

John L. Wineland, of Jenkintown, PA, passed away peacefully at the age of 85, surrounded by family, on August 22nd, 2025.

Born in Altoona, PA, on December 18, 1939, he was the son of Dr. J. Lester and Phyllis (Mingle) Wineland of Altoona and Hollidaysburg. John married Dr. Paula A. Bononi of Greensburg in 1984. He is survived by his wife, Paula; his son Nathaniel “Nate” J. (wife Audrey) of Charlotte, NC; and his grandson, Remy C. Wineland. He is also survived by his sister Elaine W. Kantner (the late Richard) of Brevard and Pisgah Forest, NC, and his brother Philip B. Wineland (wife Janet Naden) of Sioux City, Iowa; as well as seven nieces and nephews and many great-nieces and nephews.

John graduated from Altoona High School in 1957, earned a BA in History from Wheaton College (IL), an MS in Education from Northern Illinois University, and an MA in History from Temple University, where he pursued a PhD in American history, completing coursework and exams.

His early career was in education, first joining the faculty of Northern Illinois University as an assistant professor of history education. In 1967, he co-headed a federally funded project to integrate Black History into standard curricula, alongside colleagues in the Psychology Department, who studied the program’s impact. He also directed Project Upward Bound. Two years later, he ran for State Representative as a Democrat in a heavily Republican district, carrying several areas for the first time in history.

In 1969, John moved to Philadelphia to pursue doctoral studies at Temple and taught history locally. He was active in community life, serving as treasurer for West Mt. Airy Neighbors and for the Mt. Airy Learning Tree.

From 1973 to 1979, John served as Director of Undergraduate Admissions at the University of Pennsylvania, traveling extensively and overseeing recruitment across more than half of the Northeast. In 1979, he made a major career change, moving into law firm administration. He first served at Clark Ladner Fortenbaugh & Young, later at Litvin Blumberg Matusow & Young, and ultimately spent ten years at Drinker Biddle & Reath, where he introduced and directed the firm’s transition to practice group administration. He also served several years as president of the local chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators (ALA) and as vice president of its national board.

John joined the Episcopal Church in 1961 and contributed generously of his time and skills in every parish he belonged to, particularly St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Chestnut Hill. Over the years, he served in many roles including Accounting Warden, Lay Reader, Vestryman, and Delegate to Diocesan Convention. In 1978, the bishop appointed him to a five-year Jewish–Episcopal dialogue commission. He was a longtime supporter of

Episcopal Community Services (ECS), serving on its Finance Committee, ten years on the board, and four years as President.

Beyond work and service, John found joy in sailing with Paula for a decade on the Chesapeake in their Catalina 30, *Miracle*. They were devoted subscribers to the Philadelphia Orchestra, lifelong learners who enjoyed lectures, museums, and cultural events, and avid travelers in Europe, particularly on its rivers. In retirement, John was elected Judge of Elections in Cheltenham Township and served as a National Park Service volunteer guide at Independence Hall, where he shared history with thousands of visitors from around the world.

John will be remembered for his devotion to family, his enduring curiosity about history, and his ability to turn even casual conversations into discussions of history and politics.

Service details will be announced soon. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Episcopal Community Services (225 S. 3rd St., Philadelphia PA 19106) or St. James School (3217 W. Clearfield St., Philadelphia PA 19132).