



John C. Mills, Jr.

January 6, 1950 - October 19, 2025

John C. Mills, Jr. was welcomed into the arms of God on October 19, 2025, at the age of 75. He was surrounded with love by his immediate family, singing songs of praise.

Born in Detroit on January 6, 1950, John was the son of John C. Mills, Sr. and Elizabeth (Rau) Yacenic. He was the eldest of three brothers and two sisters who all looked up to him: Michael (Barbara) Mills, Charles (Gerda) Mills, Steve (Teri) Mills, Cathy (Todd) Smith and Carolyn (Rich) Rayburn.

In his elementary years, John attended Hall of Divine Child, building character and discipline, where he learned to play the trombone.

John joined the Marine Corps at the age of 17 and became a helicopter crew chief. Serving in the Vietnam War from 1968 to 1971, he met his best friend, Steve MacKay. He received his pilot's license at age 18 and pursued his love for aviation.

John attended Wayne State University to become a CPA, graduating top of his class. He worked at Arthur Anderson, Ernst + Young, Consumers Energy and ANR Pipeline where he rose through the ranks. Later he would use his financial talents to serve as treasurer of his church.

He met the love of his life, Kathleen, at her parents' restaurant in Irish Hills, Michigan. The two were introduced by a family member while he was on leave from the Marine Corps. Their love blossomed and he proposed to her in a boat on a moonlit night on Evans Lake, Michigan. They were married in 1971 and began their life in East Detroit. A short time later, they built their dream home in Brooklyn, Michigan where they started their beautiful family. He was the father of three children: Jennifer, Nathan (Jeanette) and Jeremy (Kara) and the grandfather to six grandchildren: Matthew, Meghan, Lucas, Isaac, Levi and Barrett.

John developed a love for water sports at an early age, becoming a proficient water skier. He discovered his passion for the outdoors later in life, becoming an avid fisherman and hunter. He displayed his physical prowess by completing a full marathon in a little over three and a half hours. He continued his fondness for the outdoors through camping and traveling. He made many friends along the way, eventually settling his camper at Fort Trodd in Port Huron for over 30 years.

Following in his father's footsteps, who was a pastor, John faithfully served the Lord. He went on a mission trip to Africa in the 1980s, where his eyes were opened to the needs of the poor. He would make it his calling to help those in need both in his community and abroad. He was a faithful supporter of numerous organizations to help guide people to the Lord. John was an avid reader of Christian works and defender of the faith. He would make many dear friends through years of attending St. Clair Shores Assembly of God, Lakeside Assembly of God and Hope Baptist Community Church.

"See you here, there, or in the air." - John C. Mills, Jr.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate John's life on Friday, October 24, 2025, from 3 - 8 p.m. at William Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall

Road, Utica, MI 48317. John will be laid in-state at Hope Community Baptist Church, 42259 Hayes Rd. Sterling Heights 48313 on Saturday October 25 at 10 a.m. until service time of 11 a.m.

Committal will take place on Monday, October 27 promptly at 10am at Great Lakes National Cemetery, 4200 Belford Road, Holly, Michigan 48442. All are welcome to attend.

The family has requested all donations be made to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network <https://pancan.org> or Honoring the Sacrifice <https://honoringthesacrifice.com>

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

4200 Belford Road
Holly Township, MI 48442

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **24**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Utica
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317

Instate At Church

OCT **25**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Hope Community Baptist Church
42259 Hayes Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48313

Funeral Service

OCT **25**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Hope Community Baptist Church
42259 Hayes Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48313

Burial

OCT **27**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Great Lakes National Cemetery
4200 Belford Road
Holly Township, MI 48442

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *John C. Mills, Jr.*



October 23, 2025 at 06:32 PM



“ *Dean and Natalie Turk* planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of *John C. Mills, Jr.*

Dean and Natalie Turk - October 23, 2025 at 12:08 AM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of *John C. Mills, Jr.*



October 23, 2025 at 12:08 AM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet* was purchased for the family of *John C. Mills, Jr.*



October 22, 2025 at 09:14 PM

LM

“ Love, Huan, Eric, & Linden Mills purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of John C. Mills, Jr..



Love, Huan, Eric, & Linden Mills - October 22, 2025 at 07:38 PM

ML

“ John was a very loved member of my neighborhood. I had the great fortune to live across the street from John, Kathy and their family. I will forever cherish the time spent with John standing outside and having very lengthy conversations about God, politics and anything else that came to our minds. He loved his neighbors and they loved him. My heart aches knowing the loss that his family and friends are feeling at this moment, myself included. While we grieve our loss, John is smiling and so happy to be in the presence of God. The only way I can handle loss like this is to remember that this is a temporary separation and that one day, I will get to see him again. So, I encourage his family to know that losing him hurts but they WILL get to see him again. It's the time in between that is the hardest. I look forward to seeing you again, John. God bless you and your family!
-Mike L.

Mike Lupo - October 22, 2025 at 06:39 PM

CF

“ Chuck and Gerda Mills and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Mills Jr..

Chuck and Gerda Mills and Family - October 22, 2025 at 01:26 PM

CF

“ *Chuck and Gerda Mills and Family purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of John C. Mills, Jr..*



Chuck and Gerda Mills and Family - October 22, 2025 at 01:26 PM

TF

“ *The Wagner Family purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of John C. Mills, Jr..*



The Wagner Family - October 22, 2025 at 11:14 AM