

John Thacker, 89, St Onge, died May 15, 2026, at the Spearfish Canyon Healthcare Center.

John was born March 29, 1937, in Newcastle, WY, to Fred and Mary (Dibble) Thacker. He grew up in the Deadwood area and later moved to Spokane, WA, with his family. John enlisted and proudly served his country in the United States Navy for four years, spending much of his service aboard a submarine, an experience he carried with quiet pride throughout his life.

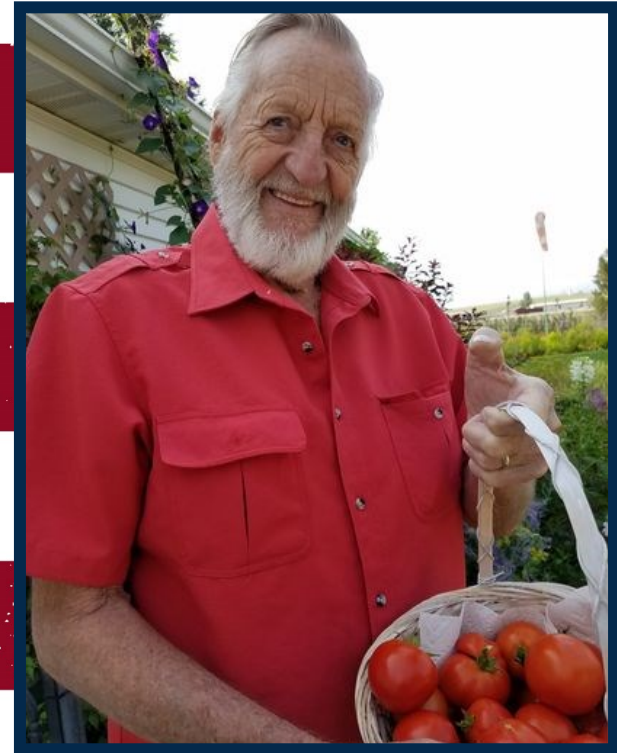
After his military service, John returned to the Black Hills of South Dakota, a place he always considered home. On August 8, 1959, he married the love of his life, Darleen Lester, beginning a devoted marriage of 67 years. Together, they raised three daughters.

John was a professional ski instructor at Terry Peak Ski Area for many years, sharing his passion and skill with countless students. In 1984, John and Darleen established Video Pro, which they operated until their retirement in 2005.

Throughout his life, He enjoyed hunting, camping, fishing, and was an avid skier and windsurfer. John loved music and could play most instruments by ear. He was known for his charismatic personality. John could talk to anyone and genuinely enjoyed connecting with people. He took great pleasure in leaving others with a smile, a trait that defined him and endeared him to many.

John is survived by his wife of 67 years, Darleen, his daughters Linda (Woody) Hover, St Onge, Lorelei Rosales, Billings, MT, and Lisa Thacker, Billings, MT, eight grandchildren, and eighteen great-grandchildren.

John will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered.



In Loving Memory

John Louis Thacker

March 29, 1937 - May 15, 2026

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one.

I'd like to leave an afterglow

of smiles when life is done.

I'd like to leave an echo whispering

softly down the ways,

of happy times and laughing times

and bright and sunny days.

I'd like the tears of those who grieve,

to dry before the sun;

of happy memories that I leave

when life is done.

~ Helen Lourie Marshall

In Loving Memory

John Thacker

BORN

March 29, 1937

Newcastle, Wyoming

PASSED AWAY

May 15, 2026

Spearfish, South Dakota

GRAVESIDE SERVICE

May 21, 2026 ~ 2:30 PM

Black Hills National Cemetery

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

May 21, 2026 ~ 3:30 PM

St. Onge Community Center

St. Onge, South Dakota