



## John G. Pindroh Jr.

March 16, 1931 - January 25, 2020

John G. Pindroh, Jr., of Bourbonnais, IL, passed away Saturday, January 25, 2020, at Amita St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee, IL, at the age of 88. John was the son of John G. and Katherine (Pindroch) Pindroh, Sr. of Forest Hills, PA. John graduated from Wilksburg High School in Wilksburg, PA, in 1949 and enlisted in the United States Navy to proudly defend his country in the Korean War. He served aboard the USS O'Brien DD-725 destroyer as an Electronic Technician Seaman until being honorably discharged on February 24, 1953. He was awarded the Korean Service Ribbon 4-Star, the Navy Occupation Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, and the China Service Medal. Following his discharge, John enrolled in the Carnegie Institute of Technology (Carnegie Mellon University) in the College of Engineering and Science and earned a degree in Physics. John married soulmate, Geraldine (Gerry) Wagner, on June 15, 1957, in Braddock, PA, and on July 2, began a career that would span more than forty years with Bell Laboratories (Nokia Bell Labs) in Whippany, NJ. John received his master's degree in electrical engineering in 1960 at New York University under the company's Communications Development Training Program. John's extensive military communications, education, hardware design and system lab integration expertise were highly regarded, and he led and consulted on many high level projects while also training and mentoring field support and development engineers throughout the organization's extensive global network. His work at Bell Labs included a significant role in the design

and development of the AT&T's No. 4 Electronic Switching System (4ESS), the world's first digital communication system. He received many accolades and commendations for his 40 years of excellent service.

John's work eventually brought he and his young family to Naperville, IL, in 1966 where he and Gerry would raise their three children and spend the next three decades.

John and Gerry celebrated 57 years together before she left for heaven on January 10, 2015. They are survived and celebrated by their children: John (Pam) Pindroh of Mission Viejo, CA; Mary (Pete) Wallner of Mecosta, MI; Judy (Tom) Pretto of Cadet, MO; six grandchildren and one great-grandson.

John had the mind of an engineer, a mighty mathematician, and a physics pro. He loved breakfast, Bingo, bacon, strong coffee, rare steak, dark beer, and the occasional game of poker – not necessarily in this order. He was a kind soul with a huge heart and an even larger soft spot for any animal – a trait he passed on as evidenced by the array of grand and great grand dogs, cats, and hedgehogs.

A Pittsburgh fan to the end – John's Steelers were "Number One" even when they weren't. The Pirates and the Penguins were close behind. With a sparkle in his eyes, he was always quick with a joke, an affectionate jab, or minor mischief — anything for a laugh because this indeed was his best medicine. The "Bad Boys of Bickford Club" at Bickford Senior Living in Bourbonnais can attest, laughter was also their ringleader's secret password for membership. John enjoyed spending time with this great group of friends who enjoyed good jokes, gentle jabs, or a little mischief just as much as he did.

John is preceded in death by his father, mother, brother Albert Pindroh, and wife.

A celebration of John's life is pending until further notice. Memorials may be given in his name to the U.S. Dept. of Veteran's Affairs ([www.volunteer.va.gov/apps/VolunteerNow/](http://www.volunteer.va.gov/apps/VolunteerNow/)) or the Kankakee County Humane Society ([www.k3humanefoundation.org](http://www.k3humanefoundation.org))

The family would like to thank the staff of Amita St. Mary's SICU and Hospice

of Kankakee Valley for their care and kindness.

# Cemetery Details

## Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

20953 W. Hoff Road  
Elwood, IL 60421  
(815) 423-9958  
<http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/abrahamlincoln.asp>

# Events

**Details are pending.**

# Tribute Wall



“ *John G. Pindroh Jr.*

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February 03, 2023 at 04:30 AM



“ *MR MRS sent a virtual gift in memory of John G. Pindroh Jr.*



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**MR MRS** - February 06, 2020 at 10:50 AM