



## John C. Raines

October 27, 1933 - November 12, 2017

John C. Raines of Philadelphia died on Sunday November 12th, 2017, surrounded by family and comforting support from friends. Beloved husband of Bonnie (nee Muir), loving father of Lindsley, Mark, Nathan, and Mary (Sam Park) and “Granddaddy” to seven remarkable grandchildren.

John was born on October 27, 1933 in Minneapolis, MN to Bishop Richard C. Raines and Lucille Arnold Raines, the youngest of their four children. He attended The Blake School, Carleton College and Union Theological Seminary, where he earned a Th.D degree. He joined the newly-established religion department at Temple University in 1966 where he taught Social Ethics for more than 50 years.

In 1961 he was arrested and jailed as a Freedom Rider in Little Rock, AK and in Georgia while a voter registration worker. In 1971 John and Bonnie and six others – “The Citizen’s Commission to Investigate the FBI” burglarized the FBI office in Media, PA, removed documents and mailed copies to newspapers. The Washington Post published the findings which confirmed secret FBI activities subverting the constitutional rights of citizens. In 2014 the story was revealed in a book and documentary film.

His memorial service will be held on Sat. Dec. 2nd. at 11 am in Christ Church, 20 N American St, Phila., PA 19106. John requested that in lieu of flowers, gifts be made to the Southern Poverty Law Center, 400 Washington Ave, Montgomery, AL 36104, [www.splcenter.org](http://www.splcenter.org). or the American Civil Liberties Union, 915 15th St. NW, Washington, DC 20005, [www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org).



# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

DEC 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

Christ Church  
20 North American Street  
Philadelphia, PA

# Tribute Wall

TW

“ Dear Bonnie,  
Always left the dinners at GCC wanting to spend more time with both of you.....true citizens of the world.....so very aware of all the suffering, while still joyous in spite of it.  
Truly sorry for your loss, Bonnie, but delighted I had the chance to "hang out" with this man of character and good will. John believed and modeled that we must be "our brothers' keepers".  
My love and condolences to you,  
Terry Walsh

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**Terry Walsh** - November 22, 2017 at 01:28 PM

AM

“ Dear Bonnie & family, may you be filled with loving memories of your beloved John who was a great inspiration to me. John was an angel to me when I sat next to him on the Amtrak from WDC to Philly in October 1986. We enjoyed a passionate discussion about Doestoevsky during the train ride. Little did I know how he would completely change my life. When we arrived in Philly, he asked me if I had thought about studying theology & social ethics  
When he said that I remember feeling like the Philadelphia train station was adorned in heavenly lights & I realized that John's words were Gd calling me. His words deeply resonated in my soul. In thanks to him I can joyfully say that I committed my life to social ethics & racial equity!! He was also a great guide for me in the Society of Christian Ethics & AAR. My love and hugs to Bonnie & your entire family. May you be filled with joy for John's life and witness to the world!  
Alex Mikulich, New Orleans

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**Alex Mikulich** - November 19, 2017 at 11:34 AM

MM

*Dear Family of John Raines,  
We are saddened by John's  
passing and want you to know that we are honored by having known  
him, and have deep respect for all he has done to make the world a  
better place.*

*May you remember his deeds and words as you continue on with his  
memory.*

*Marion and Bob Mendelson*

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**Marion and Bob Mendelson** - December 03, 2017 at 11:24 AM