



## John C. Werden Jr.

January 11, 1956 - March 13, 2025

FUNERAL SERVICES FOR JOHN WERDEN HAVE BEEN MOVED TO THURSDAY AT 10:30 A.M. DUE TO THE WEATHER. THANK YOU.

John Chase Werden, Jr., 69, of Carroll, died unexpectedly in Des Moines, Iowa, on March 13th, 2025.

Mass of the Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. on THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025, at St. Lawrence Church – St. John Paul II Parish in Carroll. The Celebrant will be Father Patrick Behm with Father Brian Feller Concelebrating. Music will be by Kathy Halbur and the St. John Paul II Choir. Lector will be Ron Eich. Gift Bearers will be Emmy Onken, Ivy Onken and Ruby Werden. Casket Bearers are: Craig Schrader, Aaron Ahrendsen, Jon Cretsinger, Ron Eich, Tom Fransen, Mark McCrea, Jim Mullin, Ken Pingrey, Joel Roetman and Curt Steger. Honorary Casket Bearer is Joe Tilley. Burial will be in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Carroll at a later date.

Visitation will be from 4-7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at the Sharp Funeral Home in Carroll with a Prayer Service at 7 p.m. The casket will be moved to St. Lawrence Church on Wednesday morning where additional visitation will be from 9:30-10:15 a.m.

Memorials may be left at the funeral home or the church for a later

designation. Funeral arrangements are under the guidance of the Sharp Funeral Home in Carroll and online condolences may be left for John's family at [www.sharpfuneral.com](http://www.sharpfuneral.com).

John was born on January 11th, 1956, in Maquoketa, Iowa, to John Chase Sr. and Evelyn (Darling) Werden. John graduated from Albia High School, received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Grinnell College in 1979, and ultimately pursued his Doctor of Jurisprudence from Drake University School of Law, graduating in 1984.

On May 28th, 1988, he was united in marriage to Renee Rupiper at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Carroll. They made their home in Carroll and raised three children: Chase, Meredith, and Madison.

John was an experienced trial lawyer and mainly practiced in life and estate planning, tax planning, trust, probate, elder law, real estate and commercial transactions. John served as the Carroll County Attorney from 1998 until his death.

John served in many positions throughout his career, including Past President of the Iowa County Attorneys Association, the National Leadership Council for Fight Crime Invest in Kids, the Judicial Nominating Commission, the Jury Instruction Committee, and the Board of Governors for the Iowa Bar Association, the National District Attorney Association, and most recently as President of the Iowa State Association of Counties. John received the Drake University School of Law Student Award in Taxation in 1983 and the State of Iowa Governor Volunteer Award in 1998. John served in the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps from 1988 to 1997 and was the Executive Officer for the Carroll Division: Marvin Shields Battalion, achieving the rank of Lieutenant. He was admitted to practice before the Iowa Supreme Court, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Iowa and Southern District of Iowa, the United States Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit, the

United States Tax Court, and the United States Supreme Court.

John was an avid outdoorsman and firearms expert. He was also an excellent craftsman. He could design, scale, and build anything imaginable. John was a walking book of knowledge. John could do everything from politics to law, from architectural design to final projects, from knowing how a motor runs to fixing a boat. Additionally, he deeply appreciated fine art and displayed many pieces in his home.

More than anything, John loved his children and adored his grandchildren. He was very proud of his children and their accomplishments, especially that they were independent, strong, loving, and responsible adults. The family spent 30 years at Lake Okoboji, enjoying their time together and making memories. John was known for extending invitations to the lake to the kids' friends, as he loved company and thought everyone deserved to experience his little piece of heaven on earth. Chase will miss their intellectual and thought-provoking conversations. John often said, "Small minds talk about people, average minds talk about things, and great minds talk about ideas." Meredith will forever miss her dad's wit, humor, wealth of knowledge, and the unwavering sense of security he provided throughout their lives. Madison will miss his life advice, patience, knowledge and guiding support. The grandkids will miss "going to the restaurant with Grandpa John." John was most pleased that Chase, Meredith, and their spouses live and work in Carroll County. John had high hopes Madison would return to Carroll County someday.

