



John Stephen Massey

August 22, 1949 - March 17, 2021

John Massey, 71 passed away on March 17, 2021 of complications from emergency heart surgery. He was born August 22, 1949 to Jack and Dorothy Massey and is a lifelong Des Moines resident.

He graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1968. He was a talented, self-taught auto body repairman and also an auto mechanic. He had a '55 Chevy and a '66 GTO as a teenager and several other vintage cars later on including a Corvette and a Porsche. He loved working on them and racing them. He passed his knowledge on to his brother, his nephew and several of his friends. He worked at Massey Ferguson, Maytag and other plants as a production spray painter and at UTC Aerospace as an aeronautics jet nozzle repairman. He also had an antique and mirror re-silvering business with his wife.

He was married to his loving wife, Charlotte (Char) for 48 years. They had a wonderful life together. He was an avid sportsman and he and Char travelled the country hunting and fishing. He was an easy-going, big-hearted guy with a contagious smile. A lot of his friends came to him for advice and trusted him so much they called him "Honest John". He enjoyed visiting with his friends at the WDM Senior Center where Char volunteered.

He is survived by his devoted wife Charlotte; his brother, Robert Massey (Shelley) of Des Moines; sisters, Margie Wilkinson, Des Moines, Susie Brodie (Todd) of Des Moines and Kim Morano (Al) of Des Moines; sister-in-law, Kathy Turner (Gary) of Siloam Springs, AR; brother-in-law, Gary Hodges of Indianola; 14 nieces and nephews and 16 great-nieces and nephews as well

as many other family members and friends who will greatly miss him. He is preceded in death by his parents, Jack and Dorothy Massey; paternal grandparents, Walter and Margaret Massey; maternal grandparents, Jim and Rose Rogers; father-in-law, Don Thomas; mother-in-law, Katy Thomas; brother-in-law, Don Thomas Jr. and a sister-in-law Candy Hodges.

Celebration of John's life will be 2pm Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at Merle Hay Funeral Home, 4400 Merle Hay Rd., Des Moines, Ia. 50310. Visitation with family will begin at 1 pm at the funeral home. Masks will be required at the funeral home. John wished to be cremated so he could ALWAYS be with Char.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's disease.

Online condolences: DyiamondMemorial.com

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **24**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Merle Hay Funeral Home
4400 Merle Hay Rd
Des Moines, IA 50310
(515) 278-4633

Celebration of Life Service

MAR **24**. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

Merle Hay Funeral Home
4400 Merle Hay Rd
Des Moines, IA 50310
(515) 278-4633

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Dyamond Memorial - *Burials *Cremations *Monuments - March 24, 2021 at 08:12 PM



“ The Winger Families purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of John Stephen Massey.



The Winger Families - March 23, 2021 at 06:32 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of John's passing. I met John thru the exercise class at the senior center. He was always quick to say hello and fun to visit with. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, Char.

Jean Welsh

Jean Welsh - March 23, 2021 at 04:46 PM

DM

“ Sorry for your sudden loss of your husband, John. He always had a cheerful smile and shared his knowledge with others. I am thankful I got to know John through the exercise class. Prayers to you and your family.

*Please call me if I can help in anyway.
Blessings, Jan Godfrey*

Dyamond Memorial - March 23, 2021 at 12:14 PM

RS

“ I worked with John at Dahl's University (4808). We had lots of fun sacking groceries and stocking shelves. John was a car guy. He had a VW that was tricked out and was a sleeper back in the 60's. And I remember his 55 Chevy. He poured all his \$\$ into building the engine so it was as hot as any car in town.

Rest in peace.

Ron Sinnwell

Ron Sinnwell - March 21, 2021 at 09:21 AM

DH

“ I always loved the way John would answer the phone - “Y e l l o w ...” and then he would have the biggest laugh — I loved the way he would describe the sparkle in your eyes when he found a special antique that had your name all over it. You both were such a team...I always admired that. You both had such a genuine love and respect for each other. Love you Char. - Donna Hardin

donna hardin - March 20, 2021 at 09:44 PM