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FFD Mission

Family Farm Defenders is a tax-deductible non-profit activist organization made up of farmers and concerned consumers. We are seeking ways to bring fair prices back to farmers and to insure a safe and sustainably produced food for consumers.

FFD President's Message

BY JOEL GREENO



Greetings Everyone

On January 20, 2014 our Dear friend, colleague, mentor, leader and more passed away peacefully at home. It was only fitting that he passed on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Given that John had marched a few times with him during the civil rights movement in the 60's. John always said he had a strong sense for what was right and just. It was that sense of justice that led John to so many countries of the world meeting people and learning the issues. John had such an incredible ability to listen

and understand people no matter what language they spoke. This is why after his passing 41 pages of comments came in from all over the world. A true testament to his character that we all knew and loved...

I met John at an ARMPPA meeting in Ontario, WI in February of 1997 and was instantly hooked by his magnetic personality as were so many others. A meeting that took me on 17 years of travel, from every corner of the US and to Spain, Portugal and the Basque Region.

On one particular trip coming back from an NFFC meeting in DC I asked John if ever there was a point in time where we knew too much and should be afraid for our lives. John remarked that there were too many of us now and they couldn't kill us all! I can attest that was not the comforting answer I was looking for being a young beginning activist. Yet it was a friendship that lead to many, many hours on the phone together. One time after John had returned from Indonesia I had asked him if he had had any translators. He had replied "Yes" sometimes. I asked what about the times you didn't. He said you can usually figure it out and if you can laugh and drink beer. What more do you need? Only John could get away with that.

I was always truly amazed at just how many organizations, groups, and causes John was involved in. I never was sure just how he kept it all straight. There was a special place in John's heart for Mississippi. Daniel Tigue once said that John knew more roads and people in Mississippi than he did. Oh and the stories John would tell of his trips to Mississippi. Stories of Eddie Carthan and his struggles for the truth and justice. *(continued on pg.2)*

Also the people involved in Project self-help, you would hear stories of how their lives were forever changed because of meeting John. John was involved in the National Family Farm Coalition in the 80's. Helped start ARMPPA in late 1996, but near and dear to his heart was THE Family Farm Defenders. Created in 1994 out of a group of people called "Dump The Dairy Board" FFD began.

FFD was the best of ALL farm groups rolled into ONE. Working on Sustainable agriculture, animal welfare, worker rights, fair trade, environmental stewardship, consumer safety, and most of all FOOD SOVEREIGNTY. John had worked on THE Principles of FOOD SOVEREIGNTY for 25YRS being the basis of what is right and just. These principals had been the goals of FFD from day one...

John believed the 3 main parts of organizing were", relationships, relationships, and relationships and John had those down pat! He also believed that 3 main farm issues were prices, prices, and prices... it was also John's pride and joy to win the 2010 World Food Sovereignty Prize. Much deserved after his many of dedicated work.

THANK YOU JOHN for your friendship, patience, and YOUR many years of HARD work and DEDICATION. WE WILL ALL do our best to make Family Farm Defenders, all you ever dreamed it would BE... *Please visit our website to read other remembrances and tributes to John Kinsman*

Memories of John Kinsman

**Shared as part of the John Kinsman Beginning Farmer Food Sovereignty Award Ceremony
MARCH 15, 2014 BARABOO, WISCONSIN**

John Peck - Family Farm Defenders Executive Director

John was one of my amazing mentors and friends, and he's still with us, he's still inspired so many of us. I'll never forget when I first met John. I was graduate student at UW Madison in the College of Agricultural Life Sciences, and I was going over to the Memorial Union, and I ran into this farmer out there protesting the bovine growth hormone. He was handing out fliers about it.

And I was like, oh my gosh, this is amazing; I didn't even know what was going on at the university at the time. This was in 1992 or 1993. To be honest, he's really the one who helped me get through grad school. I was so disturbed by what I was



*Chicago Mercantile Exchange Protest
One of the many protests over the years*

many lives, planted so many seeds, had such a positive outlook, and was definitely one of the most influential people in my life. He could not have done as much without his family, and he had such a fantastic support network. I really appreciate the whole Kinsman family—you should be very proud.

learning, and the propaganda in it. John really helped me get through that education and gave me his own education about the reality of agriculture.

He helped me see that agriculture is called agriculture for a reason. He was putting the culture back into agriculture. He was truly a son of the soil. He was such a grounded person, such an example of what I would strive to be as a person. He touched so