



John Douglas Potter

July 2, 1940 - March 27, 2015

John Douglas Potter, age 74, of Rensselaer passed away Friday, March 27, 2015, at St. Elizabeth East Hospital in Lafayette, Indiana. John was born in Evansville, Indiana on July 2, 1940, the son of Virginia (Bath) and John Tobias Potter.

John married Gwen Meyers on August 23, 1964, in Rensselaer and he and Gwen celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last year. Surviving with Gwen are their children, John David (wife Michelle) Potter of Rensselaer and Lynn Elizabeth (husband Frank) Wotell of Orland Park, Illinois and two grandsons, Grant and Wesley Potter. John was preceded in death by his parents, Virginia and John Potter, and three grandchildren, Ruth P., Emmett and Elliot Potter.

He was a 1958 graduate of Huntingburg High School, received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Oakland City College in 1962 and his Masters in Education from Indiana State University in 1964. John was a history teacher for 39 years at Rensselaer Central High School and had served as Chairman of the Social Studies Department.

John had many interests and was active in his community. He was a current member of the Marion Township Advisory Board; former member and past President of the Rensselaer Lions Club; a former member of the Rensselaer Park Board; had served as the first County Chairman of the Jasper County Blood Drive Board; and was a former member and a former Board member of Curtis Creek Country Club. He was in his third term on the Jasper County

REMC Operation Round-Up Community Fund Board. John was a member of the Salem United Church of Christ, Huntingburg, Indiana.

Friends may call at the Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer on Wednesday, April 1, 2015, from 2:00 to 8:00 P.M. Funeral services will be held at the Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer on Thursday, April 2, 2015, at 11:00 A.M. with Bill Craig officiating. Burial will follow at Weston Cemetery in Rensselaer. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Jasper County Hospital Foundation.

Cemetery Details

Weston Cemetery

Weston Cemetery
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5626

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 1. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer
250 N. McKinley Avenue
P.O. Box 70
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5123
info@jacksonfuneral.com
<https://www.jacksonfuneral.com>

Service

APR 2. 11:00 AM (CT)

Jackson Funeral Chapel of Rensselaer
250 N. McKinley Avenue
P.O. Box 70
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-5123
info@jacksonfuneral.com
<https://www.jacksonfuneral.com>

Tribute Wall

KS

“ *Mr. Potter was my history teacher. I loved his seminars and so appreciated his instruction on how to research. He sponsored my dad for Lion's Club. He encouraged me to go to college. Thankful for this teacher.* ”

karen shelley - August 29, 2016 at 11:32 PM



“ *I still share stories from high school about lessons learned in class from the late 90's. You left a positive impression in the lives of many students through adulthood. God bless you on your journey and on your family during this time of mourning that they may celebrate the memories you created for them and the community in life.* ”

Joshua Anselm - March 30, 2016 at 09:27 PM

TR

“ *Mr..Potter was one of the best teachers I had at RCHS...He was always willing to listen.. RIP Sir..God bless his family* ”



taunia(vigeant) rients - March 30, 2016 at 06:57 PM

MG

“ *Mr. Potter touched many lives in his 39 years of teaching. He was an all around good guy and I know he will be missed by the Rensselaer community.* ”

Melissa Greene - March 29, 2016 at 09:12 PM

LW

“ So sorry for your loss.

Lisa Wood - March 29, 2016 at 07:42 PM

NM

“ Nick & Patricia Mattocks lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter



Nick & Patricia Mattocks - March 29, 2016 at 05:36 PM

Angela McKay

“ Angela McKay lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter



Angela McKay - March 29, 2016 at 05:25 PM

CC

“ Prayers to the family of John Potter. He will be missed by many. I was fortunate enough to have had him as one of my teachers during High school and he was one of those teachers that made me want to go to class. He was funny, kind and very intelligent. More teachers could learn from him how to encourage and motivate a kid into learning and improving their situation.

Connie Coffer (Arrasmith)

Connie Coffer - March 29, 2016 at 01:59 PM



“ Carol Pattengale Magill lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter



Carol Pattengale Magill - March 29, 2016 at 11:44 AM



Rest in Peace Mr Potter. You touched so many lives in your students. You will not be forgotten.

