



## John C. Ryan

December 18, 1941 - September 25, 2020

John C. Ryan passed away unexpectedly at home on the 25th day of September 2020. Funeral Mass will be held at Good Shepherd Catholic Church on Wednesday, September 30, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. with Father Charles Howell officiating. Visitation will be held at Harrod Brothers Funeral Home from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 30, 2020.

A graduate of St. Catharine College (class of 1962) and the University of Kentucky College of Arts and Sciences (1964) and College of Law (1967), he practiced law for over 50 years, specializing in bankruptcy and administrative law. He was a lifetime fellow of the Kentucky Bar Foundation, and a member of the Franklin County and Kentucky Bar Associations, where he held Senior Status. He was an active member of the Choateville Ruritan Club, and a longtime member of Good Shepherd Church.

A native of Lebanon, Kentucky, he was born on a family farm, and remained a farmer at heart all his life, spending hours outside on his tractors, tooling around in the yard, and devoting his twilight hours to the crop of wine grapes he'd just harvested this September. He was especially fond of the Ford 8N tractor that he'd inherited from his dad. He loved classic cars, planes, bourbon, motorbike rides on sunny days with his wife, and generally doing anything the old-fashioned way. He was a night owl and a secret sentimentalist (or maybe just a pack rat), who saved every greeting card or

note he ever got from his siblings or his girls, and loved to tell stories about his early days on the farm, the best nightclubs in Marion County, or his early (and brief) forays into Kentucky politics.

Mr. Ryan was predeceased by his parents, John C. Ryan, Sr. and Aileen Ryan. He is survived by his devoted wife of 53 years, Judy Nicholls Ryan; daughters, Jennifer Ryan, Kimberly Shields (Jeff), Robyn Smith (Matt), and Kelli Ryan (Noor); siblings, Doug Ryan (Mary Helen), Harriet Stuart (Clay), Rick Ryan (Jamie), and Martha Howard (Jim); grandchildren, Evan Shields and Ellery Shields; his Aunts Jewell McCauley, Barbara Spalding, and Velma Spalding and nieces, nephews, and cousins of whom he was truly fond.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made to Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 72 Shepherd Way, Frankfort, KY 40601 or the Choateville Ruritan Club, PO Box 1206, Frankfort, KY 40602.

Arrangements are under the direction of Harrod Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **30**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Harrod Brothers Funeral Home  
312 Washington Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 227-4526  
hbfh@harrodbrothers.com  
<https://www.harrodbrothers.com>

## Service

SEP **30**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Good Shepherd Catholic Church  
72 Shepherd Way  
Frankfort, KY 40601

# Tribute Wall



“ *John C. Ryan*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *Dear Judy,  
Class of 1964! Mary Ellen called me to tell me about John. I am so sorry to hear of your husband, John's passing. I saw on this website a beautiful picture of your daughter and your family. I presume you live in Frankfurt. How is your brother? Do your daughters live nearby? Our son and family live in MA and other daughter and husband live in PA. They just had a new daughter in July. I am still living in Ma. Sue Ann is in Florida. Peace and love , Judy  
Joy Prato Morris*

**Joy Morris** - October 05, 2020 at 11:01 AM



“ *Joy Morris lit a candle in memory of John C. Ryan*



**Joy Morris** - October 05, 2020 at 10:53 AM

JG

“ Jennifer,

*We are so sorry for the loss of your very special father. Jane and Kenneth Gilbert*

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**Jane C Gilbert** - October 02, 2020 at 08:51 AM

HW

“ *John and Judy were in our wedding and Ron and I were in their wedding. I especially remember the times we spent together at the Bar conventions. They were special friends*

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**Helen L Wheat** - October 01, 2020 at 11:03 AM

KH

“ *I worked for a really short time for John one summer. My mom, Vivian Lewis, worked for Bob Harrod and got John to hire me until his regular secretary came back and I went back to college. He was such a nice man. I really enjoyed working for him. I am so sorry to hear about this. I'll keep your family in my prayers.*

*Kim Hall*

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**Kim Hall** - October 01, 2020 at 09:05 AM



