



John William Maki

February 23, 1952 - May 31, 2021

John William Maki, 69 of Alma, MO passed away Monday, May 31, 2021, at his home surrounded by family.

Born Saturday, February 23, 1952 in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, he was the son of the late Otto Maki and the late Elva Zabel Maki. He was the husband of Teresa Maki who survives of the home. John and Teresa were married on May 29, 1993.

He was a graduate of Fond du Lac High School. John retired from the Missouri State Parks/Battle of Lexington in December of 2018 as head of maintenance. This was his dream job as history was his true love along with trains. For over 30 years he made period-correct wooden boxes for state and national parks, historic sites, and movies. He was also in many movies like North and South, 1 & 2. John was also involved with Wide Awake movie studios in the front and behind scenes, helping with props and clothing. If you wanted to find him on a weekend, you would usually find him at a battle reenactment or living history program portraying a Union Soldier, or cooking for his pards. He loved his girls and always said he was very lucky to have married into this family. His kids and grandkids were very special to him. John was a kind and loving husband and father who lived life to the fullest.

Surviving are his wife, Teresa of the home; 4 daughters, Tisha Moore (Kevin) of Blue Springs, MO, Nikia (Jeremy) Harlan of Katy, TX, Marissa Cowen of Higginsville, MO, and Lacey (Joshua) Ratliff of Higginsville; 9 grandchildren; and 3 great-grandchildren.

Services will be private.

Tribute Wall



“ *John William Maki*

October 22, 2023 at 02:42 PM



“ *John William Maki*

October 07, 2023 at 11:48 AM



“ *John William Maki*

October 06, 2023 at 07:00 AM



“ *John William Maki*

January 31, 2023 at 02:49 AM



“ *Teresa & family : so very sorry to learn about John's passing. He was always so friendly and helpful when volunteering at the Fort. So sorry to learn of your brothers passin also. You and yours are in our prayers.*

Gary & Jo Herrmann - October 04, 2021 at 10:54 AM

HE

“ Teresa and girls,

I just recently heard of John's passing. I'm so sorry I didn't know sooner. We've lost so many good people this year and hearing this news makes my heart hurt. I just can't believe it. What a shock. I'm also sorry to hear of your brother's passing. That's how we heard about John.

Good friends are family. Even though we haven't spoken in quite some time, we still consider you good friends and family. I will cherish John's little tin cans even more and think of him each time I'm cooking over the campfire. Again Teresa, we're so very sorry. John and you made a good team. Please know you are in my prayers. Someone else said it best " to know John is to love him." What a Good Man! He will be missed greatly. It's going to take a while for this one to stop hurting.

*Love you
Heather and Mack*

Heather - September 29, 2021 at 02:08 AM

CS

“ Teresa, so sorry to see this. Thoughts and prayers for you. Please keep in touch. Carol Singmaster. Love you

Carol Singmaster - September 27, 2021 at 09:23 PM

CT

“ John was a favorite reenactor and history buff among all of us in Holmes Bde. A really good cook who took the time to make our kitchen a museum in itself. His historic boxes with stencils can still be seen at the Steamship Arabia. I will never forget early one morning catching him in his tent mixing up a cup of International coffee like cafe Vienna...sometimes army coffee just doesn't get it. You will be really missed, John.

Chuck Thompson

Charles Thompson - June 17, 2021 at 05:23 PM

JW

“ I had the great privilege of working with this great man for about 5 years at the Battle of Lexington. He was the best person you could of ever meet, and could always tell you a good joke or the best stories from his life. He was the most kind hearted man I had ever meet. He was more then just my boss he was a great friend. We became such great friends through work we even have matching tattoos together (that he designed).

We stayed in touch after working together and he became a father figure for me in my life. I'm glad you got to see me grow up. Thank you so much John for everything you taught me and all the great stories and memories we have together. I will never forget you. As you would always say take care. Take care John

Jamie Weisbach - June 10, 2021 at 03:18 PM

BB

“ I'd known John since I started reenacting in 1985 and he helped me immensely by loaning spare gear until I bought my own, but that was just the start of his generosity. He loaned weapons, clothing, footwear, and tents and never complained. Our last contact was when he and his wife opened their home to allow me and my wife to marry in that lovely, old house. Just a quarter more, John.

Bill Bartlett - June 05, 2021 at 12:56 PM

MF

“ John so hard to believe you are gone. Danny and I loved you very much and so did your god daughter Dawn. We had lots of great memories from when we were all younger and Dick was a great friend too!! We love you and rest in peace. Dawn is now with you listening to all your awesome stories. RIP dear friend and give my girl a big hug from us.

Mary A Fetters - June 04, 2021 at 06:56 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Jon Burk - June 02, 2021 at 09:44 PM



John was a colorful character, and a great story teller..His slow drawl and humor will be missed. This photo is from Pea Ridge 125th Anniversary March 1987. He was portraying a soldier gone feral; growling, snapping and snarling after scrounging the leg of roast beast. (A little fun when no public was around, and he did it with a twinkle in his eye, of course!)

Jon Burk - June 03, 2021 at 01:49 AM

MG

“ It’s been years since I last saw John, but we had some very memorable times together at numerous Civil War re-enactments. I’ll always remember his passion for history, as well as his gentle nature.

The photograph (a tintype) is of John and me at a Civil War event at Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site, Colorado Springs, in the early 80s.

Mark Lee Gardner



Mark Lee Gardner - June 02, 2021 at 03:46 PM

CF

“ John was a mentor and friend to me. The knowledge he passed down has helped me in so many different ways. I will always be grateful for him staying on at the Battle of Lexington while I transitioned into the my role as Site Administrator. I will never forget our talks about the civil war and telling me his stories about the trains. Mostly, I will miss my my friend. I know he is looking down at us with that great smile. We will all miss you so much.

Thank You for being You,

Chris Fritsche

Christopher Fritsche - June 02, 2021 at 12:28 PM

KS

“ I had the privilege of working with John for about 4 months before his retirement, but I learned a lot about the Anderson House and history of our Site while we worked together. He was always happy to share his passion (about a lot of things!) with others, and always quick to volunteer to come and help with a special events. We were always happy to see him and visit when he stopped by after his retirement.

Teresa, Marissa and Family, my thoughts and prayers are with each of you and your families during this difficult time. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if there is anything I, or our staff at the Site can do to help!

Sincerely,

Karla Strain

Karla Strain - June 02, 2021 at 11:19 AM

KH

“ I always enjoyed talking to John during Truman Day events. He was so passionate about sharing history and it was always a joy to speak with him. He will be greatly missed by his state parks family.
-Katy Holmer



Katy Holmer - June 02, 2021 at 10:25 AM

DL

“ I am very sorry to hear of John’s death. John always had a smile and would make my day a little better whenever I got see him. Prayers for his family.

Dave Lako

Dave Lako - June 02, 2021 at 07:16 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of John William Maki.*



June 01, 2021 at 08:16 PM