



John S. Geddes Jr.

August 18, 1937 - September 3, 2024

John S. Geddes, Jr. passed away peacefully in his home on September 3, 2024 at the age of 87 with his immediate family beside him. He was born on August 18, 1937 in Buffalo, NY and graduated from McKinley Vocational School in 1954 as a horticulture major. After graduating HS he owned a nursery and supplied mums and other flowers for the wholesale markets in Buffalo. He married Nancy Ann Phelps in 1960 and was drafted into the Army in 1961 serving in Korea on the Honest John missile system until he was discharged in 1963. John and Nancy welcomed John S. Geddes III in 1962 and Nadine Geddes Essary in 1965.

John lived in Akron, NY until 1976, working as an owner operator of his own tractor trailer; additionally, he and Nancy owned several rental properties he updated and maintained himself. He moved the family to Umatilla, FL at the end of 1976. During the next 15 years, he owned and operated several local businesses including Whirlpool Coin Laundry, Country Corner Restaurant and Uncle Tom's Bar and Package Store.

After retiring, John became a master gardener and spent countless hours for decades devoting his time and knowledge to the Lake County Agricultural Extension Center. He enjoyed talking about plants and truly felt the earth was meant to grow the beauty of flowers, trees and food. John also enjoyed building things and working with his hands. He has made many items

including furniture and a dollhouse with his final big project the home on the old Phelps homestead where he and Nancy have lived since 2005. Additionally, he and his wife traveled the country for several years with their motor home as well as taking cruises and bus tours.

John is survived by his wife of 64 years, Nancy Ann Phelps Geddes of Umatilla; son John S Geddes III (Renee Geddes) of Tavares; daughter Nadine Geddes Essary (Gavin Essary) of Parker, Texas; grandchildren Kara Natale Sparks (Michael Sparks) of Mt Dora, Jarod Natale (Erika Nichole) of Umatilla, Christine Halbert Arnold (Jason Arnold) of Canton, Texas, and Rachel Halbert Graf (David Graf) of Flower Mound, Texas; 9 great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life for John will be held on September 12, 2024, the viewing at 10:00am and the service at 11:00am at Beyers Funeral Home, 279 S. Central Ave, Umatilla, Florida. Interment to follow at 1:30pm at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Alzheimer's Association or Plant a Tree.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home of Umatilla, Florida.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

Beyers Funeral Home and Crematory - Umatilla
279 South Central Avenue
Umatilla, FL 32784
(352) 669-2146

Interment

SEP 12. 1:30 PM (ET)

Florida National Cemetery
6502 SW 102nd Avenue
Bushnell, FL 33513

Tribute Wall



“ *Beyers Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John S. Geddes Jr.*



Beyers Funeral Home - September 09, 2024 at 11:51 AM

MM

This was such a beautiful and moving video. It represents the memories of a lifetime.

Monica & Mark - September 09, 2024 at 06:39 PM

NG

24 days ago we celebrated our 64th wedding anniversary together, 6 days ago God called John home. My life has changed but the Love for my husband will live on FOREVER. I LOVE you HONEY.

Nancy Geddes - September 09, 2024 at 09:09 PM

RL

I met Mr. Geddes and Mrs. Geddes through their kids John and Nadine in high school. Wonderful family and distance Umatilla neighbor. A great person. I will Cherish the memories. Ralph Lengemann

ralph Lengemann - September 10, 2024 at 07:16 PM

JS

Beautiful video a great life together. I'm glad to have some flowers he gave me that will live on. Such nice guy.

Judith starling - September 11, 2024 at 04:00 PM

KG

The video is beautiful and very emotional. I just saw this in the outpost or I would have been there. John was my favorite boss ever. Thoughts. Hugs and prayers Nancy, John & Nadine and their families.

Kathy LaBar Godwin - September 12, 2024 at 06:34 PM



John has been gone a year, I am so Very Blessed to have had 64 years with this Gentle Amazing Man and I miss him so much.

Nancy Geddes - September 04, 2025 at 11:56 AM

SE

I have great empathy with you, Nancy. So enjoyed watching this video, thanks for sharing. You shared a rich life together.

Sue Essary - September 04, 2025 at 07:27 PM

DM

Aunt Nancy, So sorry to hear of Uncle Jack's passing. I remember his exuberance. I recently came across a photo of him playing with my baby toys! Dennis Merkel

dennis merkel - September 13, 2025 at 11:06 AM