy Hartung** - September 21, 2015 at 01:10 PM

SZ

“ I am saddened to hear of John's passing. He had been a Uniserv Director for Cass City at one of our lowest times. I will not forget how hard he worked for our people. May his memory bring smiles in place of tears. Mrs. Sean L. Zawilinski

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**Sean L. Zawilinski** - September 21, 2015 at 12:32 PM

MB

“ Dear John and Family,

*God's peace and comfort to you.*

*Sincerely yours,  
Matt Beyersdorf*

*Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.  
Psalm 116:15 English Standard Version*

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**Matt Beyersdorf** - September 21, 2015 at 11:36 AM

JM

“ *Jill, my condolences to you and your family. I had the opportunity to bargain against John for our current USO Main Table Contracts. His wit and down to earth attitude led to our development as friends. I had the upmost respect for John. He was a true advocate for his USO and PSA members. He has left a legacy with MEA.*

*Jim Munroe*

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**Jim Munroe** - September 21, 2015 at 11:26 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of John Folsom Jr..*



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September 21, 2015 at 11:07 AM

BT

“ I was shocked when the phone call came, yesterday. I had just spoken with John two weeks ago. I was looking forward to having him return to Cass City, as our Uniserv Director. I have known John for over 25 years. He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, who loved his family deeply. He often told funny stories about his children and grandchildren.

John was a fighter for teachers rights and for the human spirit. John was never the type of person to back down or not speak his mind. He was strong in his convictions and a true mentor to myself and many others.

In the last conversation that John and I shared, his first comment was, "Kid! Can't you play nice in the sandbox at USA? What do you have cooking up there now?" We both had a big laugh over that!

I am sending my deepest sympathy to his wife and his family. I will miss, John, very much.

Love and prayers,  
Barbara Tilt - USEA President  
tiltb@think-usa.org

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**Barbara (Merchant) Tilt** - September 21, 2015 at 10:31 AM

TG

“ John was a friend and my union brother. He was a great advocate for his members. He always knew how to brighten one's day. You will be missed, John, but never forgotten.

Tom Greene

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**Tom Greene** - September 21, 2015 at 09:31 AM

GS

“ *Jill and Family, John was one of the best men I ever knew. He was a great teacher as both my daughters will attest, a great advocate for education, and a great Union man. Everyone who knew him, including me, loved and admired him. Please accept my deepest condolences and sympathy for your loss. May John's soul rest in peace and his spirit live on through his children and grandchildren.*  
*Guy T. Sands*

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**Guy T Sands** - September 21, 2015 at 09:29 AM

HG

“ *Jill, my family's condolences to you and your family during this sad time with the loss of John. I enjoyed umpiring baseball with John, and especially the years John Sr. had the Fowler Alma team with John and Dave playing and we had the Ithaca Fowler team. Great times and good memories. Yours, Howard Gager and family.*

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**Howard Gager** - September 21, 2015 at 09:19 AM

PM

“ *Jarrold, I am sorry to hear of the loss of you Dad. Please know you and your family are in my prayers. Your Friend, Paul McLaughlin (Austin, TX.).*

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**Paul Mack** - September 21, 2015 at 08:56 AM

 Paula  
Weiss

“ *John, Amy and boys. I am sorry to hear about your loss. You all are in my prayers!*

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**Paula Weiss** - September 21, 2015 at 08:17 AM



“ *John was a friend and colleague who possessed great wit, class and who had an impeccable reputation as a union advocate and labor leader and was loved and respected by so many. He will be greatly missed but his memory will forever be with us*

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**Charles Agerstrand** - September 21, 2015 at 08:17 AM

SO

“ *Dear John, Amy, & Family: So very sorry to hear of the loss of your father. Thinking of you.*

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**Shelly Ouellette** - September 21, 2015 at 07:39 AM

SS

“ *Jill, I'm so sorry for your loss. I worked with both of you during my years at MESSA and remember you both so well. Remember the good times.*

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**Sarah Miller Schafer** - September 21, 2015 at 07:19 AM



“ *I knew John my whole career with MEA. He was a friend. So funny, nice, and down-to-earth. It is so hard to believe that he is gone. It seems like only yesterday he was advising me on which Disney resort to go to :)*

*Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers at such a difficult time.*

*Gretchen Dziadosz*

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**Gretchen Dziadosz** - September 21, 2015 at 07:17 AM

JB

“ *Jill, I am so sorry for your loss. My deepest sympathy goes out to you and your family.*

*Judy Brankel*

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**Judy Brankel** - September 21, 2015 at 07:13 AM

JD

“ *So many great, fun, and loving memories with John and Jill and the family. John talked about his family with pride and love. He was a good friend and our family will miss him. He had integrity except when it came to playing cards.*

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**Janie and Doc** - September 21, 2015 at 06:02 AM

JF

“ *Judy & Roberto Sena Gomes and Family purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of John Folsom Jr..*



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**Judy & Roberto Sena Gomes and Family** - September 21, 2015 at 05:48 AM

LG

“ *Lynda J Goward purchased the Secret Garden Basket for the family of John Folsom Jr..*



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**Lynda J Goward** - September 20, 2015 at 09:16 PM

DR

“ I am so saddened by this news. John made us laugh and brightened our days. Not only did we lose a colleague, but also a friend.

*My heart goes out to his family.*

*Donette Ramey*

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**donette ramey** - September 20, 2015 at 07:46 PM

TS

“ My deepest sympathy. John was very good at what he did and allowed me to bargain several contacts as a SNAP bargainer under his tutelage. He will be missed by many.

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**Todd Slater** - September 20, 2015 at 07:05 PM

NM

“ May God bless you and comfort your family in this time of need. John was enjoyable to work with and I will miss him as a mentor and friend. I have always had the utmost respect for him. He was always nice and respectful and just an all around good guy. He made a difference in the workplace. I am so sorry for your loss. He will be missed by many within the workplace and those he helped every day.

*Nora Martinez*

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**Nora Martinez** - September 20, 2015 at 05:10 PM

CS

“ Sending our thoughts and prayers to you Jill and the entire Folsom family. We have many great memories with your family and John will be greatly missed I know. Hugs, Ron and Carol Salladay

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**Carol Salladay** - September 20, 2015 at 04:35 PM