

John Herbert Reger, 88 years old, resident of rural New York Mills, MN passed away, after a battle with cancer, Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at Perham Living in Perham, MN.

John was born January 28, 1938, in New York Mills, MN to John and Rose (Herber) Reger. He grew up north of New York Mills. John graduated from New York Mills High School with the class of 1956. Following graduation, John joined the Minnesota National Guard and proudly served his country for 10-15 years.

He proudly took over the family farm from his dad, John Reger Sr. Although the farm required a lot of hard work, he took time for fishing, hunting, gardening, reading and live music. He also drove school bus for 55 years. He really enjoyed driving bus and getting to know all the kids.

When Johnnie was younger, he and his brother, Bernard enjoyed deer hunting together. If one didn't get a deer, the other one did and they always had help from dad to process the venison for the freezer. His little brother, Robert, was too young to go hunting, but eventually he got his turn to help. When Johnnie had an accident with his motorcycle and needed help with work on the farm, Robert put college on hold and came home to help dad with the chores. It was wonderful that Robert and his sister Rose Mary were able to be there to help.

On March 21, 1980, John married Kay Nurmi, the love of his life. They had a wonderful little girl named Crystal. John and Kay loved "day" road trips with family and friends. Living in the country made John happy. John and Kay enjoyed hosting "farm day" in the fall at their hobby farm, where friends and family would enjoy great food, wagon rides, and visiting and catching up with one another. John really liked feeding the birds every morning and watching them and other wildlife out the kitchen window. John and Kay raised horses, llamas, and guinea chickens on their hobby farm and mainly kept them as pets. Many mornings after their farm chores you could find John enjoying a sweet treat and a cup of coffee on the patio with Kay. John loved flowers, plants, flower beds, wildlife and western décor. John very much loved and valued his family and friends. He will be missed very much and will forever be in our hearts!

John is survived by his daughter, Crystal; brothers, Bernard (Mary Lou) and Robert (Jo); sister, Mary Ann Reis; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives, and friends.

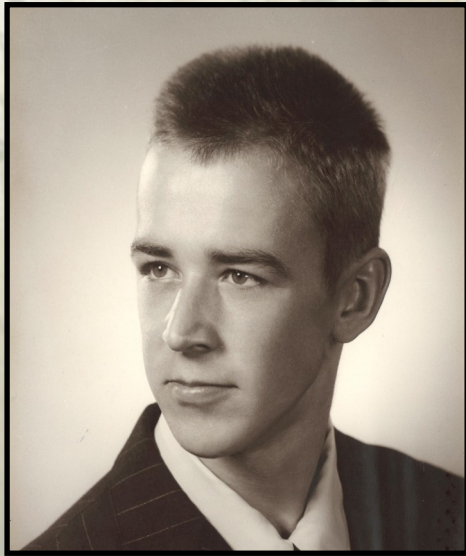
John was preceded in death by his wife, Kay; his parents, John and Rose Reger; sister, Rose Mary Koplín and brother in-laws, Jim Koplín and Louie Reis; nephews, Kenneth Koplín, Kevin Koplín, Timothy Reger and stepchildren, Bradley Nurmi and Roxanne (Nurmi) Stanfield.

Celebrating THE *Life* OF



John Herbert Reger Jr.

January 28, 1938 - April 15, 2026



Jesus said in reply, "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.

All things have been handed over to me by my Father.
No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.

Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

Matthew 11:25-30

Funeral Mass

Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.
St. Henry's Catholic Church
Perham, Minnesota

Officiant

Father Omar Guanchez

Musicians

Beth Hein
Teresa Ingebrand

Readings

Acts 10:34-43
Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12
Matthew 11:25-30

Casket Bearers

Brian Reger - Vincent Reis
Roy Koehler - Richard Reis
Ronnie Genoch - Mary Ann Reis
Tracy Gentle - Jaclyn Reis

Honorary Casket Bearers

Robert Reger - Bernard Reger

Interment

Richville Village Cemetery
Richville, Minnesota