



John Henry Westergaard

October 30, 1958 - July 27, 2019

John Henry Westergaard passed away Saturday evening July 27, 2019 after a long arduous fight battling cancer. He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Lane Westergaard; his son John Westergaard II 38 (wife Molly and daughter Olive); son Matthew Westergaard 33 (wife Adina); daughter Jessica Hall 32; daughter Hannah Westergaard 25 and son George Westergaard 19.

He is also survived by brother Roger Westergaard (wife Terri); sister Linda Legel (son Kennedy and daughter Aimee); brother Tom Westergaard (wife Holly: son David and daughters Kristen and Sarah); Brother Andy Westergaard (wife Tricia: sons Brian and Dylan) and sister Lisa Hubbard (husband Tom: sons Calvin and Grady).

He is also survived by Father-in-law Charles Roddy (wife Cindy) and Mother-in-law Lana Roddy; sister-in-law Dawn Lassiter (husband Jason, son Caleb and daughter Mallory) and sister-in-law Suzanne King (husband David, daughter Avery). He also has 5 great nephews and 3 great nieces.

He was a loving husband and father, as well as son and brother. Raised in Michigan, then living in Ohio as a young man, he later moved to Florida to start new as a chef at Disney. He moved to Winter Park Florida to be with his love in 1993. They shared a home together for 26 years.

His career has been as a chef and culinary technical specialist since before graduating from Johnson and Wales in 1983 with his culinary degree. He also collected several certifications including the elite and coveted distinction of Certified Executive Chef. His passion was food. He also loved teaching those around him about the importance of enjoying available foods and flavors and to not be afraid to “play around” and create new palate pleasers.

He was always hard working; sometimes to a fault. He was a very loyal employee, co-worker and friend to many. There are many new chefs that have been touched by his intelligence, courage and mentoring that have started their own careers with his help. His culinary genius will touch many for years to come. He has worked many different venues including hotels, convention centers, restaurants, college instructor and corporate life with Publix.

His next passion was cars. No one will ever forget his infamous Shelby. Many days have been spent with grand prix and Nascar racing. Or tinkering with whatever car needed attention in the front driveway or yard.

Those that knew John will remember his smile and quirky sense of humor. He was generous to a fault and always tried to be a peace keeper. The most important thing in life was his family. Our hearts and lives will be emptier for his absence.

A Celebration of Life will take place August 24, 2019 at The Covenant Church in Audubon Park starting at 2pm. Please consider in lieu of cut flowers or wreathes a contribution to his family of a native Florida plant for the church butterfly/prayer garden or contribution to cover cost of celebration and incoming medical bills.

Tribute Wall

RB

“ I am so sad for this, please accept my condolences, John and I met regularly for many years at ACF meeting, once we saw each other we always spoke. I always regarded John as a real Gentleman !! He will be missed!!!

Roy Briggs - August 16, 2019 at 10:30 AM



“ Our sincere condolences to you and the family. We've known John for many years through the American Culinary Federation. John was so dedicated and attended everything. I looked forward to seeing him every time because he always had a smile. I know he will be missed by all of us in the culinary family. May God give your family comfort and strength through this time.
With love and friendship,
Lynda Gail & Joe Alfano



Lynda Alfano - August 16, 2019 at 09:59 AM

RW

“ My sincere condolences to you and the family during this time Andy. May God comfort and strengthen you, Tricia and the boys.

Robin White



Robin White - August 14, 2019 at 07:39 AM

CD

“ My deepest condolences to John's wife Lane, all of John's children and his siblings. John is my cousin and although because of distance we didn't see each other often in the last 30 years of our lives, when we did have a chance to see each other it was always great to visit with him. I know he will be greatly missed by all of us. May you rest in peace John, you put up a great fight but now it's time to rest. We will all be back together some day and what a reunion that will be!

All my love,
Claudia

Claudia Driscoll - August 12, 2019 at 12:09 PM

GM

“ Gary & Betty Masch lit a candle in memory of
John Henry Westergaard



Gary & Betty Masch - August 07, 2019 at 09:24 PM

MS

“ My wife Marie (Soule) and I knew John in High School. He was a great guy with funny sense of humor and a quirky smile. A little more than 25 years ago we met John again. I am not sure if it was at our class reunion or a trip to Disney trip but we talked to John. He expressed his happiness and pride in being a chef at Disney and told us how he met someone by chance in line there in the Disney park on his day off. I know she had a child, (maybe more) but the point is that he was totally infatuated by her and thought she was very special. John thought he found where he belonged and this is going to be a great start over in his life after a most difficult time. John was very, very happy and this is a great way I wish to remember him.

Marc Stolaruk - August 06, 2019 at 10:45 AM

LW

Thank you for sharing this.

Lane Westergaard - August 08, 2019 at 10:13 PM

LH

“ Mornings were very exciting growing up with John. In high school, he could sleep through any alarm clock- bells, buzzers, ringing, and talking alarms. Even multiples. Even with mom calling out to him. Even if the kitchen turned blue while his contact lenses boiled off to tiny crisps. Now if John told this story, it would be over the top, unbelievable and ongoing with turns and details. I sure will miss him!



Lisa Hubbard - August 05, 2019 at 09:59 PM

LB

“ *When the angels came and took you, they also took a piece of our hearts. You will forever be missed.*
Lorna Bunch 🌹❤️



Lorna Bunch - August 05, 2019 at 04:16 PM

LW

“ *When tomorrow starts without you, I will try to understand, that an angel came and called your name and took you by the hand. The angel said your place was ready in heaven up above, and that it was time for you to leave behind all those you dearly love. And when you walk through heaven's gate, I know you will feel at home, for God looked down and smiled at you and greeted you "Welcome Home." So when tomorrow starts without you, I know we'll not be far apart, for every time I think of you you'll be right there in my heart.*

Lane Westergaard - August 05, 2019 at 10:11 AM

TW

“ *Rochester Adams had a strong wrestling program under Coach Hasse. I was home from Michigan State and went to watch brother John wrestle at a dual match. The gym was packed. There was even a dedicated cheer squad, the Mat Club, that had about 20 participants, including Madona. John did great, it came down to points for riding time in the third round, but he won the match. John's hair was fairly reddish-orange and it really offset the colors of the headgear well.*

THOMAS WESTERGAARD - August 05, 2019 at 08:22 AM

LA

“ Lane lit a candle in memory of John Henry Westergaard



Lane - August 03, 2019 at 09:39 PM