Carol Pattengale Magill - March 29, 2016 at 11:46 AM



“ Rebecca Chastain lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter



Rebecca Chastain - March 29, 2016 at 11:24 AM



prayers for everyone

Rebecca Chastain - March 29, 2016 at 11:25 AM



“ Mark Brouwer lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter



Mark Brouwer - June 06, 2015 at 03:15 AM

OR

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire family during this difficult time.*
Oscar & Pat Reyes



oscar & pat reyes - April 21, 2015 at 12:26 PM

DL

“ *Dorrie Gilbert Lefler lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter*



Dorrie Gilbert Lefler - April 10, 2015 at 04:23 PM

RP

“ *Enjoyed having coffee with him out at the Family Express on 114! May he rest in peace1*



Ron Prohosky - April 02, 2015 at 05:38 PM

LP

“ John was my favorite teacher at R.C.H.S.
After junior year I was raped by a boyfriend.
When I started my senior year I was
withdrawn from everyone. John was the only
teacher who pulled me aside to see what was
wrong. He helped me to open up to people and talk about it. He was
a very caring man. Sending my prayers to his family. He will be truly
missed.



Lesley Peterson - April 01, 2015 at 12:34 PM

SE

“ Gwen, my thoughts and prayers are with you.
Take care, Susie R.



Susan Rishling Emetti - March 31, 2015 at 10:26 PM

BF

“ Bethel Ford lit a candle in memory of John
Douglas Potter



Bethel Ford - March 31, 2015 at 06:45 PM

CS

“ *Cathy Salyers lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter*



Cathy Salyers - March 31, 2015 at 06:22 PM

CS

I am so sorry for your loss. My prayers are with Gwen and the entire family.

Cathy Salyers - March 31, 2015 at 06:27 PM

OA

“ *Otis Anselm lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter*



Otis Anselm - March 31, 2015 at 05:43 PM

CS

“ *Carol Spall lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter*



Carol Spall - March 31, 2015 at 05:08 PM


Michelle
Lichte

“ *Michelle Lichte lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter*



Michelle Lichte - March 31, 2015 at 01:48 PM

NH

“ *He was an amazing, funny and very intelligent teacher. Didn't matter what class it was. When students heard Mr. Potter was subbing that day, they couldn't wait to get to that class. He will truly be missed, and always remembered by many many people. I'm sure I'm not the only student he became close with, but I was definitely one of the lucky ones that Mr. Potter would talk to on a personal level and be here for me when I needed an experienced person to talk to. R.I.Paradise Mr. Potter.*



Nathan Hill - March 31, 2015 at 12:55 PM

RS

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with your family at this time.*

Roger & Vicki Steffen - March 31, 2015 at 11:03 AM

CO

“ *Cheryl Schultz Oreskovich lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter*



Cheryl Schultz Oreskovich - March 31, 2015 at 09:42 AM

PH

“ *Paula Hoffman lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter*



Paula Hoffman - March 30, 2015 at 09:43 PM

FS

“ *Gwen, John & Lynn, My condolences on John's passing. It was John who set me on my path to become a historian after having him as my RCHS Junior Year US History class in 1963-64. He encouraged me to consider college to become a history teacher. I pursued that history quest which ended up in my being an Army Historian.*

Blessings to you all and may he rest in peace.

Frank Shirer - March 30, 2015 at 06:39 PM

DL

“ *Dear Judge Potter and Family,
On behalf of all of us at Horace Mann, please accept our sincere condolences. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

Davis & Wallman Financial, LLC - March 30, 2015 at 03:02 PM



“ *Basket of Joy was purchased for the family of John Douglas Potter.*



March 30, 2015 at 02:43 PM

JD

“ Jo & Ron Dillingham purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of John Douglas Potter.



Jo & Ron Dillingham - March 30, 2015 at 10:37 AM

MB

“ Myles Beeching lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter



Myles Beeching - March 30, 2015 at 08:35 AM

MS

“ Mr. Potter was an amazing man, he showed me such kindness and even purchased my first pair of glasses as he knew we couldn't afford them. My senior year I was voted "Teacher's Pet" and my year book photo was taken with him. My heart goes out to the family and the many other people who loved him. God be with all of you.

Megan Shupe - March 29, 2015 at 08:50 PM

SA

“ Sara and Jim Daniel, Nick and Shannon, Eric and Andrea purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of John Douglas Potter.



Sara and Jim Daniel, Nick and Shannon, Eric and Andrea -
March 29, 2015 at 06:41 PM

LY

“ John was such a special man and a wonderful family friend...he will be missed by the entire Harrington and Yoder families. Rest in peace John.

