



John Edward Hegeman

February 16, 1948 - May 1, 2020

John E. Hegeman passed away peacefully on May 1, 2020 at Walnut Creek Special Care Center with his wife, Ellen, and daughter, Clare, at his side. John was born in St. Louis, Missouri to the late Bernard John Hegeman and Helen Virginia (McDermott) Hegeman on February 16, 1948.

As a young teenager, John discerned a calling to pursue a vocation to the priesthood. He attended and graduated from the St. Louis Preparatory Seminary. After high school graduation, he left the seminary and subsequently worked to put himself through college. He attended St. Louis University and received a B.S. degree in political science in 1972. His father developed severe rheumatoid arthritis and eventually became disabled and unable to work. John decided to remain at home to help his parents. He worked at various jobs then worked at Ford Motor Company and worked as a UAW member on the factory floor for four years.

In February 1980, John met the love of his life on a blind date arranged by mutual friends. During their courtship, Ellen learned that John volunteered to learn how to care for the severely handicapped child of good friends so he could babysit while the couple had nights out together. This was a perfect example of the compassionate, sensitive side of John which attracted Ellen to him. In 1981, John and Ellen married and John moved to Indianapolis where Ellen lived. In 1982, he entered law school and attained his Doctor of Jurisprudence from Indiana University-McKinney School of Law.

John began his law practice at Kahn Dees Donovan and Kahn in 1985 and continued to practice there for thirty-two years. His primary areas of practice were probate and trust law, business and tax law, estate planning and administration, and guardianships and adoptions. He especially enjoyed his adoption work. With sensitivity, John helped many couples build their families through adoption, deftly guiding both prospective adoptive parents and birth parents through the difficult and emotional process. A professional at Lampion Center who knew John stated “[he] did...great adoption work...the world is a better place for the fact he was in it.”

He was a Certified Indiana Trust and Estate Lawyer and he served in several civic and nonprofit organizations. He took special pride in serving as a Commissioner on the Evansville Police Merit Commission under Mayors Weinzapfel and Winnecke, as a member of the Deaconess Hospital Ethics Committees for Deaconess Midtown and the Women's Hospital, as a member of the board of Tales and Scales, and as a board member of the Friends of Mesker Park Zoo. He spent so many nights and weekends attending the meetings and special events of the Friends' board that his daughter Mary Kate would tell people her Daddy worked at the zoo.

John was a longtime member of the Evansville Bar Association, Indiana State Bar Association, American Bar Association and the Evansville Bar Foundation. He was a member of the Evansville Estate and Financial Planning Council and Evansville Employee Benefits Council.

John was a devout Catholic and staunch supporter of human rights and civil liberties. He served on the diocesan Catholic Charities Board, Daughters of Charity Foundation, as a member of his parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society Conference, and in numerous capacities at Holy Spirit Parish and Annunciation Parish. In 2015, he was chosen for membership in The Brute Society by Annunciation Parish in recognition of his exemplary stewardship.

He had a great sense of humor, dry and witty. He loved to laugh and to make others laugh. His laugh and smile are memorable. Friends and family have often commented on it. John enjoyed crafting a good story, often about himself or family members. Some of his best were about their trip to Mexico and his Freudian slip about his upcoming nuptials. Three times, he unintentionally referred to their wedding as his funeral; a mistake that led to many laughs with family and friends.

John truly enjoyed being a season ticket holder at the Evansville Otters and the University of Evansville men's and women's basketball teams. He also was a lifelong fan of the St. Louis Cardinals.

John loved his family dearly, especially his three children and precious granddaughter who called him "Papa." He enjoyed family events and gatherings. From the very beginning of his marriage he embraced the Corcorans as his "immediate" family.

Besides Ellen Corcoran Hegeman, his wife of thirty nine years, John is survived by three children, Mary Kate Hegeman and Clare Hegeman of Evansville, IN, Andrew Hegeman of Norman, Oklahoma; granddaughter Olivia Hegeman of Evansville, IN; sisters, Mary

Hegeman of Evansville, IN, Ann Hoffmann of St. Louis, MO; sisters and brothers-in-law, Sheila Corcoran (John Stevens) and Monica Corcoran (Bob Jacobs) of Evansville, IN and J.Valentine Corcoran Wenzler, MD (Richard Wenzler, MD) of Zionsville, IN, Timothy Corcoran of Evansville, IN and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held at Ziemer's East Chapel from 4:00-6:00pm on 11 May 2020 with a limit of 25 visitors at a time. Masks will be supplied upon entry. Please respect social distancing guidelines.

