

Closed Album - John Wetterling

By John Walter

John Wetterling passed away unexpectedly at his home in Oregon on Dec. 22, 2019. After his wife Marla retired this past summer, both John and Marla moved to Oregon to be near her parents. His last stamp club appearance was on Nov. 9 for the Auction Bucks auction

John was born in Berkeley, California in 1961. He started stamp collecting at a young age (4 or 5) with a Soviet Union album. His father felt it would be a good learning tool. Every year for Christmas, John would receive the past years stamps and supplement. He had to learn about the stamps by himself. By that he meant: perforations, colors, spellings, NH, used, type of cancellations, etc.

His father was the owner of a stamp shop in Northern California. John used to help at the stamp shop on the weekends. John remembers "stamps arriving in 55-gallon drums."

Like everyone else, John stopped collecting for a while and sold his collection to buy a car. Every now and again he would buy stamps for his grandfather's Swedish collection. When his grandfather was very ill, John told him he would continue his Swedish collection.

John's collecting was not just stamps. He also collected: Pre-Philately, Post Cards, Cancellations, Year Sets, Rocket Mail, Catapult Mail, and Post Paid Cards. If it dealt with Sweden postage, John collected it and did so for over 30 years.

John graduated from Oakland High School in 1979 and got a BA from California State Hayward in Political Science in 1982 and did graduate work in International Economics.

John moved to Reno in 1987 and married Marla in 1988. Marla joined the Navy in 1990 and they moved around for a while where John got to enjoy the perks of being a Navy spouse. They were stationed at: Corey Field in Pensacola, FL; Skaggs Island (near Sonoma, CA); Terceira Island, Azores; and then near Denver, CO.



John Wetterling giving a club presentation on Swedish post cards in 2012.



John & Marla Wetterling at the 2018 club Christmas party.

When Marla left the service, they relocated from Aurora, CO to Pensacola, FL where they opened a collectibles shop (Lillian Bridge Coins & Collectibles.) They didn't have the shop long as John followed Marla to Tucson, AZ for a job promotion.

They moved back to Reno in May 2000 and then a couple of years in Chilcot, CA near Frenchman's Lake, a short time in Rancho Haven, NV before finally moving to Fernley in 2004.

John & Marla have been members of the NSSS since 2001. John also collected military memorabilia and enjoyed following the Oakland A's.

As far as Nevada Stamp Study Society activities, John was always happy to volunteer: He was elected as Vice-President twice, served as Program Director, presented philatelic programs, contributed Post Boy quizzes, and helped at the Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Shows and the Nevada State Fair.



John giving a club presentation at the January 26, 2019 meeting.



John Wetterling giving a club presentation at the March 23, 2019 meeting.

John and his boisterous "Quiet people!" will be missed.

A memorial donation in his name can be made to the Sparks Heritage Museum, 814-820 Victorian Ave., Sparks, NV 89431. You can contact Marla Wetterling at 6422 Hilyard Ave., Klamath Falls, OR 97603.