Lila Harrington Yoder - March 29, 2015 at 06:18 PM

DF

“ Dear Gwen,
We are so sorry for your loss.
You are in "Our Thoughts & Prayers."
With Our Deepest Sympathy,
Debby Hopp- Anderson & Family



Debby Hopp- Anderson & Family - March 29, 2015 at 05:05 PM

DN

“ Darrell N. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John Douglas Potter.



Darrell N. - March 29, 2015 at 03:25 PM

KP

“ Mr. Potter was one of my favorite teachers in high school. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, Karen Kosta Puchle



Karen Puchle - March 29, 2015 at 03:13 PM

NS

Gwen, Am so sorry to hear of your loss, May he rest in peace.. Your classmate, Norma (Wilcox) Schultz

Norma Schultz - March 29, 2015 at 10:09 PM

KH

“ *Kenny & Maureen Healey lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter*



Kenny & Maureen Healey - March 29, 2015 at 11:49 AM

AS

“ *Angie Arihood Sleeman lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter*



Angie Arihood Sleeman - March 29, 2015 at 11:11 AM

KW

“ *Kathy Dunlap Welsh lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter*



Kathy Dunlap Welsh - March 29, 2015 at 10:25 AM

JC

“ *Mr. Potter was a great teacher and man. Thoughts and prayers for his family. See you around the doughnut hole Mr P.* ”



Jackie Tiede Checkley - March 29, 2015 at 10:14 AM

PM

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you. Take comfort in knowing he touched many people, what a great legacy!* ”

Patricia Mattocks - March 29, 2015 at 09:17 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of John Douglas Potter.* ”



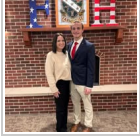
March 29, 2015 at 09:00 AM

SM

“ *Scott Miller lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter* ”



Scott Miller - March 29, 2015 at 08:55 AM



“ *An excellent teacher, mentor, and friend. He was never too busy to talk to a student in need. He put students first. We need more like him! Prayers to the family. RIP*

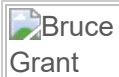
Robin Schneidt - March 29, 2015 at 08:55 AM



“ *Thoughts and prayers for young John and your family. --Tabby & family*



Tabby Malchow Evans - March 29, 2015 at 08:18 AM

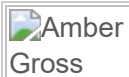


Bruce Grant

“ *Bruce Grant lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter*



Bruce Grant - March 29, 2015 at 08:12 AM



Amber Gross

“ *Amber Gross lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter*



Amber Gross - March 29, 2015 at 05:52 AM

SD

“ *Steve And Sharon Dill lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter*



Steve and Sharon Dill - March 29, 2015 at 05:30 AM



“ *Martha Sellers lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter*



Martha Sellers - March 29, 2015 at 03:49 AM

RW

“ *Sorry for your loss. John Potter was a good teacher, even if he couldn't get me to debate him like my sister Linda. He was also one of my son's (Nicholas) favorite teachers. John influenced many lives and encouraged us to speak up.*



Regina Warfel - March 29, 2015 at 01:16 AM

ML

“ *mr.potter you will be sadly missed and prayers for you and family!!!*



marilyn alberts lowry - March 28, 2015 at 11:09 PM

MB

“ *Mark Bohlinger lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter*



Mark Bohlinger - March 28, 2015 at 10:31 PM

JB

“ *Judy Burvan lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter*



Judy Burvan - March 28, 2015 at 10:06 PM

SS

“ *So sorry for your family's loss. John was one of my favorite teachers, and as I was fortunate to have had him twice in my high school years, I truly feel blessed to have had him. Awesome man and teacher!!! May he rest in peace!*

Sara (Goad) Schonbok - March 28, 2015 at 09:54 PM

 Travis
Duncan

“ *I remember a good hearted man. I remember a teacher that cared. I remember a funny man. I remember a loyal man. I remember a man that helped a troubled kid when I needed it. Thank you sir for the pleasant memories and guidance that I have looked back on many times. You will not be forgotten in my life time.*

Travis Duncan - March 28, 2015 at 09:45 PM

CM

“ So sorry for your loss. Mr. Potter was a big part of RCHS. he was a mentor to so many of the RCHS alumni. Thank you Mr. Potter, a job well done. Now rest in peace my friend.



Carol Pattengale Magill - March 28, 2015 at 09:35 PM

RR

“ I remember Mr. Potter from US History class. I also worked with him at the Midway Marathon and Tri-County Auto Rental store in Rensselaer. He was a great man and cared for his students in a special way. Rest in Peace Mr. Potter.



