



John C. Johannesmeyer

April 4, 1942 - June 2, 2020

John C. Johannesmeyer, 78, of Longwood, Florida, passed away on June 2, 2020 after a brief battle with lung cancer. John's wonderful sense of humor and genuine love of people, from his closest family members to the new person sitting next to him at an Orlando Magic game, made him a favorite among his family, friends, colleagues, and acquaintances -- and even made him a standout to strangers he met along the way.

John was born on April 4, 1942 in Meadville, Pennsylvania, the son of Charles G. and Evelyn (Dale) Johannesmeyer. The eldest of three brothers, John graduated from Allegheny College in 1964 as an Alden Scholar with a B.S. in Mathematics. He earned his M.S. in Industrial Management from Purdue University in 1965. From 1965-74 John worked for Talon, Inc. with management positions in industrial engineering and human resources. He moved from Pennsylvania to Maitland, FL in 1974 and was employed by Martin Marietta Aerospace from 1974-78 in the Quality and Human Resources divisions. In 1978, John joined The Walt Disney Corporation. It was a perfect fit for a man who enjoyed making people happy, and who, as a young child, insisted on being called "Pinocchio." John retired from Disney in 1999 after serving as the Vice President of Human Resources: Benefits, Compensation and Relocation.

Throughout his life, John enjoyed sports as both a participant and a spectator.

He played football, basketball, and golf, and wore out numerous pairs of running shoes. He also supported the interests of his children, attending countless football games, swim meets, and Girl Scout events. In recent years, he bonded with his grandchildren over crossword puzzles, baseball, books, and "Papa Stories." Every morning he spent time with his Bible, meditating over his daily devotional. His insights and laughter will be sorely missed.

He is survived by his loving wife of 30 years, Betty Ann (Smith) Johannesmeyer; children Jack Johannesmeyer (Jennifer), Laura Johannesmeyer Boisvert, and Carrie Johannesmeyer Lindley (Mark); grandchildren Renee, Wiley, David, Emma, and Kate; brothers Sack Johannesmeyer (Pam) and Dale Johannesmeyer (Carla); twenty nieces and nephews; and numerous brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, cousins, and great nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Linda (O'Connor) Johannesmeyer, his second wife, Deborah (Howe) Johannesmeyer, and his parents, Charles G. Johannesmeyer and Evelyn (Dale) Johannesmeyer.

Funeral Services will be private due to COVID-19 restrictions. A celebration of life will take place at a later date, when it is safe to fellowship.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Boys Town (www.boys-town.org).

The family of John C. Johannesmeyer invites you to leave a message of condolence on the Tribute Wall created in his loving memory.

Tribute Wall

PD

“ Johnny as he preferred to be called in the circles that we shared many years ago was a very special fellow. He could make intense challenging work fun and that's hard to do. Imagine what he was capable of in settings outside the workplace such as the Orena or a canoe on the river having a cold one and dodging trees. My heart breaks to hear of Johnny's passing but he will remain a very dear friend in my heart forever. Sorry it took me a year to find out about his passing though. A short story ... Johnny and I would sometimes sneak out for a cold one at the Crab House on Thursday and Friday afternoon when the Masters was on TV and he hadn't acquired a better seat through his connections. We would start early and enjoy all 18 holes. Many cold ones. The Masters got me thinking of my old friend. God's speed, my dear old friend.

Paul Draeger - April 08, 2021 at 07:00 PM

JH

“ I remember meeting John when he came to work at WDW in Florida. He was always very kind and respectful. I was delighted to learn that he had married a fellow tour guide, Betty, who was also so very kind and sweet! My heart breaks for you, Betty! We send our love and prayers.

Jean Hansen - August 02, 2020 at 10:55 PM

LJ

“ Betty and family,
We all share in your sadness and will be there with you.



linda m johnson - July 31, 2020 at 04:03 PM

DC

“ John was one of the greatest to work with at Disney. i worked with John from Disneyland for many years. He was a great mentor and one of the smartest and kindest persons i have ever known. He was one of only two people that called me Denny. I did not like the nickname, however, from him it was a sign of love. Our greatest bond was the love for the Cleveland Browns, In fact when the Browns returned to the NFL, we met in Cleveland for the opening game. The Brownies got killed by the Steelers. It did not matter as we had our Browns back!!!

