



## John Peter Potvin II

September 10, 2021

On the morning of September 10, 2021, John Peter Potvin II, age 60, sadly passed away from pancreatic cancer. Not only was he the most loving and charismatic husband to Kathy (60), he was also a proud father to his two children, John (26) and Victoria (24). John also leaves behind his mother, Barbara, and sister, Randi and her husband Rick.

John graduated from Syracuse University School of Architecture in 1984. Throughout his career, John strived toward beautifying the Sarasota community with his unique, artistic flair. He moved to Sarasota in 1980 from Warwick, Rhode Island and served as an active Rotarian since 1985. John's hobbies include sailing his Cape Dory, skiing the double blacks of Beaver Creek, mountain biking and camping in Santos, motorcycling dirt roads in New England, and watching the sunset with his beautiful wife. Most of all, he loved spending time at his lake house in Union, Connecticut with his "Lake Family". John was a loving husband, devoted father, and had such a caring soul. He could light up a room with his infectious personality and contagious laughter. As we take the time to mourn, John would want us all to continue smiling, laughing, and dancing. John's excitement towards life will continue to influence those who loved him.

A celebration of John's life will be held on Saturday, September 18th from 2:00

to 5:00 pm at Maloney Funeral Home, 2401 Cattlemen Road, Sarasota, Florida 34232; 941-759-3133. Following the celebration everyone is invited to gather at Siesta Key Beach access #11 for drinks and to light up lanterns.

Memorial contributions may be made in John's honor to the Rotary Club of Sarasota Sunrise Foundation with "The Tree of Joy" designated in the memo and mailed to 2401 Cattlemen Road, Sarasota, Florida 34232. Memories and condolences may be left for the family online at [www.MFHcares.com](http://www.MFHcares.com).

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

SEP **18.** 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Maloney Funeral Home  
2401 Cattlemen Rd  
Sarasota, FL 34232  
(941) 371-9711

# Tribute Wall

TI

“ *Kathy, Johnny, and Tori,  
We are so sorry to hear of John's passing, he was a great man,  
dad, and husband.  
Sending lots of hugs your way,  
The Iveys - David, Trish, Meagan, Abby*

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**Trish Ivey** - October 03, 2021 at 03:22 PM

RC

“ *Dear Kathy, please accept my condolences at this time. I was a very lucky guy. In 2016 I had John as a lakeside neighbor as I was doing my PhD research in CT. He made me welcome to the 'lake family' folded me into the community and was a constant joy to be with. In the months and years afterwards, it was a pleasure to spend time with you, John and the family when I visited with Brad and Luisa. As an Irishman, I can confidently say he had more than a touch of the Irish in him. His humor, his energy, his openness and companionship were so genuine and instinctive.  
May he rest in peace and await all his family and friends at the lake on the other side.*

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**Robert F Coles** - September 27, 2021 at 06:57 AM

AH

“ Kathy,  
I'm so sorry for your loss. John was such a good man, husband and father. Our families hung out a few times with the Cheney's. I think you both were at my house when I almost burned it down making vodka sauce. There were a few laughs that night.  
Even though we drifted apart after my divorce, I never stopped thinking fondly of you and your family. I hope you are surrounded by friends and finding support as you navigate a world without John.  
Sincerely  
Allison (formerly Pfosi) Hopkins.

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**Allison Hopkins** - September 24, 2021 at 04:25 PM

DF

“ Kathy and family,  
I was so sorry to hear of John's illness and passing. Both of you always did so much for the school, and I remember that he was always kind and smiling. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your children.  
With love and sympathy, Debbie Frederiksen

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**Deborah Frederiksen** - September 20, 2021 at 07:06 PM

PS

“ I think that was the best wake I have ever gone to. The kids have grown so much. John was looking down n laughing to. Im so proud Kathy u talked n u were great. John ur dad would be so proud of u to. That's my boy hed say. We have been so happy with our house he designed. What a great family. God bless. He will watch over u.  
Peggy n Danny shanahan

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**Peggy n danny shanahan** - September 19, 2021 at 03:43 PM