Ronald L Rainwater

Ronald Rainwater - March 28, 2015 at 09:14 PM

MA

“ Mr. Potter was one of my favorite teachers. Even though he would always get mad at me for talking all the time, he was an awesome man and teacher. You will be missed



Mary Arnott - March 28, 2015 at 09:01 PM



“ One of my favorite teachers. A great man!

Carrie Dorton - March 28, 2015 at 08:52 PM

JS

“ *Judy Siegrist lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter*



Judy Siegrist - March 28, 2015 at 08:47 PM

SS

“ *Suzanne Sizemore lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter*



Suzanne Sizemore - March 28, 2015 at 08:19 PM



“ *Rebecca Chastain lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter*



Rebecca Chastain - March 28, 2015 at 07:54 PM



“ *Cindy Stath lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter*



Cindy Stath - March 28, 2015 at 07:39 PM

GS

“ Gary Sheffer lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter



Gary Sheffer - March 28, 2015 at 07:20 PM

PL

“ He was always Mr. Potter to me-I never could call him by his first name, even when we reconnected & chatted when I began my career in county government. I will never forget his support.
My prayers go out to all of the family.



Phyllis Lanoue - March 28, 2015 at 07:03 PM

DR

“ He was the best teacher ever he always had a answer for everything even if it was funny he will be miss a lot prayers to the family

Dawn Meeks Rawson - March 28, 2015 at 06:55 PM

LF

“ I taught with John at Rennselaer. He was a special person.

Linda Fritz - March 28, 2015 at 06:49 PM

GB

“ *Guy And Betty Barton lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter*



Guy and Betty Barton - March 28, 2015 at 06:21 PM

JC

“ *Gwen, very sorry for your loss. Seems like just yesterday you were both at our wedding. Mr Potter was a great man and I owe a lot to him and he will be dearly missed by anyone who had the pleasure to know him.*



Jeremy Culbreth - March 28, 2015 at 06:15 PM

A(

“ *Lynn and family my prayers are with you.*



Angela McKay (Dill) - March 28, 2015 at 06:06 PM

KT

“ *Thinking of Lynn and the entire Potter family during this difficult time. So sorry for your loss. Much Love, Kori Thomas*

Kori Thomas - March 28, 2015 at 05:53 PM

RL

“ *Rich And Sue Ludington lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter*



Rich and Sue Ludington - March 28, 2015 at 05:43 PM

Elaine Gembala

“ *My condolences Gwen an Family. God bless. Elaine Gembala*



Elaine Gembala - March 28, 2015 at 05:27 PM

C(

“ *Mr. Potter was by far one of my favorite teachers in school. He always had a joke or a way to keep our attention. He never judged us for things and was always there when you needed someone to listen. The school system lost an amazing teacher when he left and the world lost an amazing man when he passed away!!!! Rest in peace wise man, I shall never forget all you taught me!!!!*

Cassi Naden (Davis) - March 28, 2015 at 05:19 PM

ML

“ *Mr. Potter was a great teacher & role model to his students. The education system has lost a great teacher. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.*

marcella risner lawson - March 28, 2015 at 05:14 PM

Tom
Hayes

“ Tom Hayes lit a candle in memory of John
Douglas Potter



Tom Hayes - March 28, 2015 at 05:03 PM

KN

“ Kim Hudson Nàgel lit a candle in memory of
John Douglas Potter



Kim Hudson Nàgel - March 28, 2015 at 04:55 PM

GW

“ Glen & Linda Wood lit a candle in memory of
John Douglas Potter



Glen & Linda Wood - March 28, 2015 at 04:23 PM

SM

“ Stephen Miller lit a candle in memory of John
Douglas Potter



Stephen Miller - March 28, 2015 at 04:13 PM

JH

“ Jessica Herrera lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter



Jessica Herrera - March 28, 2015 at 04:00 PM

SD

“ Sally Dobson lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter



Sally Dobson - March 28, 2015 at 03:54 PM

FL

“ Frank Lane lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter



frank lane - March 28, 2015 at 03:38 PM

J(

“ Jennifer Ousley (Hammond) lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter



Jennifer Ousley (Hammond) - March 28, 2015 at 03:33 PM

LW

“ *Linda Williams lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter*



Linda Williams - March 28, 2015 at 01:32 PM

LW

“ *Louise Wortley lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Potter*



Louise Wortley - March 28, 2015 at 01:14 PM