John was fond of saying, "We never know the day, nor the hour," when he provided council to those who sought it. Left to cherish his memories are his children, Chase (Megan) Werden, Meredith (Chris) Onken, and Madison Werden; five grandchildren, Emmy, Ivy, and Indy Onken, and Ruby and Peter Werden; his sister Toni Hudson; brothers Gary Werden and Jeff (Phyllis)

Werden, and two nephews; Zach (Katie) Werden and Nate (Kylie) Werden.

John is preceded in death by his maternal and paternal grandparents, his mother, Evelyn Werden, in 1980; a brother, Craig Werden, in 1994; his father, John Chase Werden, Sr., in 2002; and his brother-in-law, Mark Hudson, in 2003.

# Tribute Wall

SL

“ Siqi L. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John C. Werden Jr..

Siqi L. - March 25, 2025 at 11:12 PM

AS

“ John was a fantastic human being. We often spent hours on the phone talking about our hobbies and catching up about life and current happenings. It hurts to hear of his passing; I meant to reach out as we haven't spoken in about a month, and I was shocked to hear of his passing. I hope he is at peace, and my dearest condolences to the family.

Alexaner S. - March 25, 2025 at 10:28 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John C. Werden Jr..



March 21, 2025 at 02:58 PM



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

March 21, 2025 at 02:58 PM

CK

“ John was my nephew. I didn't get to spend much time with him as an adult, but he would come to Cedar Rapids where I worked and take me out to lunch and to catch up. Whenever I think of him, I remember at a very early age, he bought a pool table and would charge his family and friends to play...a young entrepreneur from early on. Miss you, Johnny.

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**Cameo Kruse** - March 20, 2025 at 02:10 PM

AB

“ Much love to the Werden family. John was an amazing role model for me a kid, teenager, and adult. I remember him as. Sea Cadet leader, a boss, and a family friend at the dinner table. He was a walking encyclopedia of knowledge (what a wonder). He was kind, strong, and exemplified being a pillar of the community. What a wonderful gift to this world. You will be missed greatly.

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**Annie Bernholtz** - March 20, 2025 at 12:40 AM

SJ

“ John was the Carroll County Attorney when I was the brand new Audubon County Attorney and just five years out of law school. John helped me every step of the way, answering every call and email I sent asking for his guidance on things. He even took my calls when he was on vacation even though I told him it could wait! He was just that kind of person and attorney. His mentorship and friendship meant the world to me. I will miss you, John.

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**Sarah Jennings** - March 19, 2025 at 07:10 PM

JT

“ Julie T. purchased a sympathy card for the family of John C. Werden Jr..



Julie T. - March 19, 2025 at 11:45 AM

RI

“ I always appreciated the time John and I had conversing, memories I will cherish. My deepest sympathies to his family and friends.  
Sincerely,  
Rich

Rich - March 19, 2025 at 11:05 AM

CC

“ Sympathy to the Family!

Charles Croghan - March 19, 2025 at 10:50 AM



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

March 19, 2025 at 10:39 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John C. Werden Jr..



March 19, 2025 at 10:39 AM

NI

“ My deepest condolences to the family, friends and loved ones of John. It was an honor to meet, interact with, and learn from his wisdom. Words cannot fully express my gratitude for the few times I spent with John, but I will forever cherish the laughter, memories, and everything he shared. May his gentle soul rest in peace.  
Regards,  
Nigel

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**Nigel** - March 19, 2025 at 09:33 AM

JW

“ I am so sorry to hear of John's way too early passing. He was dedicated to public service and performed it well. My favorite memory of John as a County Attorney was his participation and help in the challenge to Iowa's sex offender residence restriction which was tried in federal court. Condolences to his family.

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**J Patrick White** - March 18, 2025 at 09:04 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John C. Werden Jr..



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March 18, 2025 at 02:40 PM



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

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March 18, 2025 at 02:40 PM

IC

“ Iowa County Attorneys Association (ICAA) purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of John C. Werden Jr..



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Iowa County Attorneys Association (ICAA) - March 18, 2025 at 11:53 AM

TO

“ The Allamakee County Attorney's Office purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of John C. Werden Jr..



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The Allamakee County Attorney's Office - March 18, 2025 at 10:50 AM

TO

“ The Allamakee County Attorney's Office planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John C. Werden Jr..

