



John H. Kirkwood

January 24, 1954 - May 1, 2026

John Henry Kirkwood, 72 of Berea, Ohio passed away peacefully Friday May 1, 2026.

Born January 24, 1954, in Lakewood Ohio to Joseph and Betty (Connor). He's survived by siblings Kathy Roderick (Mark), Jo Anne Kirkwood Louden (Frank), Daniel, Mary Lou Kirkwood Armstrong (Peter), nieces and nephews, Scot Jackman (Correne), Michael Armstrong (Nicole), Jamie Armstrong, Greg Andersen (Kim), Jeremy Louden (Theresa,) Scott Louden (Kristin), Eric Swartz (Ginger) and many others. Preceded in death by brother Jeff Kirkwood (Lorie Novak), sister Diane Carlson (Carl), and Nephew Christopher Jackman. John was a devoted brother and friend to many.

He was an alumnus of Berea High school class of 1973 where his tenacity as a football player and his strength as a wrestler enabled him to carry out his 50 plus year career.

He spent his life working and caring for racehorses as he adopted this enthusiasm from his mother. His career took him to work in racetracks in Ohio and Indiana.

He cherished the time he was able to come home to be with family, enjoying a friendly euchre card game as he thought he was always unbeatable.

You would always see him wearing Cleveland sports apparel or mostly Ohio State football as he followed them religiously.

John had a passion for golf and was known for his quick wit and humor. bragging about his hole in one and consistent story telling. He was easy to

have conversations with, and his infectious personality enabled him to make friends quickly.

He was our very own “Johnboy” and our time with him will be cherished forever.

Memorial service will be held Saturday May 9th, 2026. Wake at 11 am, funeral mass 11:30 am. St. Mary’s Church, 250 Kraft St. Berea, Ohio

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to St. Mary’s church, Berea Ohio.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

MAY 9. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Church
250 Kraft Street
Berea, OH 44017

Memorial Mass

MAY 9. 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Mary's Church
250 Kraft Street
Berea, OH 44017

Tribute Wall

DS

“ John and I were called the Berea Cafe kids, AKA the punch palace, that was our hang-out every weekend. I got the opportunity to play football with Johnny and win a state championship. I will surely miss him, and my prayers go out to his family.



Dave Sinowetski - May 09 at 10:08 AM



“ John Boy and I worked together (along with his mom Betty and brother Danny) at Northfield for many years. Just a genuinely good human being! Rest in peace, brother. My deepest sympathy for the loved ones he left behind, but rest assured, John Boy will be reunited with his loving mom once again on Mother's Day.

Gary Schmidt - May 07 at 06:55 PM

MI

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Mary Irvine - May 07 at 06:00 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John H. Kirkwood.

May 07 at 04:57 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of John H. Kirkwood.



May 07 at 04:57 PM



“ I want anyone who might read our Johnboys' Obituary to know I got to talk with him on the 23rd of April. Johnny was watching the INDIANS play his voice was strong and Happy because he was going home to his Independent living place the next day. Johnboy told me he Loved me and I got to tell him I loved him. That is my Happy memory to keep for the rest of my life. My son Gregory John Andersen carries his name . There are no words to express my sadness. Sleep well my little Brother. Kathy Kirkwood Roderick

Kathy Kirkwood Roderick - May 07 at 11:25 AM



“ *Bozak family* purchased the *Emerald Garden Basket* for the family of John H. Kirkwood.



Bozak family - May 06 at 03:26 PM

BL

“ Bill @ Sher Louden planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John H. Kirkwood.

Bill @ Sher Louden - May 06 at 03:16 PM

BL

“ Bill @ Sher Louden purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of John H. Kirkwood.



Bill @ Sher Louden - May 06 at 03:16 PM

BG

“ Bill Griffith purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John H. Kirkwood.



Bill Griffith - May 06 at 02:39 PM

LM

“ My condolences to the Kirkwood family. So many memories growing up in Berea with Johnny. High school football teammates. His woody woodpecker impression. RIP Johnny. Lane McDannel

Lane McDannel - May 06 at 02:21 PM

AB

“ My condolences to the Family. I knew John from Berea High, although he graduated the year before me! I remember he was on the Football Team & he was a Wrestler. RIP...

Aimee Bonsell~Henderson - May 06 at 12:44 PM

RS

“ *God Bless Johnny and the Kirkwood Family. We had a great time growing up and playing football. Love and Prayers to you all. Richie Skoczen and Family*

Rich Skoczen - May 06 at 09:10 AM