



John Claude Fettig

April 12, 1988 - February 9, 2014

John Claude Fettig: Debater. Historian. Zombie expert. Fighter. Entrepreneur. Dreamer. Adventurer. Explorer. Clever and witty observer. Entertainer. Loving and loyal son. Chief grandchild-in-residence. Rebel. Spiritual. Persistent and determined. Focused on family. Always concerned about those less fortunate.

John Claude Fettig, son of Richard Fettig and Betty Timmins Fettig of Milford, IA, began his newest and greatest adventure on February 9, 2014, departing this world to begin exploring the mysteries of infinite time and space. This mission began after he suffered a stroke while at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, MN. John began his life's work on April 12, 1988, in Las Vegas, NV, which might explain his adventurous spirit. John had Noonan's Syndrome, which resulted in some physical limitations, but he took them in stride, using his situation as a launchpad for his intellectual growth. A self-taught researcher, John's fascination with history and geography led to his remarkable expertise in these fields. Nor did he allow mere physical limitations to keep him "down on the farm." Driven by his idealism and compassion, John planned and implemented sojourns to San Francisco and New York, where he made his way through city bureaucracies as he researched the potential for establishing a nonprofit organization devoted to helping the poor and the homeless. He also traveled with his father, visiting Canada, Washington, DC, New Mexico, Montana, and, with both of his parents, to Salt Lake City, UT, Phoenix, AZ, to California and to an island in the Puget Sound. Family was

very important to John. He particularly enjoyed visiting his aunts and uncles and his cousins, who were distributed throughout the country, but he also relished spending time with his grandparents, Claude and Shirley Timmins of Okoboji. John's relationship with his grandfather was based on learning and fun, with long, meaningful conversations. His far-flung cousins thought of him as their surrogate--representing them as the chief (and only local) grandchild. John's relationships with his cousins' children showed he could enjoy and share ideas and activities with people from age 6 to 86. When John was not busy satisfying his idealistic wanderlust, he worked on his computer, looking for answers to historical questions, parsing current political issues, and seeking victory in a variety of online games. John will be remembered as a dreamer and an adventurer, an entrepreneur and a planner. He entertained those around him with his knowledge, his cleverness and his wit. John's generous spirit and purposeful attitude was always dedicated to helping those less fortunate than he was. He was a loving family member whose memory will be cherished by all of us fortunate to have been touched by his presence and his vision of a world where we all treat each other with respect and caring.

John was preceded in death by his beloved grandparents, Claude and Shirley Timmins.

John is survived by his parents, Rick and Betty Fettig, and many uncles and aunts and cousins, all of whom loved him and miss him.

A celebration of John's life will be held at Schuchert Funeral Home, 2317 32nd Street, Spirit Lake, IA 51360, 6:00 to 8:00 PM, Friday, February 14, 2014.

Funeral service will be held at the First Lutheran Church, 1525 Three Cross Road, West Okoboji, Iowa 51351, at 10:00 AM, Saturday, February 15, 2014.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund is being established to benefit homeless people, a cause dear to John's heart.

Tribute Wall

MU

“ So sorry for your loss.

Marlys Unrau - February 26, 2014 at 06:09 AM

SB

“ Betty and Rick

Hugs to the both of you as you mourn the loss of John. I hold very fond memories of your sweet boy. You trusted me to be John's babysitter after you moved to Spirit Lake. I can still see John toddling around in his fleece footed pajamas in your old farm house. He loved to sit on my lap and cuddle while we read stories. His smile and beautiful eyes melted my heart. May you find comfort in knowing that John is lovingly wrapped in God's arms and that he will be there to meet you at the gates of heaven some day.

Stacie (Bueltel) Bleeker - February 23, 2014 at 06:39 PM

SB

“ Betty & Rick:

Hugs to the both as you mourn the loss of John. I hold very fond memories of your sweet boy. You put your trust in me to be his babysitter after you moved to Spirit Lake. I smile when I look back upon John in his footed fleece pajamas sitting on my lap reading books in your old farmhouse. He loved to cuddle and his smile always melted my heart. May you find comfort in knowing that he is lovingly wrapped in God's arms and that he will meet you at the gate in heaven some day.

