



## John D'Arle Rhea

August 15, 1936 - July 28, 2022

John D'Arle Rhea, 85, of Newnan passed away Thursday, July 28, 2022 at Sacred Journey Hospice in Newnan. He was born August 15, 1936 in Armstrong County, PA to the late Robert D. Rhea & Mollie Dimit Rhea.

John was raised on a farm in Western Pennsylvania. During his childhood, he developed a love for all creatures great and small including a pet flying squirrel. John's teachers recognized his many talents and encouraged him to get out and see the world. John did just that.

While serving our country in the Army he met his wife Betty in church. They were married 60 years. He traveled the world working as an international sales manager for General Electric and Yokogawa Corporation. John had a very adventurous spirit and never met a stranger, making friends everywhere he went.

He spent many years as a scoutmaster, had a passion for photography, camping and was an avid reader. His love of nature was demonstrated through his ability to identify butterflies, snakes and plants. John was always a problem solver. Never spending a penny on something he could fix himself. But by far his biggest passion was his family. In later years he spent time with his grandchildren going on one adventure after another.

John was a longtime, active member of Cornerstone United Methodist Church in Newnan.

The memorial service is 6:00 pm Tuesday, August 2, 2022 at Cornerstone United Methodist Church with Rev. Joe Watson & Dr. Brian Germano officiating. The family will greet friends at the church on Tuesday from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. There will be a private interment at Oak Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Cornerstone United Methodist Church, 2956 Sharpsburg McCollum Rd, Newnan, GA 30265.

Survivors include wife, Betty Monk Rhea; daughters, Debbie (Rick) Watton, Bobbi (Charles) Deling, Christy (Brian) Epperson; grandchildren, Kelly Watton, Kyle Watton, Dylan Lannen, Austin (Kelly) Lannen, and Autumn (Anthony) Brady; great-grandchildren, Mason, Willow, Leigha, Clover; nephew, Paul Hetrick; and his beloved cat, Minnie.

Condolences may be expressed online at [www.mckoon.com](http://www.mckoon.com)  
McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory (770) 253-4580

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 2. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Cornerstone United Methodist Church  
2956 Sharpsburg McCollum Road  
Newnan, GA 30265

## Memorial Service

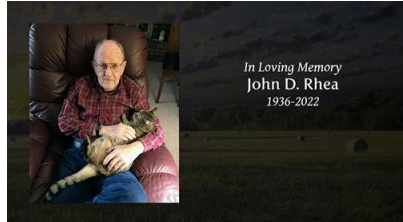
AUG 2. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Cornerstone United Methodist Church  
2956 Sharpsburg McCollum Road  
Newnan, GA 30265

# Tribute Wall



“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of John D'Arle Rhea*



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**McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory** - August 03, 2022 at 10:58 AM

JP

*May God bless you in Heaven.*

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**Julie Patrick** - January 02, 2023 at 03:57 AM



“ *John was my scoutmaster and mentor he was a good Christian man and a leader of youth  
He will be sadly missed*

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**Kenneth Reid** - September 12, 2022 at 02:57 PM

BD

*Kenneth, thank you for checking in on my father periodically over the years. I know he appreciated hearing from you. He cherished the memories of working with the scouts.*

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**Bobbi Deling** - September 12, 2022 at 08:32 PM



“ Dear Betty and Family. I was so saddened to hear of Friend John’s (for so he always addressed letters and emails) passing. Though it has been over 50 years since I was in Troop 99 at Fort Gordon while he was scoutmaster, I still remember the lessons he taught, not only of the Scout Law and Oath, but the Golden Rule as well, and these lessons have served me well all the years since. He will be missed by many, and I will miss his emails and cards. John

John DeTreville - August 13, 2022 at 02:50 PM

CE

Thank you so much for your kind testimony. It means so much to our family.

Christy Epperson - August 17, 2022 at 03:34 PM

JD

“ The Delings

John, was a kind, caring and intelligent man. We were very fortunate to have had him as part of our family.  
Love Carolyn, Janice

Janice L Deling - August 03, 2022 at 04:20 PM

BD

Thank you for your condolences. Dad was happy to have the Delings as part of his family.

