

John Evans

By HumblePieSchutzhundClub

Just like in the movie, *Field of Dreams*, "if you build it, they will come!" How often, do we talk about our dogs of past! That one dog that touched our hearts! The journey from puppyhood to competition! This journey to reach our goals! Long drives, training weekends, seminars, all while enduring the different seasons! All this preparation to weather the storm of trial day! The decisive moment! The many different emotions we will experience on trial day! Regardless of the outcome, many of us will continue in the sport!

Outside of family and friends, just like the one dog we will always remember, there is the human connection too! An ambassador for the dog sport that will come to our field of dreams that will touch our lives forever. A true sportsman in a every sense of the word, a person that gives of his or her time freely to help us reach our training goals and shares our successes and failures! Words usually do not do justice to this individual!

Humble Pie Schutzhund Club was blessed to have such an individual come to our field of dreams! Our friend and ambassador to the sport, John Evans. John moved from Michigan to Hot Springs, Arkansas. In the spring of 2022, John started coming to our club every training session. The drive was over an hour, but he showed up religiously! John would always bring his retired dog with him. John promoted the sport and encouraged all the club members. He shared his expertise with us willingly with no strings attached. He insisted on paying club dues even though his canine was retired. John enjoyed the camaraderie and encouraged everyone.

We would always tease him about getting another dog and he would always say that he did not want to put his wife, Rita, through another crazy working dog. Earlier this year (2023), John stopped coming to club.

Concerned, club members reached out and discovered John was battling terminal cancer. John would call regularly and ask for updates on the club's progress. The club would send him photos and videos. According to Rita, this would lift his spirits tremendously. Unfortunately, John never made it back to our field of dreams. Words cannot do justice for a human being like John Evans.

Rita shared that John loved the club and its members and he loved the sport of Schutzhund and the many great people involved in the sport. John gave everything to the sport – heart, mind, and soul until his last moments. I know there are others in Michigan that knew John better than our club, but we wanted to pay tribute to our club member who we feel was a great and honorable man.

According to Rita, early in 1985 John became involved in Schutzhund while they were living in North Olmsted, Ohio. Over the years he titled four dogs, assisted in the training of numerous dogs, and worked with the Oakland County Sheriff's Department in Michigan where he fostered a dual-purpose dog. He was involved and active with many clubs over the years and maintained close relationships with: Wolverine Schutzhund Club, USCA, Capitol Area Schutzhund Club, Metro Detroit Schutzhund Club, and SE Michigan Police and Schutzhund Club. He also titled a therapy dog for Mid-Michigan Therapy Dogs and visited VA Hospitals and Nursing Homes in Michigan.

In 1995, upon retirement, he started his own business, Dog Essentials, and trained dogs in basic obedience and behavioral issues and continued this passion until his move to Arkansas in 2019. In 2020 he missed being involved at a level he was accustomed, so he gave his time and assistance and taught obedience at Doggie Dude Ranch located in Hot Springs Arkansas. Then in 2022 he found our



club, Humble Pie Schutzhund Club. Rita stated, John so enjoyed working with the people he met there and of course, loved all the dogs.

According to Rita, John always called himself a "student of dogs." He loved reading about dogs and their behaviors and became quite versed in researching dog pedigrees.

John's last wishes were to give all his K9 equipment to Humble Pie Schutzhund Club to further our efforts. Additionally, he wanted his ashes spread over his old training field in Michigan. Rita plans to spread his ashes there sometime next year.

I have no doubt that John is up in heaven at a Schutzhund field reunited with his dogs and other ambassadors of the sport! To our fellow IGP competitors and those who knew John from Michigan State, pay close attention to your field of dreams! If you are lucky, you might be able to see John and/or other ambassadors to the sport fussing on your field!

RIP our friend and true ambassador to the sport of IGP. We look forward to seeing you again in a Schutzhund field in Heaven.

RIP John Evans, you will always be remembered.

Robert John Evans

December 29, 1946 to August 25, 2023

