



John Babich Jr

July 27, 1924 - May 4, 2020

Long time Yakima valley resident and Toppenish teacher John Babich passed away May 4th. John was born in 1924 in Gilbert, Minnesota and grew up in South Prairie, Washington.

John entered into active service with the U.S. Army in 1943. He served our country as an aerial gunner until 1946.

John attended Washington State College where he was a volunteer campus firefighter in addition to pursuing an education in animal husbandry and teaching. The firehouse was a stone's throw from the campus creamery where a fine young lady by the name of Anita Scharnhorst was employed.

John left Washington State College in 1952 with a wife and a teaching certificate and moved to the Yakima Valley in 1953 where he began his lengthy career as the Ag and Welding teacher at Toppenish High School.

It was in Toppenish that his name became synonymous with the Toppenish FFA program and the Central Washington Junior Livestock show. Over the years, John has either taught or helped train nearly every major grower in the area, whether through the Central Washington Junior Livestock Show or his own Ag classes at the high school. He helped shape agriculture in the area and inspire responsibility and discipline in many of the area youth.

Even after retirement, John continued to take an active part in the school district by filling in as a substitute teacher, serving on the school board and as a booster club member. John and Anita were committed to community service and John was always ready to lend a skillful hand to any of the many community events...need bleachers built for the Livestock Show, see John; weld bar-b-que pits for the Lion's Club, see John; drive a school bus, see John; donate blood, see John; volunteer at the Mural Society office, see John. The list is long, the work was hard, the rewards were many and John (Pop) relished his life in this valley.

John and Anita were married 45 years (until her death) and raised 5 children, cherries, pears & prunes on their 10 acre farm in Zillah. They both enjoyed following the pursuits of their children and were active supporters of their children as well as many youth within the Toppenish community in their many endeavors.

Proceeded in death by Anita and daughter Marianna. Survived by children Cecile, Janine, John, Mark, grandchildren James Mills and Cecina Babich Morrow.

We, Babich children, are humbled by the magnitude of the legacy left by our parents and will be forever grateful to them.

Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Heggie's Colonial Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Comments



“ 1 file added to the album John Babich Album



Cecile Babich Morrow - May 12 at 10:55 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Cecile Babich Morrow - May 12 at 10:53 AM



“ 1 file added to the album John Babich Album



Cecile Babich Morrow - May 11 at 04:07 PM



“ When they moved to the farm, we lived down the hill. My dad own Logsdon's welding. I used to take care of the kids once and awhile, but the thing that stands out for me, is the rides I would get to school. Mr Babich would pick me up at the bus stop so that I wouldn't have to wait in the weather. Great man and a great couple.
Barbara Logsdon Blanchard

Barbara Blanchard - May 09 at 03:58 PM



“ Mr Babich was a awesome guy . Learned so much in Ag Shop and FFA. Thoughts and Prayers got out to his Family. R.I.P Mr Babich

Danny Bass - May 08 at 12:24 AM



“ Mr. Babich was one cool guy. I rememebr he drove the pep bus one time to get us all to a game.

So sorry to hear this.

Eugene Longoria - May 07 at 05:13 PM



“ condolences .. he was one of my many favorite teachers .. still not over the lose of Marianna and now you sir .. hugs to all of you

William L. Pettit Jr. - May 07 at 03:49 PM



“ Such sad news! Mr. Babich was a Great Man and raised a Great Family!! Hugs, Love and Prayers to the entire family!! RIP Mr. Babich!

Teresa Taylor - May 07 at 12:45 AM



“ Mr. Babich was the best teacher ever! I will never forget your gentle mannerism & skillset you taught me. 😞



Trina Sherwood - May 06 at 07:24 PM



“ Aww Mr. Babich



you'll be missed RIP



Bernice Owens - May 06 at 07:19 PM



“ 3 files added to the album John Babich Album



Cecile Babich Morrow - May 06 at 04:55 PM



“ What a Great Man!! Love to you and your family! So sorry for your loss!

Teresa Taylor - May 07 at 12:46 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Janine Babich - May 06 at 03:55 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Janine Babich - May 06 at 03:54 PM



“ 1 file added to the album John Babich Album



Janine Babich - May 06 at 03:49 PM



“ Great picture of your family. Mr Babich was a great man to his family, friends, students and community. He will be missed. Also I miss Marianna very much. We were in school together in Buena. We weren't in the same grade but were just school buddies. Both Mr. Babich and Marianna were great people and will be truly missed. My condolences to you all.

Dixie Ross - May 09 at 05:58 PM



“ 5 files added to the album John Babich Album



Janine Babich - May 06 at 03:47 PM



“ So sorry to hear of John’s passing. He was very influential in me returning to school and getting my diploma. We shared many hours over coffee and life events. John was a great cook too! John, thank you for always being there. Will see you again one day. Love ya

Sharra Luper - May 06 at 02:35 PM



“ So sorry to hear of this Cecile and Janine. Brings back so many memories. I remember him as such a nice man to all. Sending you love and prayers

marie Winters Adams - May 07 at 08:52 AM



“ I am truly sorry for your loss. He used to go out and have lunch with my grandparents Art and Iva Gadley on a regular basis. Mr Babich had alot to do with the career i took out of high school. Thanks for the talks we had.

David Gadley - May 06 at 07:51 AM



“ My husband and I both had him as a teacher he loved to give us kids a bad time . He will be missed .sorry to hear of your loss.

Sylvia allen - May 06 at 05:43 AM



“ Ah yes so many fun memories and good times with John, Anita and at the time all the young ones. He was always a favorite of mine and spent a lot of time helping him work in the orchard. He even gave me a cigar to smoke which I'm sure I probably turned green from it. I was always out there with Marianne Haba and Elsie Tittsworth or I would hang out with John and Marianne at Ed's Bar b que after school. All of my condolences to the remainder of his family, and with a lot of fond memories of all of you in addition to your father. Linda Wikoff Fenske



Linda Wikoff Fenske - May 05 at 09:17 PM



“ Great person, great family, great Teacher! Was like a Dad to me and many of the kids. Much love and respect to you Mr. Babich

June Gadley - May 06 at 01:31 AM



“ He was a special man, I enjoyed helping him out around the house. Also I truly enjoyed visiting with Him.

A wonderful man !!!

Erma Mull - May 06 at 01:55 PM



“ He was a kind man. He treated us girls at the Soda Fountain good. He would call Marcie and I to come and roll the dice, and if we won he tease us. Great teacher and man!!

Susan Brumback - May 05 at 07:46 PM



“ I have known Mr. Babich as long as I can remember, since sometime in the early 1960's I guess. Lived nearby us. Me, my brother and his sons would shoot baskets in their driveway forever. John always had a smile on his face and a kind word. As the AG teacher he could sure swing a paddle though. Very nice man and a great teacher. John, Mark and Janeen condolences and prayers from your friends the Wilson's, still just down the road a bit.

Danny Wilson - May 05 at 05:12 PM



“ Good man. Good friend with my Dad. Jim Strom

Jim Strom - May 05 at 11:20 PM



“ He is miss in the neighborhood when driving by his home it seems sad to know he doesn't live there any more. Sorry for your loss.

mary wilson - May 05 at 04:48 PM



“ Our coffee buddy will be missed, self proclaimed best dice roller ever and always told the truth in Liars Poker!

Monte Heggie - May 05 at 01:10 PM