



John Richard Nissley

November 27, 1946 - January 30, 2026

John Richard Nissley, 79, of Bainbridge, Pennsylvania, passed away on January 30, 2026.

John was born on November 27, 1946, to Jay Richard and Anna Ruth Weidler Nissley and grew up in Landisville, PA. The youngest of four children, his three older sisters Mary Lee, Judy, and Joyce cared for him in a way only older sisters do.

He attended Avon Old Farms School and later Penn State University Main Campus majoring in Agronomy, where his lifelong connection to farming and stewardship of the land continued to take root.

John was well known as one of the co-founders of Nissley Vineyards, where he tended the vines for more than 40 years. Many remember him out among the vines, hands weathered, working, always observing, always willing to share what he knew. He was proud to manage his corner of the business, build something profitable, and contribute to the family legacy in the way that he best could.

Faith and community were central to John's life. For over 30 years, he was a devoted and active member of Donegal Presbyterian Church, where he sang in the choir he cherished so deeply. His presence there was steady and sincere, much like John himself.

On March 23, 1991, John married Melody Hoyer Nissley. Over the course of their almost 35 years of marriage, they supported one another through quiet acts of service in the pursuit of creating a happy and whole life together. They

enjoyed cooking together and shared an appreciation of the land where they made their home. He was a loving father to his son Jonas and the two worked closely together from the time Jonas was very young. John made sure to teach Jonas how to solve problems and pushed him to be a good, self-reliant man. He shared openly with Jonas the things that he felt were important in this life and had a profound impact on the course of Jonas' life. He was a welcoming and nurturing father-in-law to Alyssa, and a proud Pawpaw to Sawyer and Jade, who brought him immeasurable joy. Time spent with his granddaughters made him very happy, and his eyes lit up whenever he spoke of them. He proudly showed pictures of them to anyone who would look. John was kind, thoughtful, generous, and extraordinarily hard-working. He was an avid outdoorsman and a world traveler. A veteran of the United States Army, John served during the Vietnam War. He repaired pocket watches, and collected coins, antiques and worthy treasures of all kinds. He was an expert BMW motorcycle mechanic and began Nissley Motor Company after years of traveling the country on his beloved R75. He loved talking about history and spending time laughing and sharing stories with friends and family throughout Lancaster County. "Never let the truth get in the way of a good story" was an expression he learned from his father and one he always took to heart. In recent years, he was happy tending his garden, and happiest when he was able to generously share the fruits of his labor with others.

John is survived by his wife Melody; his son Jonas and daughter-in-law Alyssa; his cherished granddaughters Sawyer and Jade; and his sisters Judy and Joyce Nissley. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister Mary Lee Nissley.

A public Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, February 14, at 10:00 a.m., at Donegal Presbyterian Church in Mount Joy, Pennsylvania. Flowers are appreciated but memorial contributions can be made to Donegal Presbyterian Church in his memory.

John leaves behind a legacy rooted in faith, family, friendship, and the land where he felt most at home. His life was one of quiet impact, deep generosity,

and enduring love—and he will be profoundly missed by all who knew him.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB 14. 10:00 AM (ET)

Donegal Presbyterian Church
1891 Donegal Springs Road
Mount Joy, PA 17552

Tribute Wall

AG

“ Good morning,
I will be praying for you all today. I pray that God will give you the strength, comfort, and peace you need for today, and for the days ahead. I pray you will find joy in even the smallest moments today, and that you will experience many “God winks” and connections as you will be meeting with so many people today. I pray that you feel an abundance of love from others in Jesus name. I know Jesus is hugging you all tightly. I will miss John. My husband and I saw him at Root’s Market a few years ago, where my husband and I met. I will always remember him being a man of few words, but when he spoke, he spoke with wisdom and humor. I also remember the days of Mission Trips with John, Jonas, and crew from Donegal Presbyterian Church. He will be missed greatly.
Love,
Amy and Chris Godshall

Amy Godshall - February 14 at 08:24 AM

LR

“ *Melody and Jonas, You have such a lovely family. I am grateful for my time spent leading yoga at your beautiful vineyard and getting to know you all. I am so sorry for your loss. I pray that you find peace in this difficult time. -- Laurie Rinard*

Laurie Rinard - February 11 at 05:14 PM

LR

“ I am very sad to hear about John’s recent death. My condolences to you all (especially Joyce, Judy and Jonas whom I remember fondly).

*Lester Rozinsky
Avon Old Farms School class of 1965*

Lester Rozinsky - February 09 at 05:30 PM

HM

“ Judy & Joyce,
I was sad to read of John's passing.
Please accept my sympathy.

*Holly Fisher Mele
HHS Class of 1963*

Holly Fisher Meke - February 09 at 12:44 PM



“ John was a familiar and trusted face to many, and a constant presence to those who knew him through the simple joy of shared routines. Every Tuesday at Root’s Market in Manheim, Pennsylvania, he could be found doing what he loved — talking coins, sharing stories, and offering a fair deal along with a smile. For many years, Tuesdays meant stopping by his table, buying coins, and enjoying conversation that went far beyond silver content and dates.

He was also a regular at Hess’s Auction preview each Tuesday, where his sharp eye and quiet knowledge of coins were well known. Whether searching for a good piece or just catching up, time spent with him always felt easy and familiar. He had a way of making people feel welcome, remembered, and appreciated. John was more than a coin dealer — he was a friend, a fixture, and part of the rhythm of the week. His absence will be felt deeply by those who looked forward to seeing him, shaking his hand, and talking shop.

He will be greatly missed, but his memory lives on in every Tuesday that comes around. Until we meet again, we’ll save some of those 40% Kennedys — and look forward to seeing him in Heaven.

William Kauffman - February 09 at 08:39 AM

RO

Went to Avon and saw the post. My condolences!

Robert - February 09 at 12:55 PM

JS

“ *My condolences. Joseph G. Sauter, Jr*

Joseph Sauter - February 08 at 11:13 PM

DT

“ John and I were together on January 6th, only a month ago. He was heading to Green Dragon or Roots to haggle with a coin dealer. We reminiscent and talked about the grandchildren. Gone too soon brother. Don Thomas

DONALD THOMAS - February 08 at 07:57 AM

LH

“ John will be missed as a neighbor and good friend. Dale will especially miss him on Thursday evening card night. John would come in with his bag of quarters, sit down, and then remember he left his hearing aids in his truck. Dana will remember him bringing her venison bologna and produce from his garden. And I'll remember his love for antiques. If I questioned him about the value of anything, he knew what it was worth.
With deepest sympathy and love, Dale and Lucy



Lucy Hiestand - February 07 at 11:34 AM



“ My deepest sympathy to the Nissley family. John was an inquisitive, intelligent & kind man.

Debra Ronning - February 06 at 08:04 AM