



John Leo Garrison

February 27, 1932 - March 26, 2011

With his five children gathered around him, John Leo Garrison, 79, of Longwood, FL passed on March 26, 2011 while in residence at Hospice of the Comforter after a short illness. John was born on February 27, 1932 to Leo M. and Gladys (Reynolds) Garrison in New York City, New York. He is a 1950 graduate of All Hollows High School (Bronx, NY). He attended and graduated from Columbia University in 1954. During his academic years, he was an avid football player and suited up for both schools. John entered the U.S. Air Force and received his pilot's wings on November 18, 1955. He served with distinction for 27 years and is a Vietnam era Veteran. He flew the KC 97 and then the KC 135 aircraft among others. He was retired in the rank of lieutenant colonel from his final assignment as the senior U.S. Air Force advisor to the Wisconsin Air National Guard. His highest award was the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal. As a sportsman, he coached his sons' youth football teams and was an avid golfer. He and his wife, the former Jeanne O'Brien who preceded him in death, were founding members of Annunciation Catholic Church. John valued education and worked tirelessly to support Catholic education in Orlando. He is survived by his brother, Charles E. of Valley Cottage, NY and his children: Jeanne Marie (Peter) Rowan of Fairfax, VA; John Jr. (Janet Estes) of Fort Worth, TX; Donald (Kathy Shroyer) of Clarksville, MD; Debra Ann Fiorentino (Greg) of Apex, NC; and Karen Lee Reecy (Steve) of Tallahassee, FL, fifteen grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Family will be receiving friends from 6:00 to 8:00 PM,

Tuesday, March 29th at DeGusipe Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, March 30th at 10 AM at Annunciation Catholic Church, 1020 Montgomery Road, Altamonte Springs, FL., with Father Charles Deeney as the celebrant. Internment is at 2:00 p.m. at the Florida National Cemetery (Bushnell). In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in memory of John to Annunciation Catholic Academy, c/o Fr. Charlie ACA Fundraiser, 592 Jamestown Blvd., Altamonte Springs, FL 32714; Air Force Aid Society, Inc. National Headquarters, 241 18th Street, Suite 202, Arlington, VA 22202 or at www.afas.org; or Hospice of the Comforter, 605 Montgomery Road, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714 or at www.hospiceofthecomforter.org or your local hospice chapter. Arrangements entrusted to DeGusipe Funeral Home 9001 N. Orlando Ave. Maitland, FL 32751, Please visit www.DeGusipeFuneralHome.com to leave a special condolence.

Tribute Wall



“ *May God be with your family and bless you with many happy memories. Our prayers are with you##imported-begin##Bruce and Laura Fink##imported-end##*

March 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Blessings be to you as you are laid to rest.##imported-begin##Jeanne Marie Rowan##imported-end##*

March 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *We remember him as full of great spirit, humor and for his open declaration of love of family and country. A real mold breaker. We will miss him dearly.##imported-begin##Charlie & Peggy Gray##imported-end##*

March 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *"During this time..there will be hugs. There will be tears. There will be people who don't know what to say. And some who can still make you laugh.*

There will be pictures and keepsakes. Memories and stories -- Some you've never heard. And some you could never hear enough.

There will be sorrow. There will be celebration. But, most of all, there will be love. The kind that never ends."

With sympathy and caring..

-Tim###imported-begin##Tim Norgal###imported-end##

March 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.###imported-begin##Larry Liss###imported-end##*

March 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *We are so sorry for the loss of John - he was very special to our family. John always brought a smile to our faces and still does - my father, "Kelly" and mother "Mary" fondly called him the Colonel. Our whole extended family knew and loved the Colonel. He spoke often so lovingly of his children and grand-children. God Bless all of you - and our dear Colonel John.###imported-begin##Mary Kelly Gruber - Daughter of Paul and Mary Kelly###imported-end##*

March 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ John Garrison, honest, sincere, fun, caring, intelligent, a wonderful loving person to be around and have a great conversation with on any subject. He always offered his help in any way he could to ease the complications of life. Always showing up with a bottle of wine was a friend to all who met him. He will be greatly missed in our lives and we were honored to know him. A man of courage that we should model ourselves after. A father of a wonderful family and a man of God.

God Bless You John Garrison.

