



John Barry Estevez

May 9, 1943 - February 25, 2021

John Barry Estevez died on February 25, 2021. He was born on Mother's Day, May 9, 1943 in Dayton, Ohio to Francisco and Mary Anne Estevez nee Phelan. John was the ninth of ten children in a Spanish-Irish Catholic family. He attended Holy Trinity Catholic Church and grade school, and sang in the church choir as an adult for over 25 years. John graduated from Chaminade High School in 1961 and joined the US Navy serving as a Navy Corpsman in Vietnam (US Navy 1963-67 2nd Bat. 7th Marines). He attended the University of Dayton, Sinclair Community College, and the International School of Broadcasting, which led to a career in radio (WPFB Middletown) and television (WRGT Channel 45). He was the Manager of Corporate Support at WPTD (PBS) Channel 16 in Dayton until he retired in 2001. John was active in local community theater including Washington Township's Town Hall Theatre and Dayton Opera, and was also a reader with Words Radio Reading Services. He enjoyed traveling to see family in Michigan, Ireland, Spain, and California, but most of all, loved playing SKIP-BO at home with the grandkids. John's sense of humor and beautiful voice were gifts he shared whenever possible, and his dedication to his faith and family will live on in those who knew and loved him.

He was preceded in death by his parents as well as brothers Manuel, Miguel, Conrad, Alfonso, Carlos, Francisco, and sister-in-law Roberta. He is survived by his wife of nearly 39 years, Barbara, his daughter Monica Pruzinsky (Joey) of Clayton, MI; stepchildren Kristie Brand (Fred), Jenifer Gerard of Kettering,

Jason Gerard of Dayton, and former spouse Carol. His cherished grandchildren Elaina (Corey) Pruzinsky-Jahlas of Seattle, WA; Madison Pruzinsky of Mt. Pleasant, MI; Nicholas, Jacob (Ashley), and Alison Gerard of Columbus; brothers Ramon (Janet) of Malibu and Joe (Constance) of Hollywood, CA; his beloved sister Carmen (?ngel) of Madrid, Spain, and sister-in-law Rosie of Beavercreek. He also leaves many cherished nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews, and his very sad cat Harper. A celebration of John's life will be held at 10:00 a.m. Thursday May 20, 2021 with a Mass at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, facial masks are required, and a private burial at Calvary Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to St. Vincent de Paul, 124 Apple Street, Dayton, OH 45402 or Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 272 Bainbridge Street, Dayton, OH 45402. Arrangements in care of Schlientz-Moore & Reis Life Celebrations.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

1625 Calvary Drive
Dayton, OH 45409

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

MAY **20**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Holy Trinity Catholic Church
272 Bainbridge Street
Dayton, OH 45402

Tribute Wall

BS

“ *John was a great guy and wonderful friend. We shared a fox hole in Vietnam together for many months and I greatly enjoyed his company. He had a great sense of humor and was an all around great guy. My very best to all of his family and friends.* ”

Bill Shepherd - April 08, 2022 at 11:26 PM

SS

“ I had the pleasure and privilege in working with John as an actor when I ran a small theater company while living in Dayton. He always brought his warmth, his wit, and his wackiness into every role he played, and it was an absolute joy to work with him and see him bring such Life and creativity into every show we did.

Both he and Barbara were two of my favorite people. I really appreciated their friendship, creativity, and support during those years we worked together. I last saw John many moons ago when I'd moved to Los Angeles. We had dinner at a great restaurant in Malibu (thank you, Ramon), and it was so good to see a familiar, friendly face during that time. I'll always miss his energy & wisdom in our conversations.

Unfortunately, we lost contact with one another in the years that followed, but I always remember the privilege of working with him in our creative endeavors. They will always be happy memories of bright days.

I was so saddened to hear of John's passing. Sending my deepest condolences to Barbara and the Estevez family in this sad time. I'll always remember him as the funny and wonderful guy who touched all our Hearts and all our Lives.

With all my best,

scOtt summitt

scOtt summitt - May 19, 2021 at 04:29 PM

PK

“ I worked and trained John and Carlos when they worked for the railroad in Dayton Ohio. They were the best to work with both loving and caring brothers. They'll always be in my memories and prayers.
Peter kerlin

Peter kerlin - May 16, 2021 at 09:00 PM

DW

“ I worked with John Estevez back in the late 70's at WPFB/Middletown. On-air John went by the name John Barry. He played music and did a number of voices during his evening show from Barney Bobo Bellini (Sports Shorts) to Harold Long (traffic report parodies). In addition, John co-hosted The Saturday Morning Good Guys with CD Craft.

John truly was quick with his thoughts and was quite funny and he was a good friend/co-worker.

Barbara, my thoughts and prayers are for you and your family.

David Whalen - March 01, 2021 at 06:34 PM

DW

Correction, Leonard Long was the character that did traffic (voiced by John).

David Whalen - March 03, 2021 at 01:41 AM

&P

I worked with John at WPTD 16..he was just the best guy..We did pledge breaks and auctions together..I just loved the guy..My deepest condolences..❤️

'Eddie' Pittman - March 12, 2022 at 03:50 PM

JA

“ Barbara, I was so sorry to learn of John’s passing. I have informed Judy and Dick of the sad news.

