John Kinsman - Our Teacher Pete Hardin - Editor of the The Milkweed

ack in the mid-'80s, John, his daughter Marilyn, and his son, commenced the first informational picketing at the University of Wisconsin at the student union. They were trying to alert people that the popular Babcock ice cream made on campus was utilizing milk from cows being injected with a synthetic hormone brought to you by Monsanto. That was the kindling, the first spark of the anti-rBGH protests. Within 3-4 years, a high-

level FDA official told the Capital Times in December of '89 that rBGH public furor had become the single largest human food safety issue the FDA had ever faced, and that was four years before they ever approved the darn stuff against all precepts of human safety. And very simply what John was doing was trying to inspire people to realize what was in their food. Let's fast forward to last October when protests in approximately 250



Pete Hardin Editor of The Milkweed Started The Milkweed in 1979

U.S. cities took place against Monsanto and GMO foods. So the ripple effect from that initial rBGH protest spread as food biotechnology has spread. The ripple effect over the last 25 years or so has spread far beyond the synthetic cow hormone to many people asking questions about what's in their food. We see the referenda that were narrowly defeated in California and Washington State. Now Big Food and Big Ag want to

coalesce behind a common political agenda and create federal genetically modified food labeling. The big boys want this for better or worse, and it smells like they are hand-picking custom fertilized politicians for it. The bottom line is that John started tremendous public awareness about what's in our food, and let's hope it's not too late. Thank you, John, for teaching so many of us.

John Kinsman - FFD's Good-Will Ambassador Ruth Simpson FFD Board Member

mourn the passing of John Kinsman, our beloved leader of 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 the starting of 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 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 to countless others. I know may 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.

John Kinsman - The Mentor John Goodman

hat can one say about John Kinsman! I spent many hours with John over the past years, doing everything from mending fences to loading hay to protesting, to spending time in a "Free Speech Zone".

John was certainly a mentor and a very good one, but he as also my friend and a very good talking about the way things ought to be in the world and what we could try to do to make it so.

John had the ideas and the history. He knew how to advocate for those that society had left behind. He felt at home amongst the oppressed and poor.



OUR TRIP TO UNITED KINGDOM one. We spent many late nights Jim Goodman, MP Alan Simpson and the time, John's thoughts and dis-John Kinsman outside the House of Commons

one knew.

John always mentioned those he had met and worked with on his travels, strong women and men who fought for the rights of indigenous farmers, people who work for a fair and just food system, advocates for the disabled and incarcerated. John knew all of them, he was all of them.

No matter where he was or

what battle he was fighting at

cussion always came back to his farm in Lime Ridge and his family. His pride and love of his sons and daughters, his grandchildren and his wife Jean were what made him who he was and helped motivate him to be the outspoken citizen of the world that every-

Life-long Qualities of John Kinsman Sister Miriam Brown, OP

J -- Joyful of soul, engendering hope against all odds.

O -- One of a kind

H -- Humble man of honor and humor

N -- Never, never, never gave up

K -- Kin to struggling farmers close by and around the world

I -- Intense, intelligent, indomitable

N -- Native to the land: "I am John Kinsman, a dairy farmer"

S -- Seldom without something to say

M -- Man of prophetic word

A -- Anointed to bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to the oppressed, open eyes of the blind

N -- New -- ever new



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