Bobbi Deling - August 24, 2022 at 09:26 PM

BD

“ (Part 1)

*I am Bobbi Deling, John and Betty Rhea's middle daughter. I spoke during my father's memorial service. My family requested I share this online for others to enjoy reading.*

*Thank you for coming out today to celebrate and remember my father. Dad loved all people and always had a knack for assessing a situation and evaluating what was needed. I wanted to share one particular story with you to demonstrate these qualities in my father. He was on business down in Mexico. Traveling in a rental car, he came to a place where he would need to cross a river by ferry. Unfortunately, the ferry was delayed for an hour or two. Many local folks were also waiting on the ferry. So, dad got out of the car to stretch his legs. Meanwhile, a few unsavory looking characters came over to his car, drinking beer, sitting, and leaning on his car. Dad did not speak the language and was the only American waiting for the ferry. The situation could have been a little concerning but not for my dad. There were many children out and about and so my father sat down on a grassy hill. He proceeded to use blades of grass to make whistles. Soon, the children came over and sat with my father, allowing him to demonstrate how to make a whistle using a piece of grass. Before he knew it, the unsavory folks on his car became as friendly as could be and offered him a beer. Language barrier or not, Dad could communicate with anyone. Traveling the world for business, he used his expert people skills to not only sell products but made friends wherever he went.*

*Dad had some different interests and truly followed his passions. Not only did he enjoy photography but he also developed his own photographs in a dark room he set up in our house. He loved animals and critters, having pets of all kinds as a boy. My father's curious nature extended into his adult life. He went through a period of time here in Georgia where he enjoyed catching mice in the basement. He bought cages and fed them. I'm not sure how my mother felt about this but as long as he kept them in the basement it*

*was okay with her. Once on a trip back home to Pennsylvania, he had the great pleasure of catching what is called a kangaroo mouse. He decided this was an opportunity. If he could get this kangaroo mouse home to Georgia, he could try to breed it with his basement mice and see what happens. Maybe he could create a new mouse species! Well, Dad got that kangaroo mouse back home. He tucked that mouse into his shirt pocket and boarded his flight back home. The kangaroo mouse slept the entire flight. Dad had no worries the mouse would get loose on the plane as mice are nocturnal and it would just sleep. Thank goodness he was right!*  
*(continued)*

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**Bobbi Deling** - August 03, 2022 at 09:40 AM

CE

♥ *TY so very much for taking the time to do this Bobs. U are so very much appreciated and loved.*

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**Christy Epperson** - August 16, 2022 at 11:50 AM

BD

“ (Part 2)

*The year was 1985. Newnan's Yokogawa Corporation bought the General Electric meter division. In the acquisition, Yokogawa hired my father to head the marketing division here in Newnan. Dad had to hire quite a few experts to join him in this new venture. He hired a young gentleman out of Miami to provide technical support for the leak detectors Yokogawa produced. For some reason, my father took a liking to this fellow. The week before the company Christmas party my father approached this young man and said out of the blue....my daughter Bobbi....she sure would enjoy going to the company Christmas party but no one has asked her. I have no idea why he said this....To the best of my memory, I had never indicated I wanted to go to the company Christmas party. The young fellow was a little taken aback, but he knew if your boss suggests taking his daughter to the company Christmas Party, then this is what you do. Ultimately, this fellow married the boss's daughter. My husband Charles and I have been married for 35 years. As you can clearly see, my father was a man of many talents, including match-making.*

*Speaking for myself and my sisters, we feel blessed to have had an amazing father. Although we didn't have a whole lot of money and were on a tight budget, our parents always found activities to keep us engaged. We took many camping trips across the country, experiencing life and having fun. All his life, including this last year, my father always talked about how he liked to go places, have adventures and see things. Last Thursday, my father John Rhea took a trip of a lifetime, without his family. I'd like to think he is getting the heavenly campsite ready and scoping out all the swimming holes, waiting for the day when we will join him on the most amazing adventure ever. We will certainly miss him dearly until we are together again.*

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**Bobbi Deling** - August 03, 2022 at 09:38 AM

CE



**Christy Epperson** - August 16, 2022 at 11:54 AM

TD

“ We feel honored to have had John in our lives for the last twelve years. He has been a foster grandfather to Ian, and to me, an inspiration. John Rhea is the definition of "young at heart". With a mischievous smile, a perennial twinkle in his eye and always a warm greeting, John made it clear that he loved people and was fascinated by the world around him. The world is better for having him in it. I am better for having known him.  
Love, Lisa, Keith, & Ian

**The Driscolls** - August 02, 2022 at 03:17 PM

BD

*Dad loved life and the all the adventures to be experienced. He so enjoyed all of your family's visits. Thank you for your special testimony.*

**Bobbi Deling** - August 24, 2022 at 09:09 PM

JB

“ Roseann and I offer our deepest sympathy to Betty and family. John was a dynamo at work with GE and YCA. Nothing could slow him down in this life. We pray that he is at peace in the afterlife.

