



John Nelson Curtis

April 9, 1963 - October 19, 2025

John “Johnny” Nelson Curtis, age 62, of Holly, passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, October 19, 2025, surrounded by his loved ones.

Born on April 9, 1963, in Flint, Michigan, John was the son of Dean and Elizabeth (Adams) Curtis. He graduated from Holly High School with the Class of 1981 and married the love of his life, Kelly Swartout, on April 19, 1986.

John dedicated 27 years of service as a work supervisor with the Oakland County Sheriff’s Department. He was also deeply involved in the Oakland County Fair, where he was a proud and active member of the beef community. Known for his fun-loving spirit and boundless energy, John had a wealth of knowledge when it came to cattle and farming. There was hardly anything he couldn’t fix.

Outside of work and farming, John enjoyed hunting, fishing, and raising Shorthorn cattle. He was a man who lived life fully and gave generously to

those around him.

John is survived by his loving wife of 39 years, Kelly; his parents, Dean and Elizabeth Curtis; his son Ryan and wife Nikki; his daughter Alicia and husband Eddy; and two cherished grandchildren, Blair and Cadence. He is also survived by his brothers Dean (Dana), Joe (Renee), Dave (Miki), and Bill (Andrea); mother-in-law Dot Pfahlert and father-in-law Dick Swartout; sister-in-law Lori Maxheimer; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Nelson and Emma Curtis, and John and Elizabeth Adams.

A funeral service will be held on Thursday, October 23, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. at Dryer Funeral Home, 101 First Street, Holly, with L.C. Scramlin officiating. Visitation will be held at the funeral home on the same day from 11:00 a.m. until the time of service at 4:00 p.m. John was always wearing flannel and did not like dressing up, so to honor him please wear your best flannel.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Oakland County Fair John Curtis Memorial Fund, benefiting youth beef exhibitors at Oakland County 4-H. Donations can be mailed to: PO Box 365, Davisburg, MI 48350 or see Tribute Wall on Dryer Funeral Home website for QR Code.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **23**. 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Dryer Funeral Home
101 First St
Holly, MI 48442
(248) 634-8291

Funeral Service

OCT **23**. 4:00 PM (ET)

Dryer Funeral Home
101 First St
Holly, MI 48442
(248) 634-8291

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Funeral Service for John Curtis*



Bruce Dryer - October 24, 2025 at 08:53 AM



“ Our Holly High School Class of 1979 gives our deepest condolences to Kelly, her family members and the Curtis families, of the passing our HHS Alumni Classmate John Curtis. We send you much love, strength and comfort, during this most difficult time. Peace



Holly High School Class of 1979 - October 22, 2025 at 05:27 PM



“ It was always a good day when Johnny showed up. Whether he was working, hauling rocks, fishing, or studying his Bible, we remember his jokes and positivity. He was so proud of his children and loved Kelly with all his heart. Good memories of a good man will always remain in our hearts. Lon and Melody Marshall

Lon and Melody Marshall - October 22, 2025 at 04:34 PM

LJ

Johnny and I shared many outdoor activities. One in particular we fished Lake Copneconic three years in a row. Not one fish. Not even one bite. I asked Johnny what Copneconic means and he replied with his signature smile " Pretty Lake --- No Fish ". You were always a blast to be with. You will be missed but not forgotten in my lifetime. Love you.💔

LON MARSHALL JR - October 23, 2025 at 08:12 AM

HP

“ *Holly Football Program planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Nelson Curtis.*

Holly Football Program - October 22, 2025 at 01:38 PM

HP

“ *Holly Football Program purchased the Beautiful i n Blue for the family of John Nelson Curtis.*



Holly Football Program - October 22, 2025 at 01:38 PM

JT

“ *Our deepest condolences go out to your entire family. Johnny was a great friend and extended family member. Our hearts are breaking for you!*

Joe and Brenda Thompson - October 22, 2025 at 11:56 AM

WP

“ *With love, paris purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Nelson Curtis.*



With love, paris - October 22, 2025 at 11:46 AM

LF

“ *Love, the Lon Marshall Family purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of John Nelson Curtis.*



Love, the Lon Marshall Family - October 22, 2025 at 11:41 AM

HW

“ *Our sympathies and prayers to the family especially to my aunt and uncle Butch and Bette Curtis. So many memories of them and the farm. God bless you all.*

harold & susanne wegner - October 21, 2025 at 09:10 PM

SR

“ *Johnny always had a smile and a hug. So very sad to hear of his passing. Love and hugs to his family. Carl and Shirley Roos*

Shirley Roos - October 21, 2025 at 05:01 PM

DH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dryer Funeral Home - October 21, 2025 at 03:17 PM



“ Thinking of you and your whole family. John was such a nice guy. I remember when the kids were younger and y'all invited us out and he taught us so much about the animals and was always willing to help. Sending thoughts and prayers.

Theresa Hendley

Theresa Hendley - October 21, 2025 at 02:34 PM

CB

“ Joe and Renee and family, I am so sorry for your loss, you're in my prayers for Peace and Comfort during this difficult time 🙏



CLAUDIA BINKLEY - October 21, 2025 at 12:29 PM

DG

“ Deb & Steve Gallo purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of John Nelson Curtis.



Deb & Steve Gallo - October 21, 2025 at 11:04 AM

DT

“ *Denise Tucker lit a candle in memory of John Curtis*



Denise Tucker - October 21, 2025 at 09:24 AM

RM

“ *Robin McNier lit a candle in memory of John Curtis*



Robin McNier - October 21, 2025 at 08:02 AM

TF

“ *The lasco family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Nelson Curtis.*

The lasco family - October 20, 2025 at 09:48 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of John Nelson Curtis.*



October 20, 2025 at 09:48 PM

MA

“ My deepest sympathy and condolences to you Kelly, your family and Johnny’s family. I am so very sorry. Johnny was a great guy and funny. That smile of his was the Best. Sending much love and hugs, during this very difficult time. Peace 🤝💜💜



Marti Addis - October 20, 2025 at 09:21 PM

ET

“ Elizabeth and Donald Thoreson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Nelson Curtis.

Elizabeth and Donald Thoreson - October 20, 2025 at 08:50 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Nelson Curtis.



October 20, 2025 at 08:50 PM

HL

“ What a Great Man... worked around him for years. Shared numerous hunting stories. Dedicated Man of Faith & Family. It was a privilege and an Honor to have known him. Hal Lanfear

Hal Lanfear - October 20, 2025 at 06:05 PM

FM

“ *From Kyle and Mark purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of John Nelson Curtis.*



From Kyle and Mark - October 20, 2025 at 03:56 PM