



John LeRoy Eaton

September 21, 1939 - March 4, 2023

John LeRoy Eaton died on Saturday, March 4, 2023. Born September 21, 1939 in Decatur, Illinois he was the son of the late George Wesley Eaton and Hazel Katie Eaton. He is survived by his loving wife of almost 62 years, Margaret A. "Peggy" Eaton, brother Steve Eaton and his wife Charlotte of Sonora, CA, son Marc Eaton and wife Diann of Christiansburg, VA, son Kent Eaton and his daughter Leah of Christiansburg, VA, granddaughter Eliza Eaton Kerr and husband Morgan of Asheville, NC and grandson Neal Eaton and wife Stephanie of Christiansburg, VA.

John was preceded in death by son T. Scott Eaton, who died in 2001.

John spent his childhood in Decatur, Illinois. His free time was spent in the fields exploring the woods and the waters of nearby Stevens Creek. Through this experience he developed a lifelong love of outdoor activities which ultimately led him to the career as an insect physiologist. Upon graduating from Stephen Decatur high school in 1957, John served active and reserve duty in the army. He began college at Millikin University where he met Peggy and they were married on September 3 1961. John transferred to the University of Illinois in 1960 where he was awarded the B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Entomology. His first position was as Assistant Professor of Biology at Kalamazoo College in 1966. In 1969, He accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Entomology at Virginia Tech where for the next 18

years he conducted basic research on the anatomy and physiology of Lepidoptera and rose to the rank of professor. In 1988 he accepted the position of Associate Dean of the Virginia Tech Graduate School. Serving there he was part of a team which conceived of and led the implementation of the electronic dissertation project. John retired in 2002 as Professor of Entomology and Graduate Dean Emeritus. He then took on his most important role as Papa. A position that he excelled at for the rest of his life.

The family would like to thank the caring folks who helped John with his struggle with Parkinson's. Christy, Emma, Ashley, Atasha, Reba, Crystal, Yana, Sabrina and Misti and our hospice providers Teresa and Morgan. He could not have gotten through this without you. You are very special people.

A gathering to celebrate John's life will be held at the Warm Hearth Village Center on Sunday, March 19 at 2:00pm. Please come to visit and share memories with the family.

In Lieu of flowers, please consider contributing to the T. Scott Eaton Memorial Scholarship Fund through the Community Foundation of the New River Valley of Virginia.

Do not stand at my grave and weep. I am not there, I do not sleep. I am a thousand winds that blow. I am the diamond glint on snow. I am the sunlight on ripened grain. I am the gentle autumn rain. When you wake in the morning hush, I am the swift, uplifting rush of quiet birds circling in flight. I am the soft star light at night. I live in the memory of all who knew and loved me. Only when they die will I too be gone.- Mary Frey, 1932, amended by John L. Eaton 2012

Previous Events

Gathering

MAR 19. 2:00 PM (ET)

Warm Hearth Village Center
2387 Warm Hearth Drive
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Tribute Wall

EM

“ *Eloise Minnick lit a candle in memory of John LeRoy Eaton*



Eloise Minnick - March 14, 2023 at 11:57 AM

HS

“ *Please accept our deepest condolences to you over the loss of John. Wishing you peace, comfort, courage, and love. Helen and Keith Spence and family*

Helen Spence - March 11, 2023 at 02:41 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of John LeRoy Eaton.*



March 09, 2023 at 10:50 AM

JV

“ *When I first met my cousin, John, I felt an instant family connection. He reminded me so much of my grandfather, Leroy Eaton, who I adored. Although we did not know each other until later in life, we were able to share memorable visits with both John and Peggy throughout our retirement years. John's warm and caring heart will live in my memories forever. I will miss him always. Jan Eaton Vance*

Jan Eaton Vance - March 09, 2023 at 08:16 AM

JV

“ *Janice Vance purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of John LeRoy Eaton.*



Janice Vance - March 09, 2023 at 07:26 AM

ST

“ *Peace Be With You.*

Sandra Thornton - March 08, 2023 at 10:33 AM

VB

Peace be with You.

Veronika and Berrell - March 19, 2023 at 02:31 PM