KL

“ *Kathy and Family,*  
*Although so very sad, Jerry and I are smiling through our grief for you. We had the joy of designing our first home here in Sarasota with John. After interviewing several architects, we both immediately knew that John was "the one." His sense of design, knowledge, historical perspective and respect for the "art" of architecture combined with his pure joy made the decision to select him an easy one. And everyday we walked into the home that John designed, we felt John's presence. What a gift of lifetime to live with the spirit of this beautiful man who loved his wife and children, loved life and could play a mean piano. Our lives are forever enriched by him.*

*Jerry and Kelley Lavin*

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**Kelley Lavin** - September 19, 2021 at 11:57 AM

MD

“ *Michel Daigle purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of John Peter Potvin II.*



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**Michel Daigle** - September 18, 2021 at 08:25 AM

MD

“ I was delighted to meet a French Canadian descendant in the Rotary Club when I joined about 10 years ago. Although Jean Pierre did not speak French, I could see he had the French "gene pool" by his smile, his wonderful sense of humor, his body language, his deep desire to help people, his honesty in actions and communications with others.

*Unfortunately, with his heavy work load to get his children through school, combined with covid we fell out of touch over the last years.*

*Jean Pier was truly the "buddy" I always wanted. Easy going, impossible to argue with, always seeing the bright side of things and of course his French sense of humor.*

*I remember a wonderful supper when he and Kathy came for supper at my place while my brother Jean Marc & his Russian wife Ella and daughter Evan. I started playing French music during supper and things got really wild after supper with a song called 'Nathalie" about a French Intern in Russia with Russian traditional music. We must of played that song at least 10 times. Everyone was up dancing, jumping and kicking "Russian" style!*

*What way to remember Jean Pier!*

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**Michael Daigle** - September 18, 2021 at 07:42 AM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of John Peter Potvin II.



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September 17, 2021 at 10:43 PM

BS

“ Kathy, John, & Tori,  
*It is hard to put into words how special John was to all who knew him. Although we have a ton of great, fun, memories of things that John said and did, what I will treasure most is his positive nature and the way that he made us all feel. A rare quality indeed. He will be greatly missed.*  
*Brad Shepherd*

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**Brad Shepherd** - September 17, 2021 at 02:54 PM

VF

“ Dear Kathy and family, we are so saddened to read of the tragic passing and your loss of dear John, way too soon.  
*You won't remember us probably, but we remember you both so well and what lovely people you both were to us, and how fun and caring John was. I did a lot of paint effects and design work for the Rees' and that's how we connected. You generously invited us up to your lake house once and we had a wonderful afternoon with you both and on your boat. Neal even remembers our time with you on the boat every time the record 'I'm yours' comes on the radio by Jason Mraz!* 😊  
*We do wish you all the very best with rest and peace at this very difficult time.*  
*Fondly, Vanessa and Neal Finelli*

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**Vanessa and Neal Finelli** - September 17, 2021 at 01:06 PM



“ I remember John's smile, positive nature, and kindness most. My best memory is when we celebrated John, and his sister Randi's birthday at Mattison's Riverwalk with the Glass Onion Beatles Tribute Band. It was a fun night! My sincere sympathies and prayers to his wife, children, and extended family as they adjust to his absence. May the fond memories you share live on in your hearts forever!

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**Linda Adkins** - September 17, 2021 at 10:04 AM



“ Dear Kathy,  
I just want you to know how very sorry I am to read of John's passing. Jerry Waterman and I always so enjoyed the many hours that we spent with John and you at rotary events and other activities in the community. Jerry died 5 years ago and I still miss him every day. They say that "time heals", but the hurt and sorrow just lesson with time, but my thoughts and prayers will certainly be with you.because even though it lessons....it never ever really goes away. Will always remember the joy and laughter that John could bring into a room.  
With sympathy,  
Larry Benson

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**Larry Benson** - September 17, 2021 at 08:52 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Peter Potvin II.



