



## John P. Gretka

July 24, 1938 - July 4, 2017

John P. Gretka, age 79 of Farwell, passed away Tuesday, July 4, 2017 at his home surrounded by his family. John was born the son of John and Hazel (Lomas) Gretka on July 24, 1938 in Detroit. He enlisted in the U.S Coast Guard right out of High School; during his 22 year Coast Guard career he served in numerous duty stations including on the Coast Guard Ice Breaker Mackinaw WAGB 83. While serving in the Coast Guard he married the love of his life Carolyn Gyorkos on August 4, 1961 in Romulus, fathered five children and retired in 1977 as a Chief Petty Officer. He and Carolyn made their home in Farwell where he worked at the Farwell Area School as a bus driver and then a custodian. John will be remembered by his family as being amazing, thoughtful and loving.

Survivors include his sister Sarah (Bruce) Stav of Iowa, children John J. (Barbara) of Farwell, James (companion Cathy Doncoes) of Clare, Michael (Melanie) and Mark both of Farwell and Andrea Sargeant-Sharrah of White Cloud; 15 grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren and 2 great great grandchildren. John was predeceased by his wife Carolyn, his father John and mother Hazel and siblings Julia Aben and Roger.

Private services will take place with burial in the Gilmore Twp. Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or to the American Diabetes Association. Arrangements for cremation were handled by the Farwell Chapel of Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home. Online condolences may be left at [www.stephenson-wyman.com](http://www.stephenson-wyman.com)



# Cemetery Details

## **Gilmore Township Cemetery**

Farwell, MI 48622

# Tribute Wall

RO

“ Rob & Martha Ohler lit a candle in memory of John P. Gretka



Rob & Martha Ohler - July 11, 2017 at 01:09 PM

AT

“ Angela Thomas lit a candle in memory of John P. Gretka



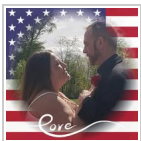
Angela Thomas - July 11, 2017 at 05:56 AM

SG

“ Shirley Grabon lit a candle in memory of John P. Gretka



Shirley Grabon - July 10, 2017 at 07:51 PM



“ My Dad has always been my light, my safe haven, my rock and best friend. Always there for me in good times and bad. The most giving and loving man. I'm blessed to have been chosen to be his daughter. I know he will be missed by many..I love you Dad  
Your Sweet pea ❤️❤️

Andrea Elizabeth - July 10, 2017 at 07:23 PM

CK

*Behind every good teacher are great janitors. John was one of the best! Whatever we needed he found time to do what was asked. He was that kind of person. Always doing things for others. John had a great sense of humor. I remember many pranks he pulled on staff members. One that I remember was the surprise Mr. Luther had in his office, a snake. John always made you smile and laugh. He will be missed! So sorry for your loss.*

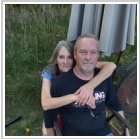
Cindy Krell - July 10, 2017 at 11:53 PM

Paul  
Rodgers

“ Paul Rodgers lit a candle in memory of John  
P. Gretka



Paul Rodgers - July 10, 2017 at 04:31 PM



“ Amanda Smith lit a candle in memory of John  
P. Gretka



Amanda Smith - July 10, 2017 at 07:56 AM