



John Christopher William Kearey

January 2, 1950 - May 7, 2021

The family of John Christopher William Kearey is devastated to announce his unexpected passing on May 7, 2021 after courageously battling leukemia. John was born to be larger than life on January 2, 1950 in Durban, South Africa, welcomed into this world by parents Maurice and Marie Kearey. Growing up in New Germany and Durban, South Africa, he loved sports from his earliest days; especially rugby and kayaking, which he insisted were the only sports played in Heaven. He spent much of his life in a kayak on the rivers in South Africa, often winning championships and completing the 75-mile 'Dusi Marathon canoe race between Pietermaritzburg and Durban on the Msunduzi and Mgeni Rivers several times. Even at the ripe old age of seventy he was still kayaking on Lake Norman. He played rugby for Berea Rovers Rugby Club in Durban, completed the gruelling 53-mile Comrades Ultra Marathon, and in later years took up golfing.

John attended college in Durban after completing one year of compulsory military training in the South African Air Force after high school. Armed with a degree in construction/civil engineering he was set on his path in construction, which was to become his life's career passion. He loved and lived construction, and it was important for him to put up beautiful structures on this Earth instead of lesser design and construction. He enjoyed living in Mauritius for three years, rebuilding cyclone-damaged homes and buildings.

Before leaving South Africa at the end of January 2000 John was co-owner of a very successful construction company for 20 years. He brought his

knowledge, experience and adventurous entrepreneurship with him when he relocated his family to North Carolina in January 2000 and set up a construction company again at age fifty - a very difficult and costly undertaking, but John had a goal and did everything in his power to make it happen and provide his family with stability and secure futures.

Family has always meant everything to John. He and Marita were blessed with three loving and amazingly wonderful children - Anthony Kearey, Bridget Kearey Roath (Justin), Ryan Kearey (Simone) - and six adorable grandchildren who adored him - David, Ariana, Siena, Christian, Alana and Kinsley. John spent many hours playing with and teaching his grandchildren, whether it was word-searches, coloring in, pushing the swings, jumping on the trampoline or playing excavators in the sand. These times were very precious to him.

John was loved by many, but none more than by his wife, best friend, partner and soul mate, Marita. After making a commitment in marriage to Marita in April 1975 they have shared together in every aspect of their lives - the good, the bad, the better, the worse, the sickness and the health - and enjoyed many adventures and trips abroad, some with, some without, children, focusing always on family.

Family and friends in many countries have unforgettably great memories of times when John touched their lives in relationships, friendships, business dealings, his selflessness, kindness and generosity, philanthropic generosity, and his mentorship. John loved reading, chatting, gardening and brightening others' lives, and loved to learn.

Besides his wife, children and grandchildren, John leaves behind his sister Gloria Kearey in Sydney, Australia, brother James Kearey (Colleen), niece and nephew Frances and Christopher Kearey in Sydney, and sister Suzanne Kearey and niece Catherine Pollinger in Brisbane, Australia.

John was preceded in death by his parents Maurice and Marie Kearey (Sydney, Australia) and parents-in-law Jan and Esther Otto (Pretoria, South Africa).

In honor of John's memory flowers will be gratefully received as John, the avid gardener, loved flowers. Donations to the Leukemia Society in John's memory will also be greatly appreciated. John was also a big supporter of the New Life Academy in South Africa, providing an education for underprivileged children who not otherwise be able to receive one.

The family would love to know how John touched lives from all who would like to share their experience and welcome all thoughts and prayers as they travel on this unknown journey of grief and loss. Thank you for your love and support.

There will be no visitation. A "Celebration of Life" Service will be held at 10:00 AM on Saturday May 15, 2021 at Cove Church, 197 Langtree Road, Mooresville, NC 28117. All are welcome. The service will be livestreamed online at the following link: covechurch.tv Refreshments will be served in the Atrium immediately following the service.

Due to COVID restrictions, masks will be required in the sanctuary and social distancing observed.

Donations to the Leukemia Society in John's memory can be made at donate.lls.org or to the New Life Academy in South Africa are also being gratefully accepted in John's honor.

Beneficiary Name: M.G. Richards, SWIFT BIC: FIRNZAJJ, Beneficiary Account Number: 50860685485, Street Address: 60 Spearman Rd City: Sydenham Durban 4091 Country: South Africa.

