



John Ernest Knodel

February 1, 1931 - March 26, 2018

After a brief and unexpected illness, John Ernest Knodel, 87, of Lake Mary, Florida peacefully passed away in hospice care on Monday, March 26, 2018. He is survived by his only child, Cheryl Knodel of Lake Mary, FL, his sisters, Betty Jane Davenport of Lakewood, NJ and Julie Franchino of Nutley, N J. He was the beloved uncle and “second father” to his nieces and nephews across the country from New Jersey to the west coast and a dear friend to countless individuals from all walks of life.

Upon graduating from high school, John served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves at Camp Lejeune during the Korean War until he sustained an injury during training. Although he rarely spoke of his time as a reservist, John possessed the grit of a Marine until his passing. Semper Fi!

Originally from Belleville, NJ, John and his family moved to Florida in 1974 where he worked as the Market Development Manager for Niagara Lockport Industries and in the paper mill industry for over 45 years. Retiring in Panama City Beach, Florida, John was actively involved in his church, Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church (a.k.a., the little pink church on the beach), as an Elder and was a longtime standing member of the Optimist Club of the Beaches. John served as the Club’s President and North Florida District’s Lt. Governor. Shortly after the 9/11 attacks, John and his faithful companion Cutter (a retired Navy drug sniffing golden retriever) relocated to Central Florida to be with his daughter. It was time to be with family. Over the past 16 years John and his daughter shared many adventures, laughter, and nightly meals together, and

rescued five other golden retrievers including the current rescues, Pumpkin and Charlie.

John will be missed by his family and friends but are comforted to know John is no longer in pain and suffering.

In lieu of flowers, donations accepted for John's favorite charity, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. A memorial fund has been established in his name. www.stjude.org

Arrangements are entrusted to DeGusipe Funeral Home and Crematory, 905 Laurel Avenue Sanford, Florida 32771, 407-695-CARE(2273).

Previous Events

Public Visitation for Family and Friends

APR 5. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory Sanford Chapel
905 Laurel Ave
Sanford, FL 32771
(407) 695-2273
todd@degusipe.com
<https://www.degusipefuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

APR 6. 2:00 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory Sanford Chapel
905 Laurel Ave
Sanford, FL 32771
(407) 695-2273
todd@degusipe.com
<https://www.degusipefuneralhome.com>

Graveside Service

APR 6. 3:30 PM (ET)

Oaklawn Memorial Park
4991 Co Rd 46A
Lake Mary, FL 32746

Tribute Wall

PM

“ Uncle John was a man of great humor and great patience - these qualities came in handy to help him navigate through all the goofy childhood antics of his nieces (mostly his nieces) and nephews (and a sister in law or two).

He more like a dad than an uncle to me. When I was very small, he went to Korvettes to buy a Tony The Pony riding toy for me. He was politely holding the store door for shoppers and apparently could not leave that post for a while because he was too nice to let it go to someone else.

When he sold his boat, he bravely gave me the boat's bell and I am sure I brought smiles to everyone when I rang it over and over again.

I am deeply saddened by his passing.....there is an old Irish blessing that sums up my message to him:

May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be ever at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
and the rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of your hand.

I love you with all my heart, Uncle John - Rest in Peace.
Patti

Patti Pitrelli Maciasrivas - April 02, 2018 at 09:31 AM



“ I will never forget his happy and beautiful smile! He was always so sweet and wonderful! He will be missed. Love, Elizabeth Turnbull.

Elizabeth Smallwood-Turnbull - March 31, 2018 at 08:35 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of John Ernest Knodel.



March 31, 2018 at 08:32 PM



“ Through business interests John and I (and Cheryl) became fast friends and remained so for decades. I already miss the big guy.
--Bernie Powers

Bernie Powers - March 31, 2018 at 11:20 AM



“ One of my favorite pictures of Dad and I taken at Easter time. Easter was his favorite holiday.



Cheryl - March 31, 2018 at 07:32 AM

GI

“ Uncle John was a great prankster. He would tease me endlessly especially when my beloved L.A. Rams (1970s) were a terrible football team. Oh how he would rub in their many lopsided defeats. Somewhere along the line he and I got on the subject of James Bond movies. Of course it morphed into which character he'd be and which I'd be. And therein started my wonderful nickname Pussy Galore or PG. Just a few months ago he referred to me as PG when talking to Cheryl and I asked her to tell him Pussy Galore says hi. I'm sad at his passing but I know he's with my parents and the rest of the family who have passed on. Heaven is a very loud place now with all the stories and reminiscing that's going on, I'm sure. I love you, Uncle John. Gina - PG

Gina - March 30, 2018 at 02:28 PM

CH

Gina (aka PG), you brought a smile to my face. Love you cuz!

Cheryl - March 30, 2018 at 05:15 PM

BP

Cheryl, I'm so sorry for the loss of the King! Your dad was a fun guy and I always enjoyed talking with him. I know he will be sorely missed but wrap those memories around you and know that he will be shining his light down on you. xoxo Barb

Barbara Prucha - April 03, 2018 at 04:06 PM