On 12 May 2020 from 10:00-11am there will be visitation at Ziemer's followed by a service celebrated by Father Alex Zenthoefer. A burial will follow at St. Joseph Cemetery. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Vincent de Paul Society Annunciation Conference, Annunciation Parish, 3010 E. Chandler Ave, Evansville, 47714, Alzheimer's Association Indiana Chapter, 701 N. Weinbach, Evansville, 47711, or the Evansville Bar Foundation, 915 Main Street, Suite 108, Evansville, 47708.

The funeral services will be streaming live 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at www.ziemerfuneralhome.com

Condolences may also be made online at www.ziemerfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery

St. Joseph Cemetery
2500 Mesker Park Drive
Evansville, IN,

Events

MAY 11 Visitation 04:00PM - 06:00PM

11
Ziemer Funeral Home - East Chapel
800 S Hebron Ave, Evansville, IN, US, 47714

MAY 12 Visitation 10:00AM - 11:00AM

12
Ziemer Funeral Home - East Chapel
800 S Hebron Ave, Evansville, IN, US, 47714

MAY 12 Funeral Service 11:00AM

12
Ziemer Funeral Home - East Chapel
800 S Hebron Ave, Evansville, IN, US, 47714

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Ziemer Funeral Homes - May 12 at 11:57 AM



“ Ellen and family, sorry Steve and I could not be present with you today. We were able to watch the service via live stream. We appreciate the ability to do this. You, John and your family have meant so much to us for so long. We cherish all our memories of the times we spent together. The entire Hegeman family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Carrie and Steve Roach

Steve Roach and Carrie - May 12 at 12:39 PM



“ Ellen, Mary, Clare and Andrew,
I just want you to know how terribly sorry I am for your loss! John was one of the most wonderful people I have ever met! He loved you all so much and it showed each time his face lit up while talking about you. Every Halloween as long as I am alive, I will think of him. He would excitedly come by my desk each year when he was leaving early to get home and give out candy to the trick-or-treaters. He just loved doing it...and when Livy came along, it was even better cause he got to do it with her! Know that John is at home in heaven and that you all are in my prayers.
Sincerely,
Peggy Tuley

Peggy Tuley - May 13 at 10:51 PM



“ Greg Baumgart lit a candle in memory of John Edward Hegeman



greg baumgart - May 12 at 12:10 PM



“ Ellen & family, Janie and I would like to extend our deepest sympathy for ur loss. The world and myself especially are much richer for John’s time here. So genuine, humble, kind, loving. He will also b missed at that corner seat at the Otters. We dearly loved John and do love Ellen. Our prayers, white light and energy to you all. Greg B and Janie

greg baumgart - May 12 at 12:17 PM



“ Ellen and family: It was my sincere pleasure to know John and work with him on church projects over the years. He enjoyed life, his family and serving the Lord. May he rest in eternal Peace

John Reiplinger - May 12 at 09:32 AM



“ I’m so sorry to hear about John. I was lucky enough to do mental health hearings with him for many years. I miss his sense of humor and his willingness to share his knowledge. I’ll miss running into him and the summer socials. He was truly a kind human being that made the world a better place.

Lisa Watson - May 11 at 04:14 PM



“ Suzanne, Bob, and Kim Farney purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Edward Hegeman.



Suzanne, Bob, and Kim Farney - May 10 at 05:30 PM



“ Suzanne, Kim and I extend our deepest sympathy to Ellen, Andrew, Claire, and Mary, and to John’s extended family. I had the pleasure of sharing many Lady Aces basketball and Otters baseball games with John and Ellen during the past twenty-five years. Otters games won’t be the same or nearly as much fun without John. Kim will miss watching for John coming down the walkway with Ellen to join us at our seats, and for Kim and me, the games never really began until John and Ellen arrived. John always had a humorous story to tell, a kind word for all regardless of the difficult situation, and a generous nature he shared with everyone he met. I especially appreciated his sincere interest, kind words, and annual birthday wishes to Kim. Our solace at his loss should be for us to try to continue bringing to the world the generous qualities that John demonstrated to us every day of his life. Suzanne, Kim,

and Bob Farney

Robert Farney - May 10 at 04:52 PM



“ Ellen and Family, we are sorry for your loss of a wonderful husband and father. We thank John for all he did to help make our community and church a better place. May his rest in peace. May the Lord be with you and your family, Ellen, to give you strength. Our prayers are with you. Ginny & Dave