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The Allamakee County Attorney's Office - March 18, 2025 at 10:50 AM

NG

“ Nathan G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John C. Werden Jr..

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Nathan G. - March 17, 2025 at 06:31 PM

JS

“ My most sincere and deepest condolences to the family, friends and loved ones of John Werden. John was a valued member of the Board of Directors of the Iowa County Attorneys Association and we always benefited from his sage wisdom and advice. I'm going to miss seeing him at his beloved Lake Okoboji where he was really in his element. Rest in peace, my good man. Kindest regards, Jerry Vander Sanden

Jerry A Vander Sanden - March 17, 2025 at 06:21 PM

JT

“ Joseph T. purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of John C. Werden Jr..



Joseph T. - March 17, 2025 at 05:38 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of John C. Werden Jr..



March 17, 2025 at 04:28 PM



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

March 17, 2025 at 04:28 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of John C. Werden Jr..*



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March 17, 2025 at 02:58 PM



“ *My sincere condolences to the family, friends and loved ones of John. You are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time and may you cherish the many wonderful memories. May John rest in eternal peace.*  
*Love and God Bless,*  
*Angela (Werden) Phillips*

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**Angela Phillips** - March 17, 2025 at 02:56 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John C. Werden Jr..*



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March 17, 2025 at 02:41 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of John C. Werden Jr..*



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March 17, 2025 at 01:22 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John C. Werden Jr..*



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March 17, 2025 at 12:45 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of John C. Werden Jr..*



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March 17, 2025 at 11:43 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of John C. Werden Jr..*



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March 17, 2025 at 11:26 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John C. Werden Jr..*

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March 17, 2025 at 11:26 AM

OC

“ Okoboji clan purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of John C. Werden Jr..



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Okoboji clan - March 17, 2025 at 09:31 AM

OC

“ Okoboji clan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John C. Werden Jr..

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Okoboji clan - March 17, 2025 at 09:31 AM



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

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March 17, 2025 at 09:26 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John C. Werden Jr..



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March 17, 2025 at 09:26 AM

A1

“ Albia High School Class of 1974 purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John C. Werden Jr..



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**Albia High School Class of 1974** - March 17, 2025 at 01:16 AM



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

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March 16, 2025 at 01:54 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John C. Werden Jr..



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March 16, 2025 at 01:54 PM

CA

“ Craig & Tara Harris (Harris Boyz Auto) purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John C. Werden Jr..



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**Craig & Tara Harris (Harris Boyz Auto)** - March 16, 2025 at 12:32 PM

LI

“ John was a dear friend since our days at Grinnell, and our similar work and interests throughout our lives bound us together. I'm sure his loss is a blow to all of us. I shall miss him always. Lance Gordon Isen

Lance Gordon Isen - March 15, 2025 at 02:57 PM

MT

“ Muni Men's League Teammates purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of John C. Werden Jr..



Muni Men's League Teammates - March 15, 2025 at 01:35 PM



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

March 14, 2025 at 09:24 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of John C. Werden Jr..



March 14, 2025 at 09:24 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of John C. Werden Jr..*



March 14, 2025 at 02:13 PM



“ *Diocese of Sioux City-Vocation Office purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John C. Werden Jr..*



**Diocese of Sioux City-Vocation Office** - March 14, 2025 at 01:13 PM



“ *Carroll County Board of Supervisors purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John C. Werden Jr..*



**Carroll County Board of Supervisors** - March 14, 2025 at 11:20 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John C. Werden Jr..*



March 14, 2025 at 10:35 AM



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

March 14, 2025 at 10:23 AM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of John C. Werden Jr..



March 14, 2025 at 10:23 AM



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

March 14, 2025 at 09:53 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of John C. Werden Jr..



March 14, 2025 at 09:53 AM



“ My condolences to the Werden family.

**Kim Bauman** - March 13, 2025 at 10:28 PM



“ *Sending sympathy to John's family and friends. I was a friend and worked for John in Albia, Iowa many years ago! A very memorable guy and so very intelligent! May you rest in Peace John 🙏*



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**Carol Cosgrove (Hannam)** - March 13, 2025 at 08:49 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of John C. Werden Jr..*



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March 13, 2025 at 05:50 PM