



## John Richard ('J.R.') Kennedy

April 14, 1934 - January 15, 2022

John Richard ("J.R.") Kennedy, 87, passed away January, 15, 2022, in Maitland, FL. Born in Peabody, MA, J.R. grew up in Roxbury, the oldest child of the late John Kennedy and the late Florence (Driscoll) Kennedy. He dropped out of high school to help support his family after his father's death, but he eventually earned his G.E.D. and went on to attend Northeastern University and Stanford University. He enjoyed a successful career as an executive in the telecommunications industry, living in Northern California, then Central Florida.

J.R. travelled the world and had the stories to prove it. There was the time he flew to Indonesia and back for a five-hour meeting, and the time he asked Bono for his phone number and got it. But he remained, at heart, a townie who loved watching his Sox and Celtics and was leery of Republicans.

J.R. is survived by his wife of nearly 35 years, Louise, of Maitland, FL; his children Monica (David) Kounter, of Guilderland, NY; Chris Kennedy, of Watertown, MA; Jessica (Anthony) Scheckton, of Niskayuna, NY; and his stepson Jon (Theresa) Swanson, of Winter Park, FL. He is also survived by his granddaughter Rebecca (Chris) Lee; his grandson Ryan Kounter, whose natural affinity for technology gave J.R. tremendous joy in his retirement years; and his constant companion, his Shih Tzu Sophie.

In addition to his parents, he is predeceased by his sisters Arlene (“Pat”) Dooner, Kathryn Travis and Jean Marie Kennedy; his brother, Michael Kennedy; and his first wife, Joanne A. Kennedy.

Arrangements are being handled by DeGusipe Funeral Home in Maitland, FL. To honor J.R.’s wishes, there will be no services. Those wishing to honor his memory are invited to donate to Fair Fight ([www.fairfight.com](http://www.fairfight.com)) in support of free and fair elections for all.

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

# Tribute Wall

PK

“ J.R., my late cousin Joanne's husband, was an influential figure in my life from my late grade school years through high school. He was like the sane older brother for me, coming from a loving but in some ways out of touch immigrant family. I valued his presence in our Kovach family lives, his warmth, his humor and his wisdom. May his three children, my 'first cousins once removed' mourn him fully and deeply. Peace, Peter Kovach, Bethesda, MD

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**Peter Kovach** - January 28, 2022 at 03:22 PM

JM

“ Louise,  
  
*Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you. My heart also "hurts" for you (I know the hurt) as you process what has happened and what is yet to be done. Just know that God will help you through it all.*

*Hugs to you,  
Jan*

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**Jan Morton** - January 20, 2022 at 01:13 PM

BS

“ Louise,  
*My prayers continue to focus on you during these difficult days. I hope and pray further that I can see you back with us in church soon. Bob*

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**Bob Showalter** - January 20, 2022 at 07:08 AM

BM

“ Jessica and family – we are very sorry for your loss and hope, in time, the wonderful memories you have will help to heal the hurt you currently feel.

*Love Gregg and Bonnie Minick, Stillwater NY*

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**Bonnie Minick** - January 19, 2022 at 02:32 PM