Ginny Cook - May 09 at 04:59 PM



“ Our prayers are with your family.
Richard and Mary Biever



Mary Biever - May 09 at 04:16 PM



“ Ellen, Mary Kate, Clare and Andrew,
Our thoughts and prayers for you during this difficult time. John was a kind, gentle and giving man. A man of faith who gave so much to our community.
We grieve with you and pray for your strength on this journey.
Mary & Jim McCarthy

mary mccarthy - May 09 at 12:43 PM



“ Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of John Edward Hegeman.



May 08 at 06:42 PM



“ Ellen and family,

I was so sorry to hear of your loss. Steve sent me the obituary and I was shocked to see this. Prayers for you and your family during this difficult time. May you be comforted by the memories that you made together.



Becki Roach - May 08 at 05:46 PM



“ Ellen, Mary, Clare and Andrew and Sheila, really am sorry. John was such a great guy, enjoyed working with him and sharing so many laughs over the years. He loved telling stories of the kids growing up. He was always the professional but could make anyone comfortable no matter what the situation. Thankful for all his knowledge that he willing shared. Would like to think he and Pete (Chandler) are laughing together once again. Prayers for all of you.

Amy Cron

Amy Cron - May 08 at 05:38 PM



“ Ellen and Family, I am so sorry for your loss. Much love and sympathy goes out to you and your family. will be truly missed. My prayers go out to you. Barbara Burgdorf

Barbara - May 08 at 09:15 AM



“ Ellen, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Please know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers at this very difficult time. May God's peace and love comfort you in the coming days. Jane Cusic Scheller

Jane A. (Cusic) Scheller - May 07 at 09:24 PM



“ John was such a blessing to us, with his assistance in the pursuit of guardianship for my mother many years ago when we lived in Evansville. I first met John in our co-service on the Ethics Committee at Deaconess Hospital, and this encounter led to numerous subsequent professional interactions related to my work. It was a privilege and honor to call this good, Christian man a friend. Condolences and prayers to the family.

- Fred J. and Kathy England
Palestine, Illinois

Fred J. England - May 07 at 06:58 PM



“ Ellen, I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your husband. Hugs and prayers to you and the family.
Megan Coke Riordan

Megan Riordan - May 07 at 06:12 PM



“ Ellen,
I just read this on line, I do not get the newspaper. I am so sorry to hear of John's passing. Keeping you and your children in our prayers ,
LaDonna and Stan Goodwin

ladonna goodwin - May 07 at 01:08 PM



“ Ellen, please accept my deepest sympathy on the loss of your husband. Will be keeping you and your family in my prayers.
Pam(Zitzsimmons) Ziegler

Pam Ziegler - May 07 at 12:44 PM



“ Wedding Ring Holder Necklace was purchased for the family of John Edward Hegeman.



May 07 at 11:32 AM



“ John and I worked together (along with John Whinrey) creating and updating the EBA Deskbook, shortly before it would be made an anachronism by the web. I so enjoyed that experience in large part because it afforded me the opportunity to work with John and get to know him better. Because I was the chair of the committee, the EBA put my name on the Doran Perdue Service award in 1990, and every time I ran into John after that he suggested, good heartedly, that I should pass it around to him and John Whinrey every other year. We both got a good chuckle out of that and recognized that it was a shorthand way to remember the close connection that we developed during that experience. I so enjoyed running into John around downtown, in the courthouse, or at bar functions; I had so much respect for him as a really good lawyer but, even more, as a uniquely good person with whom I wish I could have spent more time. He was a rare individual, and one of the few lawyers that I can say I miss by virtue of my recent retirement. The world was a much better place with him in it. I am so very sorry for your loss.



Steven Krohn - May 07 at 08:54 AM



“ Ellen, I will never forget the peace you and John brought into my life. My prayers to you and your family at this difficult time. God bless you all. Lynn

Lynn - May 07 at 06:30 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of John Edward Hegeman.



May 06 at 08:45 PM