



John P. Cooper

JAN 15, 1945 - JUL 28, 2025



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John P. Cooper, 80, of Newark, passed on surrounded by family and friends after a prolonged illness, on July 28, 2025, at Select Specialty Hospital.

He was born January 15, 1945, in Coshocton, OH to the late John Junior and Dulcie Faye (Corum) Cooper. John graduated from Newark High School in 1963. He attended Ohio University, earned a BA from The Ohio State University, and an MA from Western Michigan University, both degrees in music education.

John had an eclectic career starting with being an award-winning newspaper carrier. He was a janitor for a few local businesses, a golf caddy, and a draftsman for Western Electric. John spent many years as a junior high and high school band director. He did product testing at Owens Corning and retired as a licensed optician.

John had a lifelong passion for music. As a teenager, he was the founding member of a local pop band called The Krawens, which performed all around central Ohio for several years. Throughout his lifetime he continued to expand his musical skills by teaching himself to play a diverse array of instruments, including the bagpipes. John was a longstanding member of the Barbershop Harmony Society. He directed and sang tenor in several choruses and quartets over the years.

He was active in the music ministry at Second Presbyterian Church where he was a 50-year member. John's interests were varied, including model railroading, traveling, home brewing, reading, grocery shopping, and cooking and eating (especially cookies).

Survivors include his loving wife of 40 years, D. Ruth Cooper; children, C. Scott (Michael) Cooper, Meg Debrock, Matt (Melissa) Hampshire; grandchildren Tegan, Luc, Remi, and Zed Debrock, Lucas and Hannah Hampshire; a sister, M. Ellen (Paul) Gordley; sister-in-law, Kathy (Dennis) McCarthy; parents-in-law, Jim and Gloria Gibboney; and several nieces and nephews.



Obituary

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John's Celebration of Life Service will be at 11:00 AM, Saturday, August 16, 2025, at Second Presbyterian Church, 42 E. Church St., Newark, OH, 43055, with the Rev. Todd Tracy officiating. There will be time to greet John's family and share stories following the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Second Presbyterian Church Music Ministry or to the charity of your choice. Vensil & Chute | Newark has been entrusted with the arrangements.



Tribute Wall

John P. Cooper

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JR

Janis Row posted:

John was one of the kindest men I ever met. He sang in choir for many years, as did his lovely wife, Ruth. I was in the same choir, which made a joyful noise, indeed. John always had something funny to say, and had that bright smile. H was very special, and will be missed.

September 3 at 9:45 PM

JR

Janis Row posted:

John was awesome. I never saw him down about anything. He was an optimist and a joyful friend. I was in choir with him for some years, and enjoyed him and Ruth as choir partners. He was a cheerful and astute Christian, and is enjoying his time with Jesus right now.

August 27 at 11:57 PM

RA

Roy Van Atta posted:

Patti and I are so sorry for your loss. May God's Peace be with you as you grieve. Roy & Patti Van Atta

August 19 at 4:36 PM

MM

Matt Mosher posted:

I am sorry for your loss.

August 11 at 12:36 AM

VS

Vince Swinehart posted:

John certainly left his mark as a complex and talented man. We sang together in the Land Of Legend barbershop chorus and as school board members in a production of "The Music Man" some years ago at Weathervane Playhouse, but in all that time, I was unaware of the breadth and depth of his talents and interests. Home brewing? Golf caddy? Bagpipes? The founding member of the Krawens? Come on! I wish I had known more about my singing friend. My condolences to Ruth and the family. John will be missed.

August 8 at 5:20 AM



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RH

Ralph Howard, Jr. posted:

Sorry to hear of the passing of our classmate John. We graduated together with the class of 1963 from Newark High School. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family in this very difficult time. May GOD comfort the family in this time of sorrow. Ralph & Linda Howard

August 8 at 3:22 AM

JM

John Cooper Mckinney posted:

John and I both attended Newark High School together. We both attended the Presbyterian Church. We shared the name Cooper and always enjoyed that link although not related. Last summer my sister Ann Hogue and I talked with John remembering past times. Seeing John in the church choir when we returned home was always a touchstone. My condolences.

August 4 at 4:49 AM

JH

John Horm posted:

I remember John from Lincoln and the Presbyterian Church. He was always friendly and very helpful to others. I am not surprised John had a storied career. John will be missed. R.I.P John

August 3 at 3:49 AM

RW

Ray Whyde posted:

John and I were like brothers for most of our lives. We ate, drank, played cards, and travelled (Scotland in 2000 was a special time) together. John and I sang at the 1960 Boy Scout Jamboree in Colorado Springs. We had so much fun in the Newark High School Marching Band, especially at football games and band camp. John and Ruth came to our annual clambakes and went on a road trip in AZ and CO. John made beautiful music (even bagpipes). I loved John and will miss him greatly!

August 2 at 4:51 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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