



John Carter Rush was born on August 19, 1922 in Goodland, Kansas. As a young child, he moved with his parents, John B. and Lella (Carter) Rush, to Loup County, Nebraska. Johnny, as he was known to family and friends, grew up on the family homestead that had been settled by his Great-Grandfather Cooley in 1888. As a boy, surrounded by the Carter family, Johnny enjoyed the time spent with his many cousins.

Johnny rode his pony several miles each day to attend grade school at Madison Square. He even took the 8th grade twice so that he could take his little sister, LaVonne, to school in the pony cart. He attended Taylor High School and was one of the last surviving graduates of the class of 1942 at the time of his death.

Following graduation, Johnny left the farm to serve his country. During World War II, he served as a naval gunner assigned to protect Merchant Marine Ships in the South Pacific.

After the war, Johnny received his discharge, and moved to Lincoln, Nebraska. There he worked at the Cushman Motors plant, where he met his future wife, Betty McKinney. John and Betty were married in a ceremony in Lincoln on May 9, 1948. They welcomed their first daughter, Jeanne', in 1949.

With the declining health of his mother, John, Betty, and baby moved back to the Lorin Carter farm in Loup County in 1950. John worked hard over the years to maintain and improve the family farm, using his skills as a carpenter to make a comfortable home for his family, which now included daughters Robyn, Vicki, and Nancy. Although John and Betty retired and moved to Burwell, due to their health, in 2007, "HOME" in John's heart, was always back at the farm.

Johnny was always known as "a good friend and neighbor" and shared his talents in the Madison Square and Cummings Park communities. He was a farmer, a carpenter, a painter, and always willing to help whenever called upon. John loved to play Pitch with friends at homes or at card parties. He served on the Loup County school board and the ASCS board, and was a member of the VFW and American Legion.

John was married to the love of his life, Betty, for 67 years. He was a loving and caring father to his daughters, Jeanne', Robyn, Vicki, and Nancy. He and Betty made many trips over the years to Nebraska City and Kearney, devoting their lives to providing Nancy with every educational and career opportunity possible. As grandchildren and great-grandchildren came along, Johnny's name changed once again. He became the beloved "Poppy John".

John passed on to his eternal home on January 22, 2016 at the Burwell Community Memorial Health Center.

Survivors include his wife, Betty, of Burwell. Daughters: Jeanne' (Lee) Stout of Burwell, Robyn Gray of Sherman, Illinois, Vicki (Jim) Walter of Chambers, and Nancy Rush of Burwell. "Poppy John's" nine grandchildren: Laura Packard, Ronda Weber, Scott Stout, Jeff Stout, Ryan Gray, Jayme Bugner, Matthew Walter, Justin Walter, and Bryan Walter. Twenty great-grandchildren, 5 nieces, 2 nephews, and cousins.

John was preceded in death by his parents, John B. and Lella Rush, his sister and brother-in-law, LaVonne and Royce Ferguson, his stepmother, Emma Shultz Rush, a special step-brother, Pat Shultz, and several other step- brothers and sisters.

Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m. Monday, January 25, 2016 at the First Congregational Church in Burwell. Burial will be in Madison Square Cemetery west of Taylor. Pastor Alan Petersen will officiate. Visitation will be Sunday from 5 – 7 p.m. at Hitchcock Funeral Home in Burwell. Memorials are suggested to the Madison Square Cemetery.