Our prayers and love are with you Betty and your family! John will be missed!

Dennis (Denny) Ciolli

DENNIS L CIOLLI - June 14, 2020 at 06:08 PM

NG

“ Dearest Betty have known and loved you for 62 years! I My deepest condolences to you and the whole family. Dearest John made my heart so sing when I introduced him to a restaurant you both so loved when living in Ca - fifteen years ago!The Inn of the 7th Ray.in Topanga Canyon. My last two conversations with John just a few months ago were about his fond memories of our good times there and the many good laughs John you loved to Laugh - how I will remember you!! In Spirituality the 7th Ray is the Purple Royal Light of Divinity. John, you now rest in this Purple Light of Peace. Blessings always. . .

Nancy Di Giorgio - June 10, 2020 at 02:09 PM

JH

“ Sending prayers of comfort to Betty and the rest of John's extended family! John was always kind and friendly in all of my interactions with him at Disney. He will be missed. Hugs to you, sweet Betty! You know your tour guide sisters are here for you. ❤️

Jean Hansen - June 08, 2020 at 05:56 PM

MB

“ I am saddened by the loss of John. I had the privilege of working with him for a number of years at Disney. Prayers for his family at this difficult time.

Michele Kress Blackwell

Michele Blackwell - June 08, 2020 at 05:34 PM

DK

“ Wonderful memories of working at Walt Disney World with John during the late '70s and early '80s. A good man with a warm sense of humor. Condolences to the family.

David Kanally - June 08, 2020 at 05:00 PM

JM

“ John was one of my first and most influential mentors. I worked for him at the time Disney hired Eisner and Wells, and did my best to hand color the bar charts, create LOTUS spreadsheets and otherwise support him. He always was cheerful, and despite his penchant for calling me Jeffrey, which I detested, I loved working for him. I was always impressed that he tried to figure out “what's the best way..” and we would dive into true research. He asked my opinion and seemed to care...for me, he was a treasure of a boss and leader, and that early experience helped guide me in my career. I wish condolences and fond memories for his entire family.

Jeff Mathis - June 08, 2020 at 12:26 PM

JE

“ I’m sorry for your families loss Jack, Jennifer and Wiley He sounds like a wonderful man! How fun was that for Jack with a Dad that worked at Disney. I’d love to hear some story’s next time I see you. I’m Sorry your going through sad times now. Much love Jennifer

jennifer - June 07, 2020 at 04:11 PM

SH

“ John was a great boss and mentor with a great sense of humor! It was an honor to serve under him. He will be missed. Go in peace John.

Stephen Heise - June 06, 2020 at 09:43 PM



“ Dear Betty, Carrie and family: Thank you for sharing your loving, caring, compassionate, creative God centered, family centered lives with us. Thank you for going beyond the call of duty for those who crossed your path. You are amazing in how you care and lift up us all, time and time again, with LOVE, prayer and humor. I feel grace beyond imagine for having known you. I am grateful for sharing life with true Christians who turn to God's Word for all. Thank you for your Amazing Grace and Love. Thank you for being friends in great time of need. Thank you for teaching us how to keep the faith and trust HIM. How can I tell you the love that I feel and the gratitude that I have for your constant friendship? Thank you, my dear friend, John. I am here for you Betty. Your friend. Many blessings forever, Maryellen Elizabeth Hart



MaryEllen Elizabeth Hart - June 06, 2020 at 07:28 PM



Dear Betty: I will continue to pray for John with thanksgiving for as long as I have breath. John's kindness was beyond imagine. His courage to be intelligent, kind and share his quick humor was his trademark. I am so grateful for John's life and your life Betty. Thank you for your continued friendship on Facebook. Love forever in Jesus Christ, Maryellen Elizabeth Hart XOXOXO

MaryEllen Elizabeth Hart - August 01, 2020 at 01:22 AM

LA

“ *So saddened for the loss of this wonderful and witty man. My heart goes out to Betty and all of his family. I will miss you Pinnocchio.*



Laurie - June 05, 2020 at 07:31 PM

AK

“ *My heart is saddened and broken as I look back to our many get togethers that will be no more lunching at the beach. Always a caring and loving word given with a smile I won't forget. Peace and love, Alice Knichel*

