

John Howard Jenkins

May 12, 1960 ~ February 28, 2023

Our Durham family all loved John. We knew him as Maren's little brother, and he was very cute and very smart. Maren became our sister-in-law and so our bond with John and sister Cathy became even stronger. We all loved his mother Rose and admired the handyman skills of Richard. We love Maren and Paul and send our condolences to all. We are sorry for your loss, Heidi, for you, for Maren, for your children and all the family who cared deeply for John. His intelligence was amazing. He will be missed. We pray for peace and comfort for each of you. We love you!

- Janet D Tate

Sad to hear about John's passing—way too young; give a big hug to Heidi when you see her

- Steve Congdon

I was shocked to hear of John's passing. I haven't seen him for a while but have many fond memories. He was such an astonishing intellect. Unlike so many incredibly accomplished and hyper intelligent, John was comfortable to be around. I loved feasting on his vast knowledge of such a wide range of topics and genres. RIP old friend. Till we meet again.

- Larry Osburn

This is a shock that John passed away. John was a very bright, smart handsome man. He has a great wife and family and wonderful sisters Maren and Cathy. Know it's special to see his parents Rose and Robert again. I pray strength for all of you, it's a hard time.❤■■■

- Janie D. Reese

I was very sad to learn of John's passing. I know John from Unicode going back to the 90's. He will be greatly missed. Thank you for the beautifully written obiturary. The love for John is readily apparent throught the description. My condolences to his family.

- Tex Texin

Heidi. I keep thinking of the song you wrote when we were kids. “Be strong and of good courage”. Those words are true. I hope you find peace in his embrace. Jeff

- Jeff Waltom

Dear Heidi, What shocking sad news received today. So sorry for your loss. John was one of my favorite people in Moorpark Ward. He(and you)was always so kind to me & our family. As I’m sure most people felt who him, his intellect was very intimidating, & yet he always took the time to build my confidence as a very nervous/insecure gospel doctrine teacher, & was always willing to substitute for me when needed. Be assured the Meek family has you & your family in our thoughts & prayers at this most difficult time. We love you!

- Bruce Meek

We are so sorry to hear about your husbands passing. We pray that you may be comforted during this difficult time.

- Aaron & Marilee Austin

My thoughts and love are with you Heidi and kids

- Colby Adams

John not only had many talents and was an amazing person but he was a kind and loving person as well! He was so nice to me and my family! We would delight when he would come over to dinner at our house. I could listen to him for hours! In the course of our conversations with him and his family they would all frequently quote appropriate lines from movies verbatim which was amusing! Then they would speak Japanese to each other. It was delightful to just sit back and watch them in action! I loved to discuss computers and technology with John and his children. I picked their brains whenever I had questions or concerns. In fact when Heidi and John were first married in the early 80’s we lived near each other in California and John volunteered to be the programmer for a new software product I was trying to develop and market called Meal Planner. It was pretty close to a popular app used today called My Fitness Pal. Working with John I found that he was so patient and brilliant! He was so wonderful to help me out! Whenever my husband Larry and I were with John and Heidi socially people thought that John and Larry were brothers because they looked alike. They never guessed in a million years that Heidi and I were sisters and that John and Larry were unrelated. I will miss him but will hold on to all the wonderful memories we shared!

- Toni Myers

Dearest Heidi, how sad I was to learn of your beloved John's death. It was a joy to read his obituary. What an incredibly kind wonderful and brilliant man! He was truly everything! May the Lord's richest of blessings surround you and your family and may the arms of HIS love surround you at this time, and bring you comfort.

- Cheryl Call

I know that I speak for others when I state that our lives were richer and better as a result of knowing or working with John, and I feel blessed that I was able to consider him to be a good friend. I started working with John well over 20 years ago, while I was working for Adobe, on CJK- and Unihan-related issues as they affect the Unicode Standard, and our working relationship in this area actually became closer during the past three years, partly due to COVID-19. I shall miss John dearly, and I know that his family shall miss him much more so. Please accept my heartfelt condolences.

- Ken Lunde

Over the years I interacted with him only a few times and electronically, in a Unicode and IRG context, while continuing to admire him from a distance. Due to our shared interest in Cantonese, I have been eagerly looking forward to meet him in person. It is a true pity that such a meeting never materialized. Let us forever remember his legacy.

- Stephan Hyeonjun Stiller

As a Chinese man, I send my sincere condolences to Mr Jenkins, whose work all of us East Asians are benefiting and will continue to benefit from every single day.

- Gallant Guo

I was thinking about John in Church today and decided to look him up on the Internet. I figured he was either involved in computer design or teaching at a university. He was our Gospel Doctrine teacher in Berkeley and was a great pillar of strength and knowledge, the best Gospel scripture scholar I have personally known. Heidi, I am so sorry for your loss.

- Steve Hardy

Have many vivid and fond memories attending John's Gospel Doctrine class in the Berkeley Ward. Great instructor and I'm sure Brother Wes Segmiller and John are enjoying lively gospel discussions (debates) on the other side.

- Eric Hansen

Sigh. John and I were both students of the Deseret Alphabet, and yesterday (Nov 27, 2024) I tried to contact him again, to ask about the articles printed in the Deseret News in 1859-60 and 1864, and his own work transcribing public-domain books into the Alphabet, only to learn that he had passed away. My sincerest condolences to his wife and family. Yes, he was a bit weird, definitely in a good way---and some might describe me the same way. I miss him. krbeesley@gmail.com

- Kenneth R. Beesley

I served with John in The Hong Kong Mission. I was with him in the MTC. We were not close, but I knew he was an extraordinary man. I have one beautiful memory of him. At my wedding reception, April 1st 1983, I was standing the line, and I looked up and there was John, smiling as usual. However simple it may seem, this is how I will

remember him forever. -- John Eddie Keene

- John E. Keene

I have followed John H. Jenkins's incredible journey in bringing the Deseret alphabet into the modern age. From bringing it into Unicode in 1997 to transcribing numerous Public Domain texts into it for new readers. A truly impeccable, dedicated man with an understanding of exactly what is needed to make an alphabet usable again. Respects, Llinos.

- Llinos Evans