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September 17, 2021 at 03:45 AM

MH

“ Cathie, Tori, Johnny ,  
We loved your dad and your family so much. Enjoy those stones and they were coaching opportunities for the two of you, the trip to the family home up in Massachusetts, and of course driving in the Caymans with your dad. He was a very special guy in our hearts. I will miss that green Jeep cruising through the neighborhoods with John at the helm with a big smile on his face. He always brighten the room infectious positive attitude and laugh. You were blessed to have such a great husband and dad so many years. We will miss him dearly. God bless you. I know the rotary Christmas tree was near and dear to his heart each year, we will again help out let's pause in his honor this Christmas. We're sorry we can't make the event this weekend as we are in Europe. Love to you all, Mike and Janet, Mikey and Stephie

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**mike hagan** - September 17, 2021 at 03:31 AM

AM

“ Heart broken to hear of the passing of my friend and colleague, John. He was such an amazing soul. He was so talented and loved! A funny man who loved his work. He had an infectious smile! I had the honor and pleasure of working with him on many of the homes he designed. He often referred me to his clients, because we made such a great team!!! I will miss seeing him at the job sites. I will forever treasure all the projects we did together! My thoughts and prayers are with Kathy, his children, Family and Friends  
Love Always, Ana Santa Maria

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**Ana Santa Maria** - September 16, 2021 at 07:46 PM

RM

“ We only knew John for a short time but every moment we spent together was wonderful. He was designing a new home for us and his ideas, suggestions, visions , and designs were just brilliant. And we loved working with him because he was so upbeat and happy. Then one day he called us to apologize that he had to resign the commission with us because he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He “ apologized”- hard to imagine that kind of character today. We will miss him very much.  
Ron & Adrianna Manganiello

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ron & adrianna manganiello - September 16, 2021 at 06:48 PM

DC

“ Dennis, Bonnie and Connie purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of John Peter Potvin II.



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Dennis, Bonnie and Connie - September 16, 2021 at 04:05 PM



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Peter Potvin II.



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September 16, 2021 at 01:40 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of John Peter Potvin II.*



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September 16, 2021 at 12:32 PM



“ *Sue and Harry Plander purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of John Peter Potvin II.*



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**Sue and Harry Plander** - September 16, 2021 at 07:38 AM



“ *I had the pleasure of working with John on a beautiful, bay front home design. He was a pleasure to work with. He was talented, charismatic, pleasant, and very competent.*

*I knew him as a parent at Pine View as well. He was a committed parent and a good man.*

*I'm sorry to his family for your loss. He was far too young.*

*My most sincere condolences.*

*Josh Wynne*

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**Josh Wynne** - September 16, 2021 at 07:20 AM



“ *Kathy and Family:*

*My thoughts and prayers in this time of grieving. John exemplified the very ethos that led my to Rotary. He was always upbeat, happy, and caring for others. The pride he showed when discussing his family was always on display - he carried you with him at all times. i will always remember the extension to the local community he made when he visited Tanzania, and the love he displayed for them going forward. i will miss him very much, but i cherish having known him.*  
*-Stan Muessle*

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**Stanley Muessle** - September 16, 2021 at 06:16 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of John Peter Potvin II.*



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September 15, 2021 at 12:02 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Peter Potvin II.*



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September 15, 2021 at 09:38 AM



“ Personally I met Jack when he was here in Tanzania and we kept in touch when he returned to the States. Although it was a very short time, I was very happy to be around him. He was warm and happy all the time. I will always remember his volunteering spirit, the love he shared with people around him and how he easily adopted to the Tanzanian culture and environment. My sincere condolences to entire family, relatives and friends. I will definitely miss him very much.

-Adventina Emmanuel from Tanzania

Adventina Emmanuel - September 15, 2021 at 09:16 AM



“ John was a joy to be around; he made any occasion feel like a celebration. Very few people embrace life the way he did. I will miss him.

Kathy Shepherd

Kathy Shepherd - September 14, 2021 at 07:40 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of John Peter Potvin II.



September 14, 2021 at 07:31 PM



“ Kathy and family, Mike and I send our love and wish you peace. John was such an amazing man. He will forever be a part of Lake Mashapaug.

melinda kement - September 14, 2021 at 04:54 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of John Peter Potvin II.*



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September 14, 2021 at 10:39 AM