



John F. Ward

August 17, 1930 - August 17, 2024

John Francis Ward passed away peacefully on August 17th, 2024, at home with his wife, Jane, by his side.

John was born on August 17th, 1930, in Watertown, NY to the late Gordon and Genevieve Ward. He attended Clarkson College in New York and earned his bachelor's degree.

He was an Executive Scientist with the Aerospace Systems Group or ORI, Inc., Rockville, Maryland. His responsibilities focused on rotorcraft technology matters in the Aeronautics and Space Technology located in Landover, Maryland. Until August 1985, John served as Assistant Director for Aeronautics (Rotorcraft), Office of Aeronautics and Space Technology (OAST), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Washington, D.C. He also served as Executive Secretary of the NASA Aeronautical Advisory Committee Informal Subcommittee on Rotorcraft Technology.

John joined the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) in June 1952 as an Aeronautical Design Evaluation Engineer in New York for the Civil Aeronautics Administration/ Returning to Langley in 1958 as an Aerospace Technologist in the Flight Research Branch, his research activities have been related exclusively to rotary wing since 1959. In September 1972 he was named Assistant Chief of Langley's Flight Research Branch, responsible for developing a broad program in rotorcraft research and technology and for

coordinating joint aerodynamic and structural activities with the US Army Air Mobility Research and Development Laboratory at Langley. John transferred to NASA Headquarters in May 1974 to serve as NASA Program Manager for the joint NASA/Army Rotor Systems Research Aircraft and Tilt Rotor Research Aircraft Programs.

The recipient of a NASA Langley Special Achievement Award in 1972 for his work in rotorcraft research, John was the author of many technical papers dealing with rotorcraft research structures, dynamics, and aerodynamics. In addition, he has authored numerous articles on rotorcraft technology and was a contributing author for the National Air and Space Museum publication Vertical Flight- The Age of The Helicopter. John was the first recipient of the American Helicopter Society Howard Hughes Award (1978) for his contributions in helicopter research and technology. He received a NASA Headquarters Exceptional Performance Award in 1985. In 1986 he was presented a Fellow Award by the American Helicopter Society and was awarded the Society's Alexander A. Nikolsky Honorary Lectureship for his lecture titled – Rotorcraft Research – A National Effort.

John was a Sustaining Member of the Helicopter Association International and he served in various positions in the American Helicopter Society, including Editor of the Journal of the American Helicopter Society and Technical Chairman of the American Helicopter Society 40th Annual Forum. He was preceded in death by his parents, Gordon and Genevieve Ward. He is survived by his wife Jane Ward.

A visitation will be held at Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home Easton, MD on August 22nd from 5-7 PM. A funeral mass will be held at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 1210 South Washington Street, on August 23rd at 11 AM. A graveside service will follow mass.

Cemetery Details

Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church Cemetery and Columbarium

1210 S Washington Street
Easton, MD 21601
<https://ssppcemetary.com/>

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **22**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home
200 S. Harrison Street
EASTON
EASTON, MD 21601

Funeral Mass

AUG **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church
1210 S Washington Street
Easton, MD 21601

Graveside

AUG **23**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church
1210 S Washington Street
Easton, MD 21601

Tribute Wall

MA

“ I remember my parents were great friends of Gordon and Genevieve Ward. We used to go to Canada with them occasionally and it was always lots of laughs. I remember they always talked about their so John and his wife Jane. I do think my sister and I met them once, but it was many many years ago. Just wanted to post what I remember. My parents were Charles and Rosemary Millner. Prayers for the loss of your Husband 🙏🙏. Margaret Millner Alteri

Margaret Alteri - September 03, 2024 at 09:44 AM

KL

“ Wise, kind and gentle is how I will always remember John. He and Jane always made a person know that they had the ability to do anything they set their mind to. I was, and always will be in awe of John's engineering mind and the way he shared his accomplishments and adventures in the aeronautic field with my sisters and I- and countless others no doubt. It was an honor in my life to be one of your girls. Rest well John, you were much loved and will be missed.
Kate LaCount

kate lacount - August 22, 2024 at 08:25 AM

PF

“ Phil Foster lit a candle in memory of John F. Ward



Phil Foster - August 21, 2024 at 01:47 AM