

Mourning John's Loss



I mourn the passing of John Kinsman, our beloved leader of the Family Farm Defenders. I worked with John for over 25 years. First on the rbGH labeling campaign, then the Dump the National Dairy Board campaign, and starting the Family Farm Defenders 20 years ago this Spring. He served as our fearless president the entire duration of FFD's existence.

I called John "FFD's good-will ambassador." He was a big reason FFD received the Food Sovereignty

Prize in 2010. He was a true leader of the food sovereignty movement and anyone who knew him understood his deep commitment to equality, justice and peace. He traveled the world advocating for food sovereignty as well as peace and justice. He believed that each person had value and that we should respect and listen to their views and learn about their cultures. He has been a mentor not only to myself, but countless others,

I know many of us could tell countless stories about John and his humor and zest for life. He was a great storyteller and traveler. He was always an inspiration and a joy to be around. I am certainly awed by his tremendous achievements. In my mind, he is truly the embodiment of a "Family Farm Defender."

To paraphrase Ralph Waldo Emerson, John dared to live the life he dreamed ... with compassion and joy. He truly made a difference in the world. In that, John lived and lived well.

Godspeed to my dear friend.

My thoughts and prayers go out to John's family. May you find comfort in John's lasting legacy – you, his family, and the organization he founded, Family Farm Defenders.

With peace,

Ruth Simpson