



John Anton Hambuch

April 1, 1940 - December 12, 2024

John Anton Hambuch was born in Bonn, Germany, to Johannes and Margarete Hambuch.

He grew up in the nearby village of Oberdollendorf.

As a young man, he trained as an electrical engineer and soon became his company's favorite troubleshooter as his methodical and analytical mind helped him solve problems with the industrial equipment they manufactured. John also served as a radio operator in the West German army.

John and his wife Ingrid had two children, Monika and Ralf.

John's first trip to the US was to Philadelphia, arriving on July 3. He didn't understand why he would not be doing his work the next day but soon learned. He quickly knew he wanted to be an American.

John later moved to Miami where he married Hubertina ("Tina") Schroeders, on March 18,

1978. John worked first as a translator and then used his engineering skills working with medical and commercial laundry equipment.

John and Tina moved to Orlando in 1980 and then to Ocoee in 1983, There they owned and managed Dugeti's Italian Restaurant for 13 years. After his years as a restaurateur, he again worked with industrial equipment. During these years, John made many friends and because involved in many community activities.

John fulfilled his ambition to become an American and was sworn in as a naturalized citizen of the US on November 19, 1991, in Orlando, FL.

Eventually, John became a licensed realtor and then a certified travel agent. For another 13 years he helped people plan trips to many parts of the world and was often able to give first hand advice as he and Tina had traveled extensively in Europe, the Middle East, Latin America, and the Caribbean. He had developed a desire to travel as a young child watching ships on the Rhine River near his home.

John was an active member of the Kiwanis Club, serving as president of the West Orange Kiwanis Club and as lieutenant governor for Kiwanis in central Florida. He was the moving force in organizing Kiwanis sponsored activities at Maxey Elementary and

Lakeview Middle

Schools (Orange County). At Maxey, he worked with a book club for fifth graders, meeting with them monthly talking about a book they had all read that month.

John and Tina became members of Ocoee Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) where

John sang in the choir, served as an elder and as financial secretary. He faithfully and lovingly

cared for Tina when she developed Alzheimer's. She passed away in 2015.

Several years later, John renewed his friendship with Margaret Marquis and that friendship

developed into love. They were married on October 1, 2022. Together they joined Central

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Orlando.

They enjoyed a trip to Germany where he showed her the places of his early years. They

also enjoyed trips to the mountains of North Carolina. Their years together were too short but

were packed with love and companionship.

John was preceded in death by his parents, by his two sisters, Annemarie and Gertrude,

and Tina, his wife of nearly 40 years. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Marquis-Hambuch of

Ocoee, his daughter Monika Schroeder of New Hope, PA, his son Ralf of Eitorf, Germany, his

grandsons Maximilian and Sebastian of Konigswinter, Germany, his brothers-in-law Donald

Stradley (Lynne) of Cherry Log, GA and David Stradley (Sharon) of St. Augustine, FL, their children and grandchildren, and many friends.

John asked to be remembered as a man who always tried to be good to others and to do what was right. He was a man of deep faith and great compassion who loved to cook, to learn, and to laugh often.

John asked that if anyone wanted to give a gift in his memory, that they consider The Retreat at Silver Springs, 6455 East Silver Springs Blvd., Silver Springs, FL 34488.

(<https://theretreatatsilversprings.org>), This is the conference center for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Florida where he and Margaret have enjoyed many conferences and retreats.

A memorial service will be held early in 2025.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

Ocoee Christian Church
15 S. Bluford Avenue
Ocoee, FL 34761

Tribute Wall

DP

“ Although John was my boss with his wife Tina at the Italian restaurant. He was also a dear friend. He and I did most of the work ourselves building his house in ocoee. Such a smart man with and excellent sense of humor. It was my great pleasure to have known him.

donald r potter - April 01, 2025 at 09:22 AM

SW

“ John was charming and delightful fellow. We always enjoyed him at Central Christian Church in Orlando. Our sympathy is extended to Margaret and the family. Shelburn & Rita Wilkes

Shelburn Wilkes - January 15, 2025 at 07:35 PM

SG

“ I remember when I was in the choir with John, on Christmas Eve John would lead the choir and the church in the verses and chorus of Silent Night, after he did a solo if the first verse and chorus in German. I will ALWAYS remember John standing and singing in his black blazer, white shirt and RED tie the German version of one of my favorite Christmas Hymns. I look forward to the time when John and I will be able to " raise a little bit of Cain" and sing together.

Scott Graber - January 06, 2025 at 09:26 PM

RR

I always enjoyed the opportunities to talk with John about his time in Europe. Sergio and I were delighted when he and Margaret tied the knot and really enjoyed all the fabulous pictures and anecdotes Margaret posted from that trip that they took to Germany. They say that in heaven there is no beer. I'm hoping that is a totally bad rumor—I'd like to think that John is enjoying a pint of German lager right now. His humor and kindness to others will be missed.

Regina Roman - January 15, 2025 at 09:00 PM

DM

John and I met in 2000 when I attended a meeting of the West Orange Kiwanis I Winter Garden where John was president. John's heart was for children and this was reflected in all the projects he headed up for the West Orange Kiwanis.

We started sharing our heritage background which drew us together as friends. We, with our wives Tina and the other Margaret (my wife), began playing cards at each of our homes and often eating out together. When we ate at John's house, he would cook German meals which we thoroughly enjoyed. My wife says John is the one who taught her how to roast a turkey.

John made a trip to our farm in West Virginia with me. We did some sightseeing and visited some of my relatives. As some of you know, John was a great cook and he decided to cook us a dinner of the open fire pit. It turned out a little well done as it was much hotter cooking on an open pit than on a regular stove. But all was good! It was early March when we went to the farm. It is a little cool that time of the year. Even though John complained about the cold weather, we enjoyed the camaraderie.

The following year, John and Tina were on vacation near our farm and wanted to stop by while we were there. I gave him directions and told them to call when they started out because cell phone signals were not good. It was getting late and we thought they had changed their minds as we had not heard from them when we looked over towards the old farmhouse and here comes John's car. We were supposed to meet them at the bottom of the hill as we did not think his car would make it up. Tina said later that she had told John she was not going across that old rusty bridge but John convinced her!

Not long after I joined the Kiwanis, we moved our meeting place to the IHOP in Winter Garden. Bill Marquis who had been a member elsewhere came and joined us with his wife Margaret coming with him as often as she could. We all became friends and the six of us continued playing cards and eating at one another's homes. Those were such enjoyable and memorable times.

Margaret invited us to visit her church, Ocoee Christian Church, where we began to attend even singing in the choir. We all had found a church home.

John's wife Tina passed away in 2015 with Alzheimer's. Margaret's husband Bill passed away a few years later. God works in mysterious ways. Over the following years, Margaret's and John's friendship grew into love. We were so happy they found each other.

I will always remember the good times we had together. John will always be remembered as a good friend and comrade.

Donald (Don) Miller - January 17, 2025 at 11:53 PM