Love Always,

Scott and Robin Philpot###imported-begin##Scott and Robin Philpot###imported-end##

March 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ MET AT WESTOVER--EACH OF US RAISED OUR 5 CHILDREN IN CHICKOPEE FOR THE 8 OR 9 YEARS WE WERE THERE..WE PULLED ALERTS.FLEWTOGEATHER.HAD A PARTY AT THE DROP OF A HAT AND SCOCALIZED WITH JEAN AND JOHN FREQUENTLY. WE STAYED IN TOUCH OVER THE REMAINING YEARS. WELL MISS YOU JOHN.--WITH LOVE AND SORROW, ALICE AND DICK###imported-begin##ALICE AND DICK FINAN###imported-end##

March 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ I met John and Jean when I entered our first squadron at Westover AFB, MA. John took me under his wing and provided advice and counsel that stuck with me for some 35 years and greatly shaped my followon career. Carol joins me in sending our deepest sympathy to John's family, he was very proud of all of them. I know words haven't the impact at a time like this, but your grief is shared by all of his friends and people he came in contact with, as he was already to lend kind word or helping hand. We shall miss him.##imported-begin##General (R) and Mrs. J.B. Davis USAF##imported-end##

March 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you as celebrate John's life and lay him to rest with Jeanne and Bailey. Much love, The Liss Family##imported-begin##The Liss Family##imported-end##

March 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Garrison Family,
We were so sorry to hear of John's death. He was a wonderful man and father! He never failed to call us once/year and talk about how blessed we were to share Children (Don and Kathy) and Grandchildren (Chloe and Ben). May he rest in the peace he earned for himself, and his family and country!
Well done, Col Garrison. Love, tears, and prayers
Rod and Judy##imported-begin##Rod and Judy Shroyer##imported-end##

March 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Don,

I'm sorry to hear about your father. My thoughts are with you and the rest of your family.

Best,

Howard Blumberg##imported-begin##Howard Blumberg##imported-end##

March 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Garrison Family,

What a remarkable person and life your father had. We too loved him and will remember him fondly. Sending you lots of love and prayers.

*Julie Shroyer, David, Claire, & Emily Shaw
Washington, DC##imported-begin##Julie Shroyer##imported-end##*

March 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *I am so sorry to hear of your loss. May "the God of all comfort" be with you during this difficult time and may His trustworthy promises fill you with hope until you can be reunited. (2 Corinthians 1:3, Acts 24:15; Isaiah 25:8)##imported-begin##Amber##imported-end##*

March 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Jeanne Marie, John, Donald, Debra, and Karen,

My thoughts and prayers are with each of you and your families as you begin a new chapter in your lives. In life we have many shared memories and in his passing your Dad shares the day with my Dad. We have come a long way from the grandchildren pictures on the stairs with Grandma and Grandpa O'Brien.

I am grateful that Hospice was available for Uncle John. Perhaps through your generosity of including Hospice in your remembrance of your Dad others will have a peaceful end of life experience. Thank you.

I am with you in spirit.

With love,

Kathy###imported-begin##Kathy Ambrosio Wilson###imported-end##

March 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ To all the Garrison children - Please accept my sincere condolences for the loss of your father. He surely lives on in the lives of each of you, who are all such special people. You all are blessings to him, and he is surely proud of the wonderful men and women that you have become. I wish each of you peace in this time of bereavement.

Most sincerely,

Scott Levinson###imported-begin##Scott Levinson###imported-end##

March 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Jeanne Marie, John, Don, Debbie, Karen, and families,
We are not able to join you at this sad time but please know that
you are in our thoughts and prayers. I will always remember your
mom and dad fondly, as well as the good times we had at family
events.
Love, Judy, Don, and family##imported-begin##Judy (Robertson)
and Don Apicella##imported-end##

March 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ To all John's children,
We are so sad at the passing of your Dad. He and your Mom were
wonderful friends of ours through the years Dick and your Dad
served their country.
We hold all of you in our hearts and prayers.
Love,
Marjorie and Dick##imported-begin##Marjorie & Dick
Bryant##imported-end##

March 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Karen and family, I am sorry to hear of your loss. I have not seen
your dad in years, but remember him as lively and proud of his
children.##imported-begin##Dana Reiding##imported-end##

March 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with all of John's family and friends. John was our friend and a former "Squarepatcher" for over 50 years. He always made the effort to keep in touch and was a staunch supporter of our 384th ARS Reunions. We will miss him and his frequent phone calls. Unfortunately, we will be unable to attend the funeral, but we will be with you in spirit.##imported-begin##Ken & Barbara Godstrey##imported-end##

March 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM