



John Gresley graduated from Heritage High School in Indiana, class of 1970. In that same year he joined the Air National guard and served for 6 years. In 1972, he went to work for International Harvester. That year was a very unstable time at International and he moved to sales at Triangle Fleet Service. This was his start into the truck business. Later he moved to Holland Hitch as a Territory Manager. This time span was approximately from 1972 to 1985.

In 1985, his father became ill and was unable to take care of the family farm. Up until this time he had not been involved in farming. His father didn't want him farming because there was no money in it. Well, John wasn't a very good listener and took the farm over. Over the next 20-plus years he grew the farm to over nine-hundred acres of corn and beans. He farmed in addition to working full time.

John's passion for farming was unbelievable. In my world, mountains, hunting and fishing, going on a date; these are the things that would really excite me. Getting in a combine to cut corn? Staying up all night working the fields and then going to work? These didn't sound fun to me. John had a lot of great hunting and fishing trips all over the country. I know fly fishing the Green River in Utah was one of his favorites. In 1987, he went to work for the Fort Wayne Vehicle Auction. After a few years in sales, he became General Manager. The rest, as you know, is history.

If you look at the UTA Code of Ethics, it's what he stood for both at work and in his personal dealings. He was a huge supporter of the UTA and The Blue Book convention. He took pride in knowing that the UTA Golf Tournament was named after him. He also designed the UTA Golf logo.

He passed away on November 19, 2007, after a long battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Karen; son, Josh, and his wife, Laura; and 3 grandsons. I know that every other Wednesday he is on the block at the Fort Wayne Vehicle Auction. He is missed greatly every day. We were all blessed in knowing John Gresley and are proud of him for posthumously receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award. Tim Ronan accepted this award on behalf of John's family.