

It's with sadness that we share the passing of **John Samuel Totten**, who left us on December 5, 2023, at the age of 76 years. Bud, as he was fondly called by family and friends, was born on November 5, 1947, in Rahway, NJ to Rose Totten Lenhart and John Totten. John was a graduate of West Muskingum High School, Class of 1966. He spent the majority of his working years at Columbia Cement and Stewart-Glapat Corporation.

John is survived by his wife of 53 years, Christy, whom he was devoted; his sons Matt and Mike Totten; sister, Donna Totten (John)Stotts; brother, Sam (Jane) Lenhart; sister, Rose (Mark) Dinges; step-brother, David Lenhart; brothers-in-law, Tim (Billie) Swingle; Steve (Anita) Swingle; and Jon Swingle. John was preceded in death by his mother, Rose Lenhart; step-father, Dick Lenhart; sister, Jeanne (Bob)Ross; brother, Dean Lenhart and Charlie and Jean Cann. John leaves behind other beloved family members, friends and his cherished pet dog, Sammy. He appreciated the time spent and counsel of his dear friend, Lee Davis. As a child, a special relationship was formed with his maternal grandfather, Sam Lutz. Grandpa Lutz was John's father figure and hero. The strength of that bond served John well and his grandfather would have been proud of the man his grandson became.

From the beginning, John was a survivor and defied death on many occasions. He was born weighing just 2 pounds and was given his last rites in the hospital, but God had other plans. At the age of 20, John was drafted by the Army. After receiving basic and advanced training at Fort Jackson, SC and non-commissioned officers training at Fort Benning, GA John was deployed to Vietnam. Staff Sergeant Totten served with Co C, 3d Bn, 22d Inf, 25th Inf Div. He received the Silver Star, Bronze Star, an Air Medal and a Purple Heart.

From the moment he saw Christy carrying water to her horses at the Muskingum County Fair, he was enamored. His sisters often smiled about his admiration of her, as the sun rose and set on her word. Her opinion was the first one he sought and the only one that mattered. Together, they built a life on a piece of land in Hopewell, raising cattle and caring for other animals on their farm. John was meticulous with his farm, and took great care in maintaining his property.

John was a member of East Fultonham United Methodist Church. He and Christy enjoyed working and supporting the Food Pantry. John's faith and trust in Jesus enabled him to face adversity without complaint. He showed us how to succumb to the dying part of living with courage. John Totten had a smile that defied the physical pain he endured.