



John Lawrence Mayer

September 8, 1928 - March 14, 2025

John Lawrence Mayer passed from this life into the arms of his loving Savior, Jesus Christ, on

March 14th, 2025 in Bakersfield California. He was 96.

John Lawrence Mayer was born in 1928 to John William Mayer and Mildred Martha Younge

Mayer. During his childhood he lived in multiple areas locally including Flush, Zeandale and

Wamego, Kansas. He attended elementary school in Zeandale Ks graduating from St George,

Kansas in 1947. He then attended college in western Kansas where he would soon embark

upon a career of teaching. John served in the Korean War and upon returning home began his

career as a teacher in Western Kansas. At one school the students were referred to as the

“River Rats” and those surviving have remained in contact with him until his passing.

As an old saying “Go West Young Man,” John moved to Bakersfield, California where he

continued his teaching career until his retirement. He touched the lives of thousands and

remained in contact with many of them and their families. Many of the

students had children that he also had the privilege of teaching. He knew them all by name. His legacy as a great educator has set the bar very high for others to follow. Upon retirement he moved home to Wamego, Kansas but a few years later decided to sell his home and move back to Bakersfield where he remained. John did not know any strangers and greeted everyone as an old and dear friend. He enjoyed art and had created many of his own paintings and sculptures. As a young man, he posed as a model for renowned sculptor, Pete Felton in Hays, Kansas. (Mr Felton has sculptures displayed throughout Hays Kansas and sold nationwide as well as creating/sculpting the statues in the tundra at the State Capital in Topeka, Kansas) They remain friends. John enjoyed traveling and had been to Egypt to see the tomb of King Tut amongst other travels, including cruises and bus trips. He took pride in and felt honored to be a recipient of an Honor Flight to Washington DC that he enjoyed very much. A frequent phrase you might hear from John was "Nothing ventured, nothing gained." He lived a fulfilling life with this motto. John is survived by his sisters, Barbara Jean Etienne of Wamego, Kansas; Patty Lou Spain of Wichita, Kansas, and Peggy Sue (Bishop) Poledna of Fort Worth, Texas, numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews and countless numbers of friends. He was preceded in death by his parents John and Mildred Mayer and two siblings Lynn Joseph

Mayer and Joan Audrey (Rowe) Kohn.

Cemetery Details

Bakersfield National Cemetery

30338 East Bear Mountain Blvd
Arvin, CA 93203

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 8. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (PT)

Mission Family Mortuary
531 California Ave
Bakersfield, CA 93304
1 (661) 323-3339
<https://missionfamilymortuary.com/>

Military Honors

APR 9. 10:45 AM - 11:15 AM (PT)

Bakersfield National Cemetery
30338 E Bear Mountain Blvd
Arvin, CA 93203
(661) 867-2250

Tribute Wall

DH

“ I will miss that dear soul, i know he is home safe with our Lord now. I'll see you soon John. i first met John at the apartments on South H st. in 1971 and have talked with and visited him at his various abodes since then. His current abode is by far the nicest and there is no rent.

David Hammond - April 07, 2025 at 03:59 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Lawrence Mayer.



April 07, 2025 at 12:18 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Lawrence Mayer.

April 07, 2025 at 12:18 PM

MT

“ Giving CA lottery tickets for Christmas, If there were any winners he'd give us the cash. The Bonneville in the garage with all the wasps. Lol.
Crying together when he sold his house in Wamego.
Laughing on the phone together. I bet he went into heaven singing.
Love you Uncle John.

Mary Lynn Trudell - March 26, 2025 at 09:38 PM

KW

“ *Kathy Jo Wade purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Lawrence Mayer.*



Kathy Jo Wade - March 26, 2025 at 08:59 PM

KW

“ *Dear John, you were a wonderful & thoughtful friend who will be deeply missed, along with your scrumptious peach pie! Love and sympathy to your loved ones. Kathy Wade*

Kathy Jo Wade - March 26, 2025 at 08:29 PM

JE

“ *Chewing tobacco under the lean-to at the grandparents, learning to roll cigarettes with grandpas Velvet tobacco, push starting the 53 Chevy because the battery was ALWAYS dead, taking a trip to Vegas then on to California, counting change and rolling it up (then he would give it to me), learning how to appreciate cooking and trying any variation at least once, appreciation of art-even if it is not any good- because someones heart went into creating it. These are a few things, among many more, about my Uncle John that I hold dear. Always Loved, Never Forgotten.*

Joe Etienne - March 22, 2025 at 02:04 PM