



John L. Harrison

August 1, 1953 - May 19, 2026

Well-known community leader and attorney John L. Harrison, 72, of Crystal Falls died Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at Casa de la Luz Hospice in Tucson, AZ, after suffering a stroke earlier in the month.

John was born August 1, 1953, in Crystal Falls, MI, son of the late Dr. Thomas Harrison and Gloria (Wiggins) Harrison.

He graduated from Forest Park High School in Crystal Falls in 1972. He earned a B.S. from Michigan State University in 1976 and a J.D. from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 1981.

At Michigan State, John met his future wife and best friend, Janice “Jan” Bickle. They married on August 26, 1978, later divorced, then remarried on October 20, 2023. (Jan referred to John as her first and second husband.)

John was a born leader, starting with his high school years and ending when he became too ill to serve in leadership roles. His contributions to the community include serving as president of the Forest Park School Board, chair of the local V-J Day Committee, and secretary of the Crystal Falls Rotary Club.

John was a pioneer of the field of elder law who was well-respected for his

expertise in this area. Clients praised him for this and his compassion as he helped them with their end-of-life planning and other legal needs for over four decades. As a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, John attended conferences in various cities to stay updated in elder law and better serve his clients. He facilitated elder law seminars for Michigan's Institute of Continuing Legal Education. John also served briefly at the start of his career as assistant prosecuting attorney for Iron County.

John was a Cradle Episcopalian, born and raised in the Episcopal Church. He served as a Eucharistic minister and worship leader, in addition to being an acolyte. At the age of 16, he was the youngest person elected to the Vestry and served on the Vestry many times after that.

John loved his high school class and served on reunion planning committees as long as his health allowed. The Class of '72 will remember his "Susie" in tube floats down the Paint River.

John's many interests included classic cars, boating on both the chain of Fortune Lakes and Lake Superior, skiing, traveling, camping, gardening, raspberry pie, grilling for family get-togethers, and watching football, especially the Packers and the Spartans.

John's two grandsons were the pride and joy of his life. During their annual family visits in early July, Grandpa was in charge of all the fun and made sure it included swimming, bonfires, fireworks, and spontaneous drives for ice cream.

Survivors include wife Jan, daughter, Jenna (Ben) Wright, son, Mark Harrison, grandsons, Thomas and Andrew Wright; siblings, Dr. James Harrison, Sally (Tom) Peterson, and Robert (Janet) Harrison; and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews; and countless friends. John was preceded in death by his

brother, Dick, only two days prior to his own death.

Visitation will tentatively be held from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm on Saturday, July 11 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Crystal Falls, MI. A memorial service will follow at 1:00pm at the church. Rev. Peggy Padilla will officiate. Burial will be in the Evergreen Memorial Cemetery in Crystal Falls.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorials be made to St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Crystal Falls or Friends of Camp Batawagama.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of John Harrison online at www.nashfuneralhome.net

The family has entrusted the Nash Funeral Home of Crystal Falls with the arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Evergreen Memorial Cemetery

311 Logan St.
Crystal Falls, MI 49920

Upcoming Events

Visitation

JUL 11. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

St Mark's Episcopal Church
809 Crystal Ave
Crystal Falls, MI 49920-1104
(906) 875-3921

Memorial Service

JUL 11. 1:00 PM (CT)

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
809 Crystal Ave.
Crystal Falls, MI 49920

Tribute Wall

HJ

“ Halim and Josh purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of John L. Harrison.



Halim and Josh - 2 hours ago

HJ

“ Halim and Josh planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John L. Harrison.

Halim and Josh - 2 hours ago