“ *I am retired from Whitaker Bank and Mr. Ryan was one of my customers. My thoughts and prayers are with his family now.*  
*Jane Smith*

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**Janie Smith** - September 30, 2020 at 12:31 PM

KS

“ So sorry for your loss Judy, I know you and the girls will miss him.  
Sending peace and prayers to you all.  
Kelly Brashears Sadlo

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**kelly Sadlo** - September 29, 2020 at 08:17 PM

CL

“ Connie Lashbrook lit a candle in memory of  
John C. Ryan



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**Connie Lashbrook** - September 29, 2020 at 05:39 PM

JR

“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Jennifer Ryan** - September 29, 2020 at 11:50 AM

AH

“ The Choateville Ruritan Club is very saddened at the loss of John.  
He was a good and kind man and always willing to do whatever he  
could to help out. You will be missed. Rest in Peace.  
Members of Choateville RuritanClub

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**Anne Hillard** - September 29, 2020 at 09:50 AM

GS

“ *Mr. Ryan was a very caring man. May he rest in peace.* ”



Gina Shall - September 28, 2020 at 06:26 PM



“ 47 files added to the album Life Tributes ”



Harrod Brothers Funeral Home - September 28, 2020 at 02:46 PM

PM

“ *Patsy McChesney lit a candle in memory of John C. Ryan* ”



Patsy McChesney - September 27, 2020 at 06:49 PM

SN

“ *My dear sweet Martha, Harriett and family. I'm so sorry for your loss. Sending love and prayers for comfort.* ”

Sherri Napier - September 27, 2020 at 06:23 PM

MB

“ I have known John since I was a Sophomore in High School he was a good friend and I am so broken-hearted that he is gone but I know that he is in the Hands of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and His Blessed Mother.

*Rest In Peace John you will be missed by your Family and Friends.*

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**Mary Lloyd Barber** - September 27, 2020 at 12:04 PM

LM

“ Judy and Family,  
*In memory of Hon. John C. Ryan, our heartfelt sympathies. John always offered his hand in peace at mass, he always nodded and said hello when we saw him. He was a kind, understanding, intelligent, and good man. He was a respected and trusted friend. I will miss seeing him standing at the back of the Good Shepherd Church worship space, waiting to usher & help others, being of service. Sitting at back, we always looked for John & his presence comforted us. May God now comfort your family.*

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**Laura Malena** - September 27, 2020 at 11:20 AM

TM

“ Jennifer and Judy, I am so sorry for your loss. Prayers for you and your family.

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**Teresa Moore** - September 27, 2020 at 08:19 AM

EB

“ My thoughts and prayers are with Judy and his girls. John and I have been friends for many years and shared many a good time together. He will be greatly missed.

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**Elwood Bingham** - September 27, 2020 at 08:17 AM

KW

“ John was a gracious mentor when I first started practicing law. He was always patient, kind and generous with his advice no matter how silly of a question I asked him. I found him to have a wonderful wit and was always self-deprecating and humble. A truly good man. A great loss to our community. My deepest sympathy to his family.

Kari Williams - September 26, 2020 at 07:40 PM

RL

“ Mr Ryan was a wonderful person and neighbor. Our deepest sympathies to his wife and daughters. We often spoke as he took his daily walks and he always had a smile to share

Richard and Katrina LeMay

richard and katrina LeMay - September 26, 2020 at 01:17 PM

MF

My thoughts and prayers are sent to Judy and family.

Mary E. Fint - September 26, 2020 at 05:52 PM

CT

So sorry to hear this, prayers for Judy and the girls, losing your loved one isn't easy, I went through that April 1999, miss seeing you at the grocery and working with Jennifer at the bank, love you all.

carolyn thomas - September 29, 2020 at 11:41 AM

MM

Judy, there are no words. So sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family.

Marie & Bill Mika

Marie & Bill Mika - September 29, 2020 at 12:45 PM

TS

*We are deeply saddened to hear of John,s passing. I always looked forward to our conversation at family get togethers in Danville. God bless you guys during this difficult time.*

*Tim and Mary Jane*

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**Tim Spalding** - September 30, 2020 at 03:35 PM