



John Grube Landis

April 17, 2024

John Grube Landis, 82, of Breinigsville, PA, passed away on April 17, 2024. He was born on February 22, 1942, in Lancaster, PA. John will be remembered for his kindness, humor, and love for his family. He was an entrepreneurial farmer who created and owned Vynecrest Vineyards and Winery, starting in 1974, in addition to his 28 years of work as a chemical engineer at Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. in Trexlertown, PA.

John was a dedicated family man survived by his wife of 56 years, Janice Whitfield Landis, and his sons Benjamin Whitfield Landis and Samuel Wilson Landis. Ben is married to Lisa DiDario Landis, and they share their two daughters, Isabella Whitfield Landis and Gabriella DiDario Landis. Sam is married to Ashley Marie Landis, and share their son, Dalton Michael Landis. John was preceded in death by his parents, Elizabeth Grube Landis and Harry Haverstick Landis, and his older brother, Thomas Haverstick Landis.

John graduated from Warwick High School in Lititz, PA where he was an all-county athlete in football, basketball, and tennis. In college, John played football and tennis and was a member of Omicron Gamma Omega fraternity while earning a B.S. degree in mathematics from Moravian College. Completing a 3-2 program, he then went on to earn a B.S. degree in engineering from the University of Pennsylvania, as well as his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in chemical engineering, also from Penn, where he was a member of the Tau Beta Pi National Engineering Honor Society. He enjoyed serving as a volunteer coach for his sons'; teams when they were growing up as well as reading, sailing, playing bridge with friends, Maine, and sharing wine with loved ones. Judging cakes at the Great Allentown Fair may have been his favorite hobby.

John formally established Vynecrest, LLC with his wife, Jan, and proudly partnered with his son, Sam, when he joined the business in 2002. He loved his daughters-in-law like his own and was so proud of his sons. Seeing his granddaughters, Izzy and Gabby, go to college and his grandson, Dalton, be born, were the highlights of these past few years.

John was active in the state's efforts to grow the wine industry. He served as President of the PA Wine Association and Treasurer of the PA Wine Marketing Research Board. Locally, he served on the Board of the Lehigh County Authority and various committees in Upper Macungie

Township to help preserve open space and farmland.

He was honest, kind, treated others the way he wanted to be treated, and loved his wife and his family. He leaves a great and proud legacy that will continue.

A private celebration of life will be planned by the family.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in John's memory can be made to Moravian University to support the Landis Endowed Scholarship Fund. Checks can be mailed to the Moravian Development Office at 1200 Main Street, Bethlehem, PA 18020.

The Schmoyer Funeral Home in Breinigsville, PA 18031 is assisting the family with arrangements.

Tribute Wall

JD

“ John was a fine man. He was friendly, intelligent, hard working, a loving husband and father and to me he was a friend. A friend, whom I admired, and always felt comfortable around. Someone you could talk to. Someone whose opinion you respected. John and I met as young men in our late twenties, recently married and starting our careers. We carpooled daily to work from the "West End" and shared life experiences as new fathers with growing families and expanding careers. He loved his work but played hard as well; the softball and volleyball games were fierce and friendly and always followed by a beer and camaraderie.

As our families grew, we both moved to new homes, I to Salisbury Tswp, John and Jan to Breinigsville. John had great dreams of retiring as a professor and gentleman "PA Deutsch" farmer which eventually morphed into Vyncrest. I was recruited along with other coworkers as the laborers in the initial 50 vine planting of the vineyard. Cheap labor paid for in friendship by Jan's "Sloppy Joes" and John's beer. The vines prospered and the Landises did too, raising two fine sons and growing families.

My wife and I left PA for MA with new careers: 3 kids grew to 4 grandkids then retirement and the time to reflect on John, Jan, Ben and Sam. Close in our hearts to this day after 40 years apart. Separated by distance, united by love.

John was a gentleman; a man and a friend, I will sorely miss.

Jerry and Norma Drissel

Jerry Drissel - April 22, 2024 at 12:17 PM

MP

“ So very sorry for your loss. Please know our thoughts and prayers are with you. With Our Deepest Heartfelt Sympathy.

Marcia, Stan, and Judy Parenti - April 22, 2024 at 08:57 AM

MP

Marcia, Stan, and Judy Parenti

Marcia, Stan, and Judy Parenti - April 22, 2024 at 08:58 AM

TN

Rose and I were deeply saddened to read about John's passing. He was a fraternity brother and a good friend. It was always a pleasure to visit Vynecrest and socialize with John and his family. John, Jan, and Sam were never too busy to take time and talk to us. My Daughter, Alison and Son-in-Law, Rick joined us many times for events held at the winery-not forgetting to consume and purchase some fine tasting wines! You could see the pride in John's eyes whenever he talked about his "second job". I could go on talking about John and our friendship. We will keep John and the family in our prayers.

Tom & Rose Neimeister - April 24, 2024 at 05:33 PM

CH

“ Sorry for your loss. I am with the Macungie Farmers Market and remember John with a smile all the time and when I would see him at the winery. Good memories of him as you all have also.

Cindy Hartzell - April 21, 2024 at 07:59 AM