



# Railsplitter Obituary



## **John Charles Horter**

November 29, 1938 ~ October 19, 2021 (age 82)

Born to life on November 29, 1938 in Milwaukee Wisconsin to Philip M. and Mary Ellen Horter (nee Forrestal). Passed away peacefully on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 lovingly surrounded by his family. John was a long time resident of Brookfield and Elm Grove.

John is survived by his childhood sweetheart and devoted wife of 61 years Patricia (Graf), his children: Jackie Quinlevan (Mike), Jill Woolwine (Stephen), J. Philip (Susie), and Julie Sgrignuoli (Johnny).

John and Pat are blessed with 11 grandchildren: Keenan (Kassie), Caitlin Forciea (Jason), Kiley Mueller (Doug), and McKenzie Quinlevan; Shane and Patrick (Erica) Woolwine; John (Maggie) and Jack Horter; Oliver, Elliot, and Lola Sgrignuoli, along with five great grandchildren.



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John leaves behind his younger brother Tom (Nancy), cherished brothers and sisters in law, nieces, nephews, and life long friends. He was predeceased by Philip and Mary Ellen Horter and Jack, Pearl and Johnny Graf.

John graduated from Marquette University High School in 1956, attended Saint Norbert College, and went on to graduate from Marquette University in 1960 where he was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the US Army Reserve. After 30 years of service to his beloved country, he proudly retired at the rank of Colonel.

John worked at family owned Graf's Beverages, where he rose to the position of VP and later transitioned to a career as a Financial Planner/CLU for MONY/AXA.

In his spare time, John was involved with many organizations including Marquette Minutemen, the 84th Division Alumni Association (later the 84<sup>th</sup> Railsplitter Association) in which he served as Senior Advisor, American Legion Post number 449, The Kiwanis Club of Elm Grove, and Manitowish Waters Alliance Foundation.

John realized his long time dream of owning a lake cabin in the Northwoods in 1997 where he spent quality time and created cherished memories with his wife, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

John's second favorite past time was attending his grandchildren's sporting events from grade school through college.



A tribute to COL Horter follows below.



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## Foreward

On Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> 2021 the 84<sup>th</sup> Railsplitters Association, LTD had a terrible loss with the passing of COL (Retired) John C. Horter. COL Horter was our “go to guy”! He was involved in the founding of our Association. John brought a sense of reason to our policies and discussions; he was our conscience! He did not hesitate to tell us when we were veering off course and missing the mark in meeting our mission. A person like John is irreplaceable but we will remain true to his ideals. Rest in Peace COL John Horter, you will be missed.

We'd like to share a tribute from MG (Retired) Michael Berzowski, please read on.

Goldie Schuh  
President  
84<sup>th</sup> Railsplitters Association LTD

## **TRIBUTE TO COLONEL (Ret) JOHN C. HORTER**

by

MG (Ret) Michael M. Berzowski



Colonel (Ret) John Charles Horter passed away peacefully early Tuesday morning October 19, 2021 following a bout with cancer just short of his 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday in November. Some of us were lucky enough to have known him most of his adult life.

He was the personification of the seven Army Values which he not only preached but practiced in all of his endeavors, military or otherwise - loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. I think if you take a moment to reflect upon your association with him you can easily match him with those values and think of examples where they were demonstrated whether in a military setting or not.

Continued ...





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When it comes to military service, it would be virtually impossible to find someone more dedicated than he was. He practiced all of the leadership traits in particular setting the example. He was a lucky fellow in that during the time he served the 84<sup>th</sup> Division (Tng) was large enough and located so as to afford him the opportunity to serve at successive levels of staff and command jobs in increasingly challenging situations. He excelled in every assignment and received recognition for his service in terms of awards, decorations and promotions.

John's priorities were his faith, family, the Army, his civilian job and his leisure time, in particular his lake cabin. He approached all of them with the same degree of enthusiasm and industry. He was a dedicated family man who relished and reveled in the accomplishments of his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren as well as other family members. He worked hard at trying to build and maintain relationships and was successful in doing so. He was one of the most patriotic people you could meet in a lifetime.

He routinely exerted himself with regard to his civilian employment to include time as an officer at Graf Beverages and a Financial Planner/CLU for MONY. I have been personally apprised on an unsolicited basis as to the high esteem with which he was regarded at MONY.

Besides all of that, he found time to be extremely active in the 84<sup>th</sup> Division Alumni Association (later the 84<sup>th</sup> Railsplitters Association), the American Legion Post No 449, Kiwanis of Elm Grove and the Manitowish Waters Alliance. In all of these activities his leadership skills and work ethic allowed him to excel.

From a personal point of view, they only made one John Horter. He was one of the few people I know about whom I never heard a disparaging remark. He was a great friend, companion, mentor, advisor and confidant. He had a great sense of humor and was fun to be with. He had a greater effect on my family than I did with regard to certain important matters. He was always there.



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He fought the hard fight, never shirking from duty and responsibility and deserves the respect he has earned. We salute his life and salute him in death and hope to meet and be with him again. There is a time for everything.