



# John Stephan Janda

MAY 7, 1943 - SEP 27, 2019



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# John Stephan Janda

MAY 7, 1943 - SEP 27, 2019

**O**n the morning of September 27th, 2019, John Stephan Janda, loving husband, father, brother, and friend, passed away at the age of 76. John was preceded in death by his brothers Vincent and Kenneth and is survived by his wife, Mary Ellen, his son, John (wife Nell), daughter Jennifer (husband Christian), his grandchildren, Lillian, Isabel and Sean. Also survived by his brother, Thomas (wife Diane), and his niece, Cassandra, along with several cousins and many friends.

John started life in 1943 on the south side of Chicago. Born into a family with little means, and being the oldest of 4 boys, he often worked odd jobs throughout his childhood to help support his family. At the age of 17, he joined the Navy, where he continued to help his mother and small brothers by sending them his military wages.

He was honorably discharged and returned to Chicago, where he later attended the Chicago Police Academy. With hard work and determination, he entered the force, serving to protect the safety and rights of the public as a police officer and homicide detective for 31 years.

He met the love of his life, Mary Ellen, winning her heart and, after just a year of dating, they married in 1973. After a few years of honeymoon bliss, they had two children, first John and then Jennifer, to ensure that their lives would always be full of love, worry, excitement, and craziness.

John's humor and personality were infectious; he loved to spread laughter at dinner with friends, at parties, and social gatherings of all kinds. His stories were legendary often leaving the recipient laughing for days. A throat cancer survivor who, when cancer took his voice, it couldn't dampen his humor and he quickly worked his electrolarynx, and eventual vocal prosthetic, into his jokes and stories.

Besides being known for his laugh, John was an extremely generous man. From his charity work with Amerital-UNICO while in Chicago to his advocacy for laryngectomy awareness while in Florida, John never ignored his fellow man. He was the first to offer the less fortunate a free meal,



## Obituary

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help the disabled, and comfort anyone who was suffering. Above all, he respected humanity and the right everyone has to a dignified, meaningful life.

His warm smile, compassionate heart, and kind soul will be missed.

Military Honors will be rendered on Wednesday, October 16th at 2:30 pm at Bay Pines VA Cemetery in St. Petersburg. A Funeral Mass will be Thursday, October 17th at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Clearwater. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Alzheimer's research.



## Events


**John Stephan Janda**

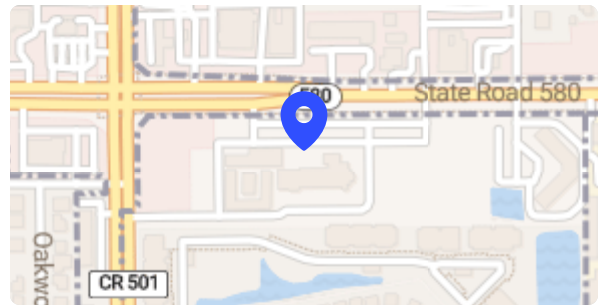
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### Funeral Mass

 **Thursday**, October 17, 2019

 11:00 AM ET

 **St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church**  
2281 SR 580, Clearwater FL 33763





## Tribute Wall

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NJ

**Neal And Nancy Johnson** posted:

So many warm memories of John. He will be always in our hearts. As will you. Love, Neal and Nancy

October 7 at 8:46 AM

GO

**George Owen** posted:

Dear Mary Ellen and family, Please accept my sincere condolences on the passing of John. I was so saddened to hear the news. I have many fond memories of John, from watching the space craft landing at his apartment to the "end of the season" parties at Taste Freeze, with some good police work in between. It was a pleasure to work with John at A1 and A3, and a pleasure to call John my friend. My thoughts and prayers go out to you, Mary Ellen, and the kids, John Jr. and Jennifer. Sincerely, George Owen

October 5 at 2:29 PM

AM

**Ann Mcguigan** posted:

Our condolences on the loss of your beloved John, we will sorely miss our Tuesday nite partner. Much love, John and Ann

October 4 at 5:58 AM

CH

**Camille Hammerschmidt** posted:

Mary Ellen, John, and Jennifer What a great guy. I had fun with him at work. He always had my back and control of the copy machine. But all the outings where John would drive us to, and the dinners out, and all the shared holidays, with lots of laughter and stories keep me connected with him. Johns Family was everything to him. "Now cracks a noble heart. Good night, sweet prince. And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest." Camille

October 4 at 3:30 AM

JH

**Jennifer Harrell** October 13 at 10:42 AM

Thank you ♥



## Tribute Wall

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JM

**Jan Mccarthy** posted:

To John's Family -- Sincere condolences on the loss of your husband, father and grandfather. I met John back in the early 1990s when two detective areas merged. Besides his "regular" job at the area, he also became the "pop cop", making sure the refrigerator and "snack bar" were always filled with soda and snacks available for those late investigations. I am sure he and his buddies up above are sitting around a huge table, drinking their coffee and telling war stories. May your family find peace and keep his memory in your hearts at all times. Jan McCarthy

October 2 at 7:25 AM

TB

**Thomas Brankin** posted:

Our condolences to all of John's family. John and I started out as young detectives at the old Area 3 in 1971. Will always have good memories of John! Tom & Pat Brankin

October 2 at 4:16 AM

SP

**Shirley Pochordo** posted:

Mary Ellen, John, & Jennifer, I am truly sorry for your loss. John & Mike were great friends & partners, and we truly feel like you are family. I know all the Area 1 guys are back together again and up to their mischievous nonsense. I'm keeping all of you in my prayers. Shirley Pochordo

October 1 at 2:22 PM

KH

**Karyn Hager** posted:

MaryEllen, John and Jennifer - our deepest condolences. We wish we could be there with you in person but our hearts and thoughts are with you during this time. I know my dad was up there just waiting for John with open arms. All of boys are back together now.....what a great example of a true friendship. We love you all.

October 1 at 9:36 AM

TC

**Tom Cepeda** posted:

Everyone always enjoyed the Sunday lunches at Area 1 that you coordinated when the Bears were playing. R.I.P., Tom Cepeda

September 30 at 4:31 PM



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**Paul Parizanski** posted:

Do I know John Janda, yes I think I know John Janda, I've known him for about 65 years, and I know all of his secrets. John didn't have many secrets though. He was open about his life and who he was. In fact I've known John longer than has his beautiful wife Mary Ellen. I had the honor of attending their wedding celebration and was happy to see they were meant for each other. I've known John as a co-worker for the Chicago Police Dept. and as a friend. We worked well together, I am more the quiet type, with not much to say. John on the other hand always had something to say, and say it he did. So you ask me again, do I know John Janda, Yes, yes I do. So good by old buddy, see you soon my good friend. In the mean time keep watch over your beautiful family. Vaya con Dios.Paul Parizanski

September 30 at 9:29 AM



**Pat And Dennis Krol** October 3 at 6:52 PM

Our sincere condolences to you Mary Ellen and your family. We have many fond childhood memories of Johnny from Brighton Park, he was always smiling. Our prayers are with you.



**Jerry Rogers** October 2 at 1:34 PM

My condolences, I will always keep John in my thoughts a prayers, he would always visit me when he came to Chicago.



**Jennifer Harrell** October 1 at 11:58 AM

Paul, thank you. That was the perfect tribute. ♥



**Virginia Schlossberg** October 1 at 9:58 AM

Beautiful tribute PaulAs true as true can be



**Kathy Moore** September 30 at 4:38 PM

Lovely, you hit it on the nose!Will miss his smile and great personality!



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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