

# JOHN DYMOND

Member since 1993

## John Dymond

**Birth Date:**

October 25, 1935

**Place of Birth:**

Chambersburg, PA

**Military Service:**

Naval Aviator & Instructor

## Did You Know?

While stationed at the NAS Oceana Combat Training Center in 1960-1961, John met America's first astronauts: Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, John Glenn, Gus Grissom, Wally Schirra, Alan Shepard, and Deke Slayton.

In 2015, John inherited a church building and property which his great-grandfather had donated to the Methodist Church in 1869. Because it was a revisionary deed, ownership of the property reverted to the closest living heir because it was no longer being used as a Methodist Church.

## Favorite Hymn:

Spirit Song



Born and raised in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, John has done a lot of work in and for our local community. Through it all, he testifies to the power of God and the church in his life.

Growing up, John's father owned a sawmill, and John began working in the business at an early age. After graduating from high school, he attended college, studying biology and chemistry with hopes of becoming a teacher. However, as graduation neared, he realized that the \$4500 yearly teacher salary would hardly pay the bills.

So, at the age of 22, John enlisted in the military and became a naval aviator. He says that he felt the presence and protection of God very strongly during these years. Flying at the speed of sound, you had to make many decisions very quickly. There were so many things that could go wrong and so very little room for error that it brought his need for God into clearer focus.

John explains that landing a fighter jet on an aircraft carrier requires nearly perfect technique—with only about 4-5 feet of wiggle room in any direction.

And he experienced three of the many things that can go wrong in the air. Once he managed to land his plane while oil leaked out behind him and the engine began to fail. Another time he had to fly without a canopy after the glass got broken during a refueling exercise. And he had to eject from one plane he was flying, after the hydraulics failed and he lost his ability to control it. Reminiscing, John says it always felt as if there was someone at his shoulder, watching over him: “I really shouldn’t be here by any stretch of the imagination.”

Back in civilian life, John continued to feel God’s guidance and blessing. While working as a stock-broker, he purchased 500 shares of stock in JLG. Eighteen months later he sold for \$116,000! Thus, by the age of twenty-eight, he had the seed money for his life-long business endeavors.

John credits his many successes to hard work, perseverance, and the influence of the church. He remembers being a small and timid child and says that he had to overcome a lot to get where he is today. And he says that church has been important in helping him not to drift away from how he knows he should be and act. To be a gentleman and treat other people well even through difficult circumstances.

And not only has John been a life-long attender of church, but what I found most striking about his story are the many ways that he has *been* the church, bringing God’s love to others in need in his community, especially to children. There’s the story of the neighbor boy who came knocking on his door at midnight asking if he could spend the night when he needed a safe place to sleep. Or the story of the high school senior who lived with the Dymonds for a year so that he wouldn’t have to change schools so close to graduation. Or the year that John’s sister’s three kids lived with him after the eruption of Mount St. Helens threatened the children’s home near Mt. Rainier.

And, of course, there’s the adoption of his grandsons, Luke and Logan, in later years. John remembers repeatedly speaking words of love each morning over one of his grandsons during a difficult season, saying “God loves you. I love you. Make sure you don’t forget to love yourself.”

Some of John’s other words are an encouragement to us all as we heed God’s call to love and care for those around us:

*“We need to love the least among us, and we need to step in and fill the void when we see one.”*