**Jim Brandtjen** - August 01, 2022 at 12:16 PM

BD

*Thank you, Jim and Roseann, for being such special friends over the years.*

**Bobbi Deling** - August 24, 2022 at 09:11 PM

CR

“ John Rhea was such a wonderful man. I got to know John while working at Yokogawa. He was my boss while working for leak detector’s department as their International Sales Coordinator. He was always, always enthusiastic about his work or any project that he worked on. He loved life and always had a childlike enthusiasm for it. I will always cherish the time I had working for him. He and Betty were the best team. Heartfelt condolences to the family and friends. We will all miss you, John. My heart sank when I read about your passing. Rest In Peace!❤️

Cheryl Readd - July 31, 2022 at 06:10 PM

BD

Cheryl, Dad certainly had a passion for his work. Thank you so much for sharing your memories.

Bobbi Deling - August 24, 2022 at 09:13 PM

CH

“ Dear Betty, Debbie, Bobbi, and Christy, words cannot express my deep sympathy for you. I have known John for 60 years and never remember anything negative about him. Times were always good. Only wish there had been more good times. Lots of hugs, love, and certainly prayers. Love, Coral and James

Coral Hodge - July 31, 2022 at 02:25 PM

BD

Thank you, Coral and James, for your heartfelt sympathy. Dad always enjoyed visits with you over the years. We sure will miss him.

Bobbi Deling - August 24, 2022 at 09:15 PM

PC

“ Betty and family. I am so very to hear about John’s passing. I know now after reading the obituary, that Ron and John had a lot in common. Thank you much for being such great neighbors to us. Sending prayers for comfort and a great big hug.

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**Peggy Covey** - July 31, 2022 at 12:15 PM

BD

Thank you, Peggy. I know my father enjoyed his talks with Ron over the years.

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**Bobbi Deling** - August 24, 2022 at 09:17 PM

KS

“ We came to know John and Betty 20 years ago when we joined the fellowship at Cornerstone UMC. John was at every service and event with his camera taking memorable photos and sharing them with the church and those he photographed. We thought of him as the “official” church photographer. He was outgoing, friendly and generous and truly gifted, using his gift to the glory of God. We will always remember him.  
Kay and Floyd Shaw

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**Kay and Floyd Shaw** - July 31, 2022 at 08:39 AM

BD

Thank you for sharing your memories. Dad certainly loved taking photographs at church and always carried a camera no matter where he went.

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**Bobbi Deling** - August 24, 2022 at 09:02 PM

JB

“ My condolences to the entire Rhea family. I remember many fond memories of summer days as a child either in his pool, ping pong, exploring, or out on the lake fishing. Rest In Peace.

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**James Brandtjen** - July 31, 2022 at 01:24 AM

BD

*Great memories, Jamie! Thank you.*

**Bobbi Deling** - August 26, 2022 at 09:29 PM

EE

“ *I really enjoyed my many talks with John about many things that were happening in the world. He had a great view of it and shared them with me. thanks John.*

**Ennis eaton** - July 30, 2022 at 11:34 PM

BD

*Dad enjoyed life and did like to ponder happenings in the world. Thank you for sharing, Ennis.*

**Bobbi Deling** - August 26, 2022 at 09:32 PM

SH

“ *John was a wonderful photographer and took many photos of baptisms and other events at Cornerstone UMC. I have some beautiful shots he took of my daughter at her first communion, which I greatly cherish. He made every photo meaningful, and brought a lot of joy to the families with his talents. He will be missed. My prayers are with his family and friends.*

**Shannon Hoy** - July 30, 2022 at 08:51 PM

BD

*Shannon, thank you for sharing your memories of Dad at Cornerstone. He loved his church family. We are thankful he carried his camera bag wherever he went as he left us with so many photographic memories to enjoy.*

**Bobbi Deling** - August 24, 2022 at 09:25 PM