I so enjoyed the time we spent with the two of you during Judy and Dick’s visits to Dayton. John had such a quick wit that he made those luncheons even more enjoyable. Those were wonderful times!

I was unaware of John’s service in VietNam. John was a true hero.

Jayne Noonan Abernathy

Jayne Noonan Abernathy - March 01, 2021 at 12:20 PM

KE

“ Barbara, I am so sorry to learn of John’s passing. He was such a good neighbor to me as you were also. My prayers go out to you and your family. Sincerely, Kim Engelman (Greenbrier Commons)

Kim Engelman - March 01, 2021 at 09:04 AM

MH

“ I have wonderful memories of John from my volunteer days at ThinkTV. My favorite is of him reciting lines for a play that ended w/him lying on the floor. I believe we gave him a standing ovation. He was a joy to know. My condolences to his family and friends.

Marnee Hathaway - February 28, 2021 at 07:18 PM



“ My condolences to the Estevez family on John's passing. He did a radio show at WFPB in Middletown for several years with my dad, C. D. Craft. It was called, *The Good Guys*. They played music from the 50-60's, did trivia and generally talked and had a good time. John used to come and porch sit and drink Pepsi with my dad and they'd watch the traffic, listen to the police scanner and exchange stories. Both of them had many, many stories and I used to sneak into the living room and lie on the floor below the window to listen to them. He was a lot of fun and we always enjoyed it when he came over. His smile was one of his greatest assets. I guess there might be a new radio show in Heaven now....man how fun it would be to tune in to that one! Together with my dad, they were a hoot and a half! Thanks for allowing me to share this memory with you. Casey (Craft) White

Casey Craft White - February 28, 2021 at 05:46 PM

DW

Casey,

*I worked with John & CD at WFPB back in the late 70's. Thank you for sharing the memories of those two gentlemen. They were a hoot on Saturday morning together on *The Good Guys* show. I miss them both and look forward to seeing them in that big radio station in heaven:) Both John and CD were truly "Good Guys."*

David Whalen - March 01, 2021 at 06:22 PM

LB

“ John was a good friend of my father's when they worked at WRGT. He was a kind, gentle and ver funny man. I even got to shoot a commercial with him.

Lincoln Brown - February 28, 2021 at 04:55 PM

BB

“ It saddens my heart to learn of John’s passing. He was a former coworker and friend. He was a dedicated worker and kind to everyone. I have always thought of him with great respect.

Brenda Bathgate - February 28, 2021 at 03:10 PM

MT

“ John was a dear friend and both Linda and I always enjoyed visiting with him and Barbara and meeting for a breakfast or lunch. His upbeat personality and sense of humor was very uplifting . After Linda passed in 2019 John and Barb took me into their home and made sure I was fed with delicious meals. I’d like to blame my weight gain in the last few months on the both of them. John would have a good laugh over that one. He leaves behind a wonderful family and many friends who will miss his smiling face and warm handshake. Mike

Mike Taylor - February 28, 2021 at 02:18 PM

JW

“ John was a bright light at ThinkTV back when it was known as Greater Dayton Public Television. He did on-air pledge and underwriting. I'll always remember his entrances. He'd knock on my door, look around suspiciously, whisper "Got a minute?" He'd tip toe to a chair, sneak a glance over his shoulder, and just when you thought he'd lay some big news on you?

"So what can I do for you? No, wait..."

Last time I saw him was 2010 at a screening of *THE WAY* at the Dayton Art Institute. With John around, family reunions had to be rockin' events.

A good man will be missed. Deepest condolences to his family.

- Jim Wiener

Jim Wiener - February 28, 2021 at 02:12 PM

PF

“ *! grew up with the entire family 9 boys 1 girl on brown St. Knew John and Barbara well will miss him. Pat Frank Farrell.*

Pat Frank Farrell - February 28, 2021 at 01:55 PM

MW

“ *John was a creative, kind, and intelligent man. I have lovely memories of his singing in the choir, his quick and hearty laugh, and our conversations at church. My heart goes out to Barbara, whom he so loved, to Jeni who I got to know at UD, and who loved John dearly, and to all his family and friends. He lives behind a wonderful legacy of love.*

Eternal rest, John.

Mary Wlodarski

Mary Wlodarski - February 28, 2021 at 01:17 PM

DS

“ *Condolences to the family. The time I spent with John was always joyful. I enjoyed being in his company, everyone did.*

doug sorrell - February 28, 2021 at 11:34 AM

KK

“ *His humor was infectious and will survive his passing. I will always remember how he cocked his head to the side and grinned before making a profound statement. I thank him for the confidence he invested in me and mourn our loss.*

Konrad Kuczak, Chaminade '61,

Konrad Kuczak - February 28, 2021 at 08:27 AM

JS

“ Rest in peace John I have a lot of fond memories of you and your entire family .

Jim Schwieterman

Jim Schwieterman - February 28, 2021 at 07:48 AM

JE

Brother John was my best friend,my hero and my Big Brother who let the way and made the path easy for me.

I miss him every day. ...Joe Estevez

Joe Estevez - May 30, 2023 at 05:36 PM

BS

I spent months in a fox hole in Viet Nam with John. What a great guy. Always positive, very witty, you couldn't ask for a better friend. I think of him often, even after all these years.

Bill Shepherd - January 08, 2024 at 04:12 PM