



John E. Young

February 25, 1933 - November 23, 2025

John Edward Young, 92, of Cape Girardeau died Sunday, November 23, 2025 at The Lutheran Home.

He was born February 25, 1933 near Mayfield, Kansas to Ernest Edgar and Janie Ruth Vaughn Young. He spent his childhood years cultivating a love of learning, both in and out of school in Mayfield and later Altamont, Kansas where he lived and worked on tenant farms with his parents, brother, and three sisters. He also enjoyed many years playing school sports including baseball, football, and basketball and lettered in all of these during high school. At the age of 14 he placed his faith in Jesus Christ and was baptized along with his father on the same day. He graduated from Labette County Community High School in 1950 and attending Sunday School one morning that summer he spotted an intriguing new girl, Rachael Pennington, and their romance began. He and Rachael Helen Pennington were married August 31, 1952 at Altamont, Kansas.

John went to Parsons Junior College on a football scholarship while dating Rachael and after they were married they attended Ottawa University where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Science and Mathematics along with a teaching certificate, thus beginning his teaching career in high schools in Conway Springs, KS, Kansas City, and his hometown of Altamont, KS. He and Rachael began their family in 1953.

As their family grew, John then pursued three advanced degrees through National Science Foundation fellowships and began teaching at the University level. He taught at Kent State University, Ohio, from 1962 to 1968. While there and later in Cape Girardeau he co-authored several textbooks for non-math majors which filled a niche, becoming widely used at more than 300 colleges and universities. In 1968 the family moved to Cape Girardeau where he began teaching at Southeast Missouri State University. Following a one year leave of absence during which he completed his PhD in Mathematics Education at Kansas State University, in 1974 he attained full professorship. He taught night classes and workshops in the Bootheel Region most of his career at Southeast and was a valued contributor in a statewide initiative to provide age-appropriate K-6 Science and Mathematics materials to elementary teachers. Over 30 years at Southeast he taught more than 10,000 students. He also highly valued and enjoyed his colleagues in the Mathematics Department, keeping in touch far into his retirement.

John was a man who truly enjoyed facts and figures. From baseball stats as a boy to accounting expenses and average costs of supporting a family with 8 children to serving as comptroller in his church. He also served many years as a deacon in the First Baptist Church where he was a member from 1969 to the day of his passing. He was an explorer and took his entire family on carefully planned annual travels to visit his family in Kansas and his wife's family in California by driving and tent camping out of a station wagon, visiting national parks all along the way. After the birth of his daughter with Down Syndrome in 1977, he became involved in the local Down Syndrome Association, served on the Missouri Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities, and later as a board member at VIP Industries. John also supported his family through the years by putting out large home-cooked meals which grew larger by the year at family gatherings that topped thirty and even forty people. He valued his extended family and friends from the good

old days as well, always prioritizing visits when passing through and other forms of contact through the years.

Survivors include three sons, Lawrence "Larry" (Deborah) Young of Cape Girardeau, Eric (Nanci) Young of Pocahontas, Arkansas, Bryan (Amy) Young of Jackson; four daughters, Melinda (Michael) Mullins of Waterloo, Illinois, Kirsten "Kris" (Christopher) Rasche of Rogers, Arkansas, Sarah Young of Cape Girardeau, Lucinda "Cindy" Young of Cape Girardeau; son-in-law, Carl "David" Atkins of Cape Girardeau; two sisters, Mary Sue (Larry) Drake of Ozark, Missouri, Barbara (Greg) Renz of Fort Worth, Texas; Grandchildren: Crystal (Mark Hudoba) Monahan, Carly (Lee) Winters, Jessica Atkins, Lauren (Joseph) Thomas, Andrew (Kristie) Young, Jonathan (Natalie) Young, Erin (Cody) Ivy, Mary Kathryn "Katie" (Tim) Bromley, Jason Young, Elise Mullins, Sean (Zhanah Wyche-Mullins) Mullins, Lindsay (Ryan) Reams, Veronica (Hunter) Young, Kendall Young, Michael (Lisa) Rasche, Allison (Scott) Brenner, Caitlin (Tyler) Rodgers, and Stephen (Marzée) Rasche; Great-grandchildren: Alexandria, Shawn, Danielle, Trei, Kiana, Ethan, Gabriel, Jane, Nolan, Leah, Joelle, Aria, Silas, Joanna, Lincoln, Juliette, Jace, Linley, Flinn, and Samuel; Great-great-grandchildren: Mason, Logan, Callen, Maylee, Waylon, Daniel Lee, Silas, Maverick, and Zaylen.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his beloved wife Rachael; daughter, Rebecca Atkins; sister, Ruth Lagasse; and brother, Robert Young.

Friends may call 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturday, November 29, 2025 at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home in Cape Girardeau.

Funeral Service will be at 1:00 pm Saturday, November 29, 2025 at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home in Cape Girardeau with the Rev. Wesley Tew officiating.

Burial will be at Fairmount Cemetery in Cape Girardeau.

Memorial contributions may be given to First Baptist Church or VIP Industries.

Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Fairmount Cemetery

835 Caruthers
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 29. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Road
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Funeral Service

NOV 29. 1:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Road
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall

AV

“ My sympathy to you Larry and Debbie. No matter how elderly our parents get, he will leave a big empty space. What memories he gave you. Now may our Heavenly Father comfort your hearts. Love from Anne VanderZiel

Anne VanderZiel - December 03, 2025 at 07:37 PM

DK

“ I have many memories of choir, the jokes that your dad will tell us and the Kingsmen Quartet singing. I bet that the quartet is enjoying singing right now once again. I look forward to hearing them again. God bless your family. We will miss Cindy, but know that she will be well taken care of.

Donna Komorech - December 01, 2025 at 03:21 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of John E. Young.



November 28, 2025 at 03:40 PM

GR

“ When a friend of more than 60 years dies, it hurts.

Grace - November 28, 2025 at 07:40 AM

JH

“ How wonderful for your Dad to hear the angels say, “Welcome Home,” but we are so sorry for your loss. Just as John would wrap his arms around each of you, so too is the Lord now encircling His arms around your loved one. What a comfort!
It is our prayer that God will give you strength for each new day, and that the wonderful memories you shared will bring much comfort. God's love and ours.

Jeanine Harold Hager - November 27, 2025 at 03:33 PM

YF

“ Your River Radio Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John E. Young.

Your River Radio Family - November 26, 2025 at 03:55 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John E. Young.



November 26, 2025 at 03:55 PM

WL

“ Dr. Young was such a lovely man and he loved his family dearly! He was so proud of you all. Blessings, Wynndee Lee and Ottawa University Family

Wynndee Lee - November 26, 2025 at 11:53 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John E. Young.*



November 26, 2025 at 11:24 AM



“ *Steve Potter purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John E. Young.*



Steve Potter - November 26, 2025 at 11:18 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John E. Young.*



November 26, 2025 at 11:10 AM



“ *John will be missed by many. Outside of family, I am one of the few who was blessed by knowing him as a college friend, Kansan, colleague, Baptist, family man, a professional, and a wonderful father. Thanks John, for leaving such a wonderful legacy.*

Joan McPherson - November 25, 2025 at 05:00 PM



“ Love, Your BSF Staff Team and Friends planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John E. Young.

Love, Your BSF Staff Team and Friends - November 25, 2025 at 04:48 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of John E. Young.



November 25, 2025 at 04:48 PM