



John B. Hennessy

December 22, 1948 - November 13, 2024

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John Britton Hennessy (Brett) passed away in Lakewood Ranch, Florida on November 13th, 2024. He was born in Buffalo, New York on December 22nd, 1948, and resided in the Town of Tonawanda until moving to Florida in 2020.

Left to cherish in his memory are his wife of 39 years, Jean M. (Roberts) Hennessy; children Brett J., Shannon L. and Sean T. Hennessy (Ilyssa) and grandchildren Liam and Stiles.

Brett is preceded in death by his parents, James G. Hennessy and Margaret M. (Mellon) Hennessy.

Brett joined the US Army and served in Vietnam 1967 -1968 and upon his return he was employed at General Motors Tonawanda Forge and American Axle Mfg. , until his retirement.

He was well known in his community in Buffalo and Tonawanda, served as volunteer fireman and a former Commissioner of the Ellwood Fire District. He was also a member of the LaSalle Yacht Club in Niagara Falls NY.

When he made the move from Buffalo to Florida, he joined the Tara Golf and Country Club in Bradenton. He was also a proud veteran, and a member of the American Legion, VFW, Moose Lodge, Elks Lodge, and Eagles Lodge.

He was an avid fan of the Buffalo Bills and the New York Yankees.

Interment with military honors will be on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 1:00 pm at Sarasota National Cemetery, 9810 SR 72, Sarasota, Florida 34241.

Memories and condolences may be left for the Hennessy family at www.MFHcares.com

Cemetery Details

Sarasota National Cemetery

9810 State Road 72
Sarasota, FL 34241

Previous Events

Graveside Service with Military Honors

MAR 25. 1:00 PM (ET)

Sarasota National Cemetery
9810 State Road 72
Sarasota, FL 34241

Tribute Wall

KK

“ Brett worked for me at the Tonawanda Forge. Brett was upbeat, fun loving and always laughing. He was a good worker and did the best job no matter what it was. He bought my 1971 Corvette in 1972 but didn't keep it long, opting for a Cadillac Eldorado. A mutual friend into Lionel trains in North Tonawanda said Brett asked for my number in 2022. I tried to locate Brett to catch up to no avail. I sure wish I knew he was only 30 miles away from me here in Florida!!!! Is that strange... so close yet so far. RIP my friend.

Kenneth Kayser - May 28, 2025 at 03:18 PM

BK

“ Brett was a great guy and good friend. Life was always an adventure around him with countless good times. He will be missed. Your friend Bill Kraatz

Bill Kraatz - November 26, 2024 at 08:34 PM

DE

“ The loss of a friend of almost 70 years is hard to express. RIP my pal.

Dennis - November 24, 2024 at 05:45 PM

KH

“ Red Hennessy Was able to make a workday in the Forge Plant A little lighter. With a amusing observation. Or a smile and a greeting , I am glad to have shared time with Red.

Ken Holt

Ken Holt - November 23, 2024 at 06:28 PM

GC

“ Worked with Red many years. Many good times outside of work. Never did get to see the boat . I will think of him often and share many memories with mutual friends. Rest in peace my friend.

George Constantino - November 22, 2024 at 07:05 PM

JD

“ I always will remember "red ball" his nickname. When I first met him at Tonawanda Forge/American Axle and he was a team member in the dept I supervised..Always had a positive joke and an interesting story to tell...and we enjoyed many a brew after work at the "Rascal House ' on Delaware in Kenmore..A real well known and liked character in his own way! ...Will always remember our bear hunting adventure together in Ontario Canada! Rest in Peace RED BALL...I am sure we will meet again somewhere in the future.....Joe Domagala

JOE DOMAGALA - November 22, 2024 at 05:48 PM

KK

“ Brett relaxing on his boat "The Cork" at LaSalle Yacht Club in Niagara Falls, NY.



Keith Kinney - November 22, 2024 at 04:32 PM

KF

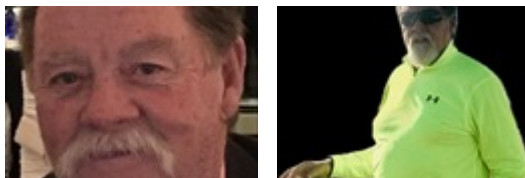
“ Brett was one of kindest gentlemen that I have had the pleasure of knowing in Lakewood Ranch. We enjoyed Friday lunches each week and laughed together as we shared jokes and humorous stories. He did love the New York Yankees and the Buffalo Bills! He was a dedicated family man and Jeannie was the great love of his life. We all have another angel watching over us now.

Brett... you will be sorely missed. You were "one of the good guys" for sure!

Kent D Fisher - November 22, 2024 at 11:20 AM

AN

“ 2 files added to the album Brett



Anna - November 21, 2024 at 10:03 AM