

Sara Mersha, Grassroots International:

I know many of us were sad to hear the news of John Kinsman's passing yesterday - he was such a ray of sunshine in the struggle for food sovereignty, and we will miss him deeply! We are so grateful for the life he led - and what a blessing it was to have him with us at our last USFSA Membership Assembly last march, sharing his insights as part of the opening fishbowl on food sovereignty, sharing his stories around the campfire, and sharing his smile and laughter with all of us throughout the whole time. I know his energy and spirit will continue to be a light for us as we continue in this struggle.

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Peter Rosset, La Via Campesina staff

I write you in this difficult time, grateful for the love and inspiration that John always gave us. He was so full of energy, joy and commitment. At La Via Campesina event parties he long outlasted me, a much younger man, on the dance floor. He always smiled, he always had encouraging words for the global farmer struggles.

John's energy, example and commitment will live on in my heart.

May he rest in peace knowing that the struggle continues.

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Wenonah Hauter, Food & Water Watch

I am so sorry to hear about John's passing. He was an amazing man who I really admired - a real hero. I feel honored to have known him and to have had the opportunity to interview him in 2011. Please let us know if the family is doing something to commemorate him so that we can contribute.

Warm Regards,  
Wenonah Hauter

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Frances Moore Lappé | Small Planet Institute

Dear Defenders,

I am so sad to learn of John's passing. He was a mega-hero to me. I'll never forget walking on this farm and hearing his story about all the health problems he suffered at the hands of chemical ag and how he triumphed and had the courage not only to go on but to lead. I'll never forget his infectious smile, his warmth, his passion for good farming. (Also, I smile when I remember in 2000, walking around with another visitor, Jose Bove, from France. John kept pronouncing his name "Josie" and it cracked me up!).

What a guy. What mensch. I wish I'd known him better. But, when a "great tree falls," we in the underbrush can aspire to be that great tree ourselves.

Please give all who knew John my love and condolences.

Frankie

**John dancing!**



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I share my mom's condolences. What a man! What a life! I was so touched by him, even though we only met in person a few times. You and all of John's friends, allies, and family are in our thoughts.

Warmly,

Anna Lappe

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Dear Friends and family of John Kinsman,

I am so sorry to hear this. He was a dear friend, mentor, champion for social justice and on the right side of every cause. He also always said - yes - when asked to help for the cause. We barn-stormed together back in the BGH, dairy and GATT days.

I am sure we all have fond and lasting memories.

He leaves big shoes to fill,

Sincerely,  
Michael Sligh

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Bernard Barnaud, FFD Board Member

Dear John, thank you for letting us know about John Kinsman. Our old warrior is gone, but his spirit will live on forever. He will keep on fighting for the good cause with us. He was one of the greatest men I ever met who spent his life fighting to make this world a better world. I feel privileged to have known such a man.

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Lorette Picciano and all the Rural Coalition Family  
Dear all,

We will send more thoughts later on our dear friend and comrade John Kinsman but for now wanted to just let you know you are all in our hearts and prayers. John surrounded us all with love, and we hope that comes pouring back to you all at this moment.

May you be comforted by warm memories.

Much love and wishes for Peace

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John with Lindsey Morris Carpenter, a winner of the first John Kinsman Beginning Farmer Food Sovereignty Prize

*John Kinsman Tributes and Remembrances*

Liana Hoods, National Organic Coalition

Condolences to all. John Kinsman was an incredible activist for food sovereignty and agriculture reform. A mighty life well lived. And thanks to you for all that you did for him (and us) to get him to where he knew he needed to go. Glad that you are here to keep it going!

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Brewster & Cathleen Kneen

I wept a bit.....

Thanks John and Jim for passing along the sad, but not unexpected, news of John Kinsman's departure from us.

It is a dark time of year, but we must remain true to John's vision.

[www.ramshorn.ca](http://www.ramshorn.ca), The Rams Horn, Ottawa, CA

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I was saddened to hear of John Kinsman's passing. Please pass along my condolences to John's family.

John was one of the strongest, most articulate and thoughtful voices in the family farm movement. He stayed true to his principles and his vision throughout his life.

His was a life we could all emulate and be better for it.

In sadness,

Ted Quaday

Executive Director

Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association

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My condolences to John Kinsman's family. I met John a few years ago, but have read a lot of interviews and articles about him and his leadership--and of course the regular organizational newsletters. Inspiring indeed! His loss to all of us is great.

Best wishes,

Kami Pothukuchi, Ph. D.

Associate Professor, Dept. of Urban Studies & Planning  
[clas.wayne.edu/DUSP/](http://clas.wayne.edu/DUSP/)

Director, SEED Wayne; Detroit FRESH

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