



John J. Mayer (Papa John), 84 passed away on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 in Burwell, NE.

He was born July 29, 1934 to Paul and Theresa (Sigl) Mayer in Lefer, North Dakota.

John grew up on a small farm in Lefer, ND and like most kids at that time helped with the chores, milking cows and in the summer working in the fields and playing baseball. During the war in 1942 the family decided to move to Sacramento, CA to find work. The determined German heritage and work ethic learned from the farm had the whole family working to help out. John had many stories of his paper route and having to turn over his earnings to help pay the bills. He graduated from Christen Brothers High School in Sacramento in 1952. He married the love of his life (63 years) Shirley Landenberger in 1956. He was called to duty on active reserves in the U.S. Navy from 1957-59. Shirley got to join him in Guam where he was trained as a Morse code operator, holding a top-secret clearance. John then worked in various trucking companies hauling freight and containers all over the United States from 1960-94. It was hard to travel with him without hearing a story where he delivered a container. He worked his way up the trucking ranks and was proud of his duties as operations manager at Pacific Motor Trucking Co. (PMT). He was very active and started running 5 and 10K runs in the early 80s and was always trying to better his times he had logged. He also loved to work out and enjoyed not only the exercise but also the social part with his buddies at the gym in Oakland. He volunteered at various places but keeping the lake beautiful at Lake Merritt in Oakland was one of his favorite pastimes and places to be. John also liked to travel and not only trucking all over the U.S. but traveled to more than 30 countries with Africa topping the list as one of his favorites. When not exercising or traveling John enjoyed his various cars over the years, fishing, playing cards, dancing, basketball games and socializing, socializing, socializing. From controversial politics to his joke of the pig with the wooden leg he had something to talk about. He would have loved it if everybody in the room, or where he went knew him - John (Papa John). Shirley and he moved to Burwell in 2018 to watch their grand kids, whom he loved dearly, Haylee and Hans Gideon grow up and go to their events. He was a giving and loving man and will be missed by whomever he came in contact with.

John is survived by his wife Shirley, son Eric, grandchildren Haylee and Hans Gideon, son-in-law Yohn Gideon, brothers Ron, Paul, Jerry, sister in-laws Luella Hudson, Dollie Smith, Myron Landenberger, and many nieces, nephews, and relatives.

Proceeded in death by his parents, sister Ramona Kuhn, daughter Melanie.