Alice Knichel - June 05, 2020 at 04:35 PM

RR

“ *We are saddened by the sudden loss of John. We will keep the family in our prayers and thoughts with loving memories. Roz and Greg Richards*

Roz Bernhardt Richards - June 05, 2020 at 12:22 PM

 Stacy
Bubelis

“ To my favorite girl scout card carrying, lederhosen sporting second dad, I am so thankful for the many years of memories our families have shared. Thank you for giving me a lifelong best friend and sister in Carrie, and for always loving *me* unconditionally as another one of your crew. I can't imagine growing up with out the Johannesmeyer family in my life. Mr. Jo - you will be missed more than you know and are loved more than you imagine. Until we meet again! Celebrate big in heaven, you deserve it.

Stacy Bubelis - June 05, 2020 at 11:45 AM

RH

“ Your humorous wit and laughter will be greatly missed. Hearts are broken. Until we see you again all should know, you were loved.
Rick and Robin Harper

Robin Bunting Harper - June 04, 2020 at 02:24 PM

JP

Betty and Family, Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this very difficult time. John was an outstanding individual who loved his family, friends and country with a sincere passion. He was one of the true leaders of our Disney Human Resources team and helped make Walt Disney's Dream come true.

*Love to you all,
Jim and Lynne Passilla*

Jim Passilla - June 05, 2020 at 02:19 PM

JL

John was my neighbor for nearly 32 years. I often saw him jogging, biking, and walking. He was a great encourager and wonderfully outgoing. He loved our dogs and would stop his car just to talk to them. He loved taking his own dog for a car ride daily which I think usually included a fast food stop, not for John, but for his dog! He was a humble and gentle man who although quite successful, always made you feel like his equal. He never took himself too seriously. I once visited him at his corner office in what he called the "Argile Sock" building. That was John's way of playing it down a bit. John took his faith in God very seriously and we often talked about my international travel and Christian work. He was a special man, and I wish I could have known him better. He will be greatly missed.

Jim Laird - June 05, 2020 at 04:17 PM

ES

We were saddened and shocked to learn of the passing of John. He will be missed.

John was a great man; he loved his family; he was very accomplished and a great American. He loved my sister, Betty, and his family. He spoke of, and was very proud of his children and grandchildren. Over the years we have enjoyed our visits with John and Betty in Florida, El Paso and California. I always enjoyed watching football and basketball games with John. We had some great conversations.

Our deepest sympathy to Betty, Laura, Jack and Jen, Carrie and Mark, Renee, David, Wiley, Emma, Kate, Family and Friends.

*With Love,
Paul and Marsha Smith*

Earle Paul Smith - June 06, 2020 at 04:09 PM



Dear Betty, Carrie and family: Thank you for sharing your loving, caring, compassionate, creative God centered, family centered lives with us. Thank you for going beyond the call of duty for those who crossed your path. You are amazing in how you care and lift up us all, time and time again, with LOVE, prayer and humor. I feel grace beyond imagine for having known you. I am grateful for sharing life with true Christians who turn to God's Word for all. Thank you for your Amazing Grace and Love. Thank you for being friends in great time of need. Thank you for teaching us how to keep the faith and trust HIM. How can I tell you the love that I feel and the gratitude that I have for your constant friendship? Thank you, my dear friend, John. I am here for you Betty. Your friend. Many blessings forever, Maryellen Elizabeth Hart

MaryEllen Elizabeth Hart - June 06, 2020 at 07:26 PM



We were all blessed to have John in our lives. He was loved and admired by everyone. I was fortunate to call him boss and more fortunate to call him friend. He made the world a better place. This picture is a wonderful memory of his infectious smile.

Gary Weaver - June 07, 2020 at 03:46 PM



I just 19 as Danny's girlfriend when I first met Johnny. He was always gracious and thoughtful; I'll never forget his tour of what would soon be Epcot back in 1978 I think it was. He was hilarious and very nice to our kids too. He sure loved his dogs so we made a donation in his memory tonight to Pet FBI, which of course helps animals. Betty, I'm sorry for your loss and we send our love to Carrie, Jack, Laura and the rest of the gang. We always enjoyed the time spent with the Johannesmeyer. Xoxo Richele and Danny

Richele and Danny O'Connor - June 10, 2020 at 10:36 PM