



## John P. Henshaw

October 30, 1949 - April 11, 2023

John P. Henshaw, 73, Lunenburg, MA, died peacefully on the morning of Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at Emerson Hospital in Concord after a brief battle with cancer and an earlier diagnosis of developing Alzheimer's.

John was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan., October 30, 1949, the oldest son of James R. and Mary Margaret "Marge" (Smith) Henshaw. He married Lydia Werner Agsten on June 24, 1981, and embraced her daughter Patricia as his own child.

John graduated from Dexter High School in 1967 and persisted in his quest for knowledge and profound love for learning throughout his life. John was a graduate of Hillsdale College, Michigan, with an AB in History; he obtained a Master's Degree in International Marketing from Thunderbird Graduate School of International Management, Arizona; and after a long career in business, returned to school to earn a Master in Education from Lesley University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

John worked for Simplex, Gardner and Westminster, MA, for over 23 years as Manager of Market Analysis. After a long career in the corporate world, in 2001 John embarked on his much-loved career as an Elementary School Teacher where he taught 4th grade at Russell Street School in Littleton, MA for over 10 years. He frequently stated that being a teacher was the toughest

job he had ever experienced; however, it was also the most rewarding experience in his work life.

John lived in Lunenburg for over 43 years. As a strong believer in providing service to his community, he volunteered over the years as an English as a Second Language tutor for Literacy Volunteers and as a Money Management volunteer and nursing home Ombudsman for the former Montachusett Home Care Corporation (currently the Aging Services of North Central MA). John held several elected/volunteer positions in the Town of Lunenburg as a Library Trustee, a member of the Finance Committee, a member of the Capital Planning Committee and several other community committees.

John embraced a full life, enjoying hiking and spending time in nature with his family and many dogs. He loved traveling with his extended family, sharing a close bond with his son-in-law's family – many wonderful memories surround extended family trips and celebrations. A lover of classical music, annual trips to the Berkshires to listen to the Boston Symphony at Tanglewood with cherished friends were often a summer highlight. He enjoyed cooking with his beloved wife and baking bread with his cherished granddaughter – friends and family always looked forward to delightful meals at the Henshaw home.

As a final act of service to the larger community of his fellow men and women of the world, John had chosen the designation of being an organ donor, however, with the cancer diagnosis his family knew that being an organ donor was not possible. In recognition of John's dedication to community and passion for knowledge, his family has honored him by donating his brain to the Harvard Brain Tissue Resource Center to help researchers around the world obtain more knowledge and hopefully a cure for Alzheimer's Dementia. (<https://hbtrc.mclean.harvard.edu>)

John is survived by his wife of 41 years Lydia, his daughter Patricia and her

husband Ryan Wildes, granddaughter Evie Wildes, brother Robert (Sue) Henshaw, Howell, MI, sister Nancy (Jack) Myers, Chelsea, MI, and sister Wendy Henshaw, Ann Arbor, MI, his three nieces and several cousins. He was predeceased by his parents and his youngest brother Tim Henshaw.

The family requests in lieu of flowers that a donation in John's memory be sent to either the Emerson Health Care Foundation, 133 Old Road to Nine Acre Corner, Concord, MA 01742 or to the Alzheimer's Association, PO Box 96011, Washington, DC 20090-6011.

A celebration of John's life will be held later this year.

The Anderson Funeral Home, 25 Fitchburg Road, Ayer is assisting the family. To leave an online condolence, please visit their website at [www.andersonfuneral.com](http://www.andersonfuneral.com).

# Tribute Wall

AL

“ Drove by Lunenburg and thought of Mr. Henshaw - he was my 4th grade teacher at Littleton (17 years back!). Very sad to learn of his passing. He was always so supportive, wise, and kind. Condolences to Mr. Henshaw's family - he was one of a kind.

Alissa - August 03, 2025 at 01:38 PM

HB

“ Today I randomly thought of Mr.Henshaw - he was my 4th grade social studies teacher. After looking him up and finding his obituary, I am saddened to hear of his passing. I admired him so much and will always remember his caring spirit. I learned all my states because of him! Thinking of his family and friends during the holiday times.

Hannah Bower - December 29, 2023 at 07:30 PM

TB

“ My condolences to John's family. I only knew him from our time together on the Finance Committee, but I will always remember him as a good, good man. He was as curious as anyone I ever met, and not afraid of any of the work required to get his questions answered. The Town of Lunenburg has lost a tremendous advocate.

Terri Burchfield

TERRI BURCHFIELD - April 21, 2023 at 01:37 PM



“ My deepest condolences to Lydia and John's family. John was a prince among men. John could be described with one word, kind. Godspeed, John, you will be missed.

Thomas Bodkin - April 21, 2023 at 08:33 AM



“ *I was sadden to hear of John's passing. What a wonderful man!*

John Carroll - April 20, 2023 at 06:44 AM



“ *Such a lovely man, he will be missed by so many people!*

Martha Moore - April 18, 2023 at 03:33 PM



“ *I always enjoyed working with John at MHCC. His volunteer services to elders were appreciated greatly. He was a man of his word.*

Sheila Martin - April 18, 2023 at 06:05 AM



“ *'Mr. Henshaw' -- as I knew him growing up -- was a regular at our family New Year's party, and always made a point of making genuine conversation. It's rare to meet such a thoughtful, tuned-in, curious, and educated person. Truly a special, gentle soul. His prescence in our home will be missed, to put it mildly. May he rest in peace. And may peace look an awful lot like Tanglewood.*

Peter H. Cameron - April 17, 2023 at 06:37 PM



“ *I met John when I worked at Simplex. He was always a great guy and made everyone laugh with his vibrant personality. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. My condolences go out to his family and friends. May you RIP John*

Susan D - April 15, 2023 at 09:07 AM

LG

“ *Didn't spend a lot of time with my uncle John, however when I did he always was always so sincere and very attentive, he made me feel like he cared and wanted to actually know what was going on and how things were going. I will miss him, pray that I will see him again in the kingdom of Heaven. Much Love and my condolences to my Aunt Lydia and family.*

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**Lanny Gilbert** - April 14, 2023 at 06:38 PM