



John Ralph Cummings Jr.

December 3, 1947 - January 15, 2025

A husband, a father, a son, a servant of the King, and called "Grandad" by the third generation, John was born on December 3, 1947, in Greencastle, Indiana, to Lt. Col. John R. Cummings Sr. of Odon, IN, and Ruth Marcella (Young) Cummings of Dugger, Indiana. John's family moved frequently due to his father's career in the Air Force. Growing up, John never attended any school for more than two years, except for college.

In high school on the island of Oahu in Hawaii, John attended Punahou School. As a freshman, he placed first in the state in the 100 and 200-yard freestyle junior varsity competitions and broke the state JV record for the 100-yard freestyle. He was also part of The Honolulu Youth Symphony Orchestra. The next year, as a sophomore, John finished third in the state in the 200 and 400-yard freestyle varsity events. He later moved to Florida and did not compete again until college, where he competed at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

In college, John majored in History and Political Science and was active in the fraternity Talos, which later became ATO. He participated in local service projects and joined several groups opposed to the nation's involvement in the Vietnam War, including planning demonstrations in Washington, D.C.

In 1971, John joined VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) and moved to Johnson City, Tennessee, to work on developing civil rights leadership and

youth programs in low-income communities. It was here that God brought him together with his future wife, Nancy Cassaday. They met and spent their first day together at a get-acquainted party at her house, talking well into the night. Eight years later, on June 23, 1979, they were married in Bloomington, IN, and moved to their new home in Bloomfield, IN, where they raised two sons: John Ralph III, who married Brandy Denham and has three children—Madison Rose Denham, Emma Elizabeth, and Ethan Matthew Michael—and Matthew Warren, who married Danielle Owen and has two children—Jasmine Amayah and Sage Sojourner. John was very proud of his sons and grandchildren and loved them deeply.

John worked for the Illinois Central Railroad for 10 years before retiring from the Indiana Rail Road after 21 years as a manager, where he was one of the original 16 employees. A siding west of Dugger, Indiana, was named “Cummings Siding” by Tom Hoback (President, Owner, and CEO of INRD) in recognition of John’s dedication to the railroad industry.

John was a member of the First Baptist Church of Bloomfield, where he was baptized in 1991 after many years of prayers by his faithful wife and friends. He served in many roles in the church, including as a youth leader, deacon, moderator, and encourager to those in need. John was also active in the Walk to Emmaus and Chrysalis communities, serving on the Board of Directors and volunteering his time for many walks, journeys, and flights. He was the Cubmaster for Pack 468 in Bloomfield for five years, growing the unit from fewer than 10 boys to over 70. Along with his wife, Nancy, he worked with the downtown Christian youth group Oasis for over six years and enjoyed watching the high school students grow up and start families of their own.

After retirement, John enjoyed bicycling, pickleball, gardening, collecting pre-war “O” model trains, listening to Janis Joplin, and teasing his grandchildren.

John's beloved wife, Nancy, whom God gave him to love with all his heart, preceded him to heaven, along with his parents and sister, Rowena Lankford. Surviving him are his son, John III, and his children, Madison, Emma, and Ethan; his son Matthew and his wife, Danielle, and their children, Jasmine and Sage; and nieces Kendal and Kiersten and cousin Denny Young.

John enjoyed and lived his life to fullest and greeted every single person with love and a sense of humor.

Favorite verse: A promise and a blessing

"Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen. – Rev. 22:20-21

The verse I claim

1 Corinthians 7:14

"For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife...
Otherwise, your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy."

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN **19**. 5:00 PM (ET)

Bloomfield First Baptist Church
500 Lincoln Drive
Bloomfield, IN 47424

Tribute Wall

FM

“ John Cummings (& Nancy too), such great memories!
One is of the way John would go above and beyond when helping Nancy prep for the Pack 468 Cubscout Pack meeting (once/mo). He would often rent an animal costume for the event!
Another memory is when John, Tyler and I were on an overnight campout with the scouts. As the 3 of us hiked a ways into the woods (after scouts bedded for evening), John pulled a small cake from his backpack and Tyler pulled a small present from his while they sang Happy Birthday to me!
Thursday morning prayer breakfast won't be the same without him. He (in retirement years) was a great proponent of bicycling. Often he would take us to Bloomington to ride the trails. He once took me to Indy to ride the Monon trail!
He was also promoting pickleball for awhile.!

Looking forward to the time when we'll all be together again,

Frank and Cindy Montgomery

Frank Montgomery - January 19, 2025 at 09:14 AM



“ Nina and Linda Crowe from the Bloomfield Methodist Church want to send our sympathies to the family of John. So sorry for your loss!
😭

Linda Crowe - January 18, 2025 at 10:32 AM

TB

“ Some great bike rides with John through the recent years of knowing him! He will be missed.

Tom Bridges - January 18, 2025 at 09:49 AM

LK

“ Love, Kendall & Kiersten purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of John Ralph Cummings Jr..



Love, Kendall & Kiersten - January 17, 2025 at 02:55 PM

WC

“ Wayne Creek lit a candle in memory of John Cummings



Wayne Creek - January 17, 2025 at 11:13 AM



“ 1 file added to the album John Cummings, Jr.



Lester Jenkins and Sons Funeral Home Inc. - January 17, 2025 at 08:16 AM