Stacie (Bueltel) Bleeker - February 23, 2014 at 06:22 PM

CS

“ *John Claude Fettig*

Chad Schuchert - February 20, 2014 at 09:00 AM

TK

“ *John Claude Fettig*

Trent kuhlman - February 15, 2014 at 08:32 PM

SV

“ *Betty and Rick, I wish I could be with you for the celebration of John's life. He put more living into his 25 years on earth than many do with 85 years. And to think, his living and learning have just begun! Nobody could have given him a better start on his journey than you.*

Sally Villegas - February 14, 2014 at 05:33 PM

NF

“ *Betty & Rick- We're so sorry for your loss. John left a true heartprint on those he met.
"Your life and mine shall be valued not by what we take...but by what we give." E.A.P. John gave much to many.*

Nancy & Dave Flory - February 14, 2014 at 01:53 PM

DS

“ *Betty and Rick I am so sorry to hear of John's passing. When I think of John I always remember the time the two of you visited me in Dakota Dunes. He was about 4 years old. He came walking in in his cowboy boots and shorts. He was just darling. He had no problem entertaining us for the day. He will be greatly missed. He always made me smile.*

Debbie Summa - February 13, 2014 at 10:17 PM

VH

“ Betty and Rick - I am so very sorry for the loss of one of life's most precious gifts, your son, John. What an amazing young man who left your lives too soon. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Love to you both, Vickie

Vickie (Lenz) Hall - February 13, 2014 at 12:58 PM

MD

“ What a cool kid who did alot of giving in a short period of time. He will be truly missed. I remember one of his first adventures when he walked to Arnolds Park from Des Moines Beach when he was young equipped with his sunglasses and baseball cap as I remember. He had a plan and he carried it out. He was a true spirit of adventure. Bless his heart and bless all that loved him. My sympathy to you and Betty and Rick. Love ya from Mary Kay

Mary Kay Donovan - February 12, 2014 at 11:58 PM

MM

“ We are so sorry for your loss. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Milton - February 12, 2014 at 06:14 PM

DS

“ Betty and Rick so sorry to hear about John. John was so lucky to have such great parents. Love you guys dearly and you are both in my thoughts and prayers.

Donna and Clara Schoorman - February 12, 2014 at 01:20 PM

TW

“ We are so sorry for your loss, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Tim and Kristie Wintz - February 12, 2014 at 01:18 PM

KS

“ So sorry for your loss Betty. You and your family are in our prayers.

Kory Jodi Olivia Avery Smith - February 11, 2014 at 05:24 PM

KL

“ Rick and Betty, I am so sorry for your loss. You have many good memories to hold. With thoughts and prayers, Kathy Linster

Kathy Linster - February 11, 2014 at 01:47 PM

KF

“ May your memories forever be held tight in your heart. So sorry for your loss.

Keith, Billi, Seth and Ryan Feller - February 11, 2014 at 12:59 PM

KS

“ Betty, We are so sorry for your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Kathy, Morgan, Liam, Jack and Brooke Stockdale

Kathy stockdale - February 11, 2014 at 11:37 AM

BB

“ Betty I am so sorry to hear of John's passing. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Brandon L's Grandma Bonnie - February 11, 2014 at 08:30 AM

SC

“ So sorry for your loss.

Sherry Crystal - February 10, 2014 at 10:24 PM

BC

“ Thinking of John's family.

Brett Caviness - February 10, 2014 at 05:19 PM

EG

“ John Claude Fettig

Emily Gottsche - February 10, 2014 at 05:09 PM

CR

“ John will never be forgotten. I hadn't seen him seen we were in school together, but his love for life I will always remember. Prayers to his parents, Rick and Betty and all of his family.

Christina Roth - February 09, 2014 at 04:52 PM

CR

“ John Claude Fettig

Christina Roth - February 09, 2014 at 04:48 PM