

Sad news. Thanks for telling us. He was an absolutely inspiring man, and our thoughts are with you and his other close friends in their grief. Our visit to you and him in Wisconsin remains one of the high points of my life, and I'm sure Rich, Shannon, Matt, David and Jo will feel the same as I do. Sounds like he died as well as he lived.

Love to you all,  
Theo Simon, Seize The Day, Somerset UK

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Dear Jim and John  
Yes, a wonderful life that achieved so much. I know you folks in Wisconsin will feel a big void in your lives. Me, too, but of course I would only get to see John occasionally. I had a good visit on the phone with him when Patti and I were in Wisconsin last summer. I have no idea how he accomplished so much. His soft, kind ways had more power than what one would expect. Maybe that's the lesson. To have the confidence that others would listen and follow was surely a gift. I don't know if I can get away to come to the funeral, but there's a chance. If not, you can deliver my regards to friends and family. I'll be thinking of you all.



John and Ben Burkett, NFFC President

Love,  
George Naylor

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Thank you for sharing this sad news. I just returned from a trip to Hawaii and opened a small legal office there to coordinate the effort to pass local and state laws to halt Monsanto and other chemical companies from continuing to use the islands as ground zero for the experimental seeds and pesticides. I think John would have loved that fight. Sorry that I did not get a card to him at the end as I had intended. Please tell the family that my thoughts are with them and how grateful I am for having known John. His was a great comrade in our shared fights against Monsanto and all corporate injustice, and his life and work were a consistent inspiration to me and so many others in the movement.

Blessings,  
Andy  
Center for Food Safety

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**Janice Crabb:**

Jack was a role model for us in our early days of farming ~ we think of him often ~ please keep posting updates ~ & thank you for it ~ he & his family are on our prayers.

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**Michael O'Gorman, Director of Farmer Veteran Coalition:**

John was a truly rare treasure. I am grateful for those times I got to be with him, and grateful for the love and support that everyone at Family Farm Defenders and NFFC showed him while he was around and are giving now to his family and memory.

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**Spencer D. Wood:**

I am deeply saddened to learn of John's passing. He found me a place to stay in Mississippi as a graduate student studying rural communities. He took me to Chicago to testify to WTO panelists. He always found a way to include people. He led a national campaign to create a legal fund for an embattled black farmer and political leader in Mississippi, Eddie Carthan. What an icon and what a human. So grateful to have had a few brief encounters. He taught me a great deal.

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**Brad Wilson:**

In the fight for farm justice over the past 60 years, most of our greatest leaders were eventually burned out, for very understandable reasons. Yet John Kinsman, who was involved for many decades, and in a broad range of ways, persevered, with a beautiful resilience. What were his secrets? How does one drink from the well and eat the food for the soul that was John Kinsman, to nourish ourselves with this resilience, to share it with the coming generations to whom John's torch has now been passed.

John with 2012 Food Sovereignty Winners  
Nancy and Jeff Kirstein and Tracy and Dick Vinz



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**Food Chain Workers Alliance**

We are saddened by the news that John Kinsman, founder of Family Farm Defenders, passed away yesterday. We are so glad that we came to know him through the US Food Sovereignty Alliance and honor him for all his hard work for food sovereignty and organic sustainable agriculture.

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John was an inspiration, and education, and the good kind of provocation. We are all better for his life, awareness, and action.

by Ted Matts

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John's involvement in national and international work vs. GMOs was always exemplary, and he offered a unique ray of light whenever the course of the struggle got murky. John drew on his experiences going back to the civil rights movement, adding a vast amount of wisdom and inspiration to everything he was engaged in. He'll be missed by people everywhere who are working for the integrity of our food and our communities!

Brian Tokar, Institute for Social Ecology, Vermont

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John Kinsman was a prophet, much in the spirit of Amos, of the Old Testament. He spoke truth to power, emboldened by the validity of his own experience as an organic farmer. He was grounded, both literally and figuratively, by those stony fields and yet his outreach was world-wide. He not only consulted with agricultural leaders in countless countries, he encouraged and guided them as well. In the 60s and 70s, a few of his sons attended Holy Name Seminary in Madison. In those early days, John developed Project Self-Help and Awareness, in which he got people involved in many bus trips to Mississippi, transporting kids to and from Wisconsin. The infamous Green bus, sometimes housed (and repaired) at Holy Name, tended to break down from time to time, but the relationships that developed were strong and life-affirming. In serving the land and its people, John served the God of creation in many inspiring ways, including, perhaps, the cow costume!

by Rev. Stephen Umhoefer

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Thank you for sharing the news. I am just back from 3 memorials for late activist/healers and my heart is extra tender to hear of the passing of John K.

I send you and all of his loved ones my condolences and warm prayers for his graceful transition. May his spirit stay in our hearts and may we honor his life with our continued work for justice, peace, and beauty. How were the weekend events in his honor? We lit a candle for him Saturday and I will offer a corn dance in his honor at our Aztec/Mexica prayer circle tomorrow.

May John's passing generate much awakening and unity for our movements. Thanks for the inspiring links about him too!

Abrazos/ hugs to you  
Gerardo Marin, Rooted in Community

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