Cemetery Details

Cavin-Cook FH & Crematory

494 E. Plaza Drive
Mooresville, NC 28115

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY 15. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

The Cove Church
197 Langtree Road
Mooresville, NC 28117

Tribute Wall

TK

“ I am very sorry to read about John. Please give the following link a read, he would have loved it. <https://www.earlyvictorianlife.com/> ”

Terence Kearey - July 02, 2024 at 03:30 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Christopher William Kearey. ”



May 16, 2021 at 03:56 AM

SN

“ Thank you for always being there for us when we needed you. The best kind of friend anyone could ever have. Yvonne Grace Colin and Sean N. ”

Sean Nagle - May 15, 2021 at 11:26 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John Christopher William Kearey. ”



May 14, 2021 at 06:15 PM



“ Chris Burnett purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of John Christopher William Kearey.



Chris Burnett - May 13, 2021 at 10:02 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Christopher William Kearey.



May 13, 2021 at 08:39 PM



“ Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of John Christopher William Kearey.



May 13, 2021 at 08:15 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of John Christopher William Kearey.



May 13, 2021 at 10:03 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of John Christopher William Kearey.*



May 13, 2021 at 09:20 AM



“ *A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of John Christopher William Kearey.*



May 13, 2021 at 08:44 AM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Christopher William Kearey.*



May 13, 2021 at 01:23 AM



“ *Deborah & Jane lit a candle in memory of John Christopher William Kearey*



Deborah & Jane - May 12, 2021 at 08:20 PM



“ *Ginger Hutchens & Terry Jones of HKS Hardware purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of John Christopher William Kearey.*



Ginger Hutchens & Terry Jones of HKS Hardware - May 12, 2021 at 04:01 PM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Christopher William Kearey.*



May 12, 2021 at 03:59 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Christopher William Kearey.*



May 12, 2021 at 02:23 PM

BM

“ *It was a pleasure to know John and Marita when we returned from service in Africa. We felt that we had fellow Christians in our church who shared an understanding of our experiences. I saw him a few times in the past few years as he worked on houses in our neighborhood. He was always friendly, but also purpose driven. May God give His peace and comfort to John's family and to all who loved him.*

Bill and Judy McCall

Bill McCall - May 12, 2021 at 01:36 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of John Christopher William Kearey.*



May 12, 2021 at 11:07 AM

AW

“ John,

I sit here with a heavy heart struggling to come to grips with your passing then a smile slowly comes across my face as I think who's trailer are you going to borrow now.

I met you in a Sunbelt rental store as a newly immigrated South African, you immediately welcomed me into your family and helped me find stability in this new land. Who would have known that this would lead to a wonderful friendship as well as a strong business relationship.

We spent many fun days on Lake Norman and at your house. Your humble home was always busy and full of people who loved to be around you. Anybody who arrived was made to feel part of the family within minutes. Your love for your family was extended to all who knew you. Your 4th July parties were an example of your love for people.

It was always a pleasure to hear your voice on the other end of the line. " Alan - what's good" you would say. We would then laugh and joke about you needing to borrow a trailer or something. After a few minutes you would then say " OK now the serious stuff" and we would discuss the latest construction project. You were always concerned that as a sub contractor we were being looked after and taken care of. You were like a father figure to me. I always valued your advice and willingness to help me.

John, words can not begin to describe how much we are going to miss you but we are comforted in knowing that your legacy, values and morals live on in the family that you and Marita raised.

" Wena hamba gashleh U Baba"

All my love

Alan.

Alan Wray - May 12, 2021 at 10:20 AM



“ *Sentimental Dreams* was purchased for the family of John Christopher William Kearey.



May 12, 2021 at 09:42 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of John Christopher William Kearey.



May 12, 2021 at 09:33 AM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of John Christopher William Kearey.



May 12, 2021 at 09:31 AM

LS

“ *Leah Smith purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of John Christopher William Kearey.*



Leah Smith - May 12, 2021 at 09:30 AM

BB

“ *Bill And Cassie Benjamin lit a candle in memory of John Christopher William Kearey*



Bill and Cassie Benjamin - May 12, 2021 at 09:24 AM

BB

“ *John has touched our lives in so many ways. He had a kind heart and always greeted me with a big smile. From the first time I met him, he welcomed me and made me feel like I was a part of his family. He will be missed.*

John - may you rest in eternal peace.

Bill and Cassie Benjamin - May 12, 2021 at 09:24 AM

JL

“ *John was always a pleasure to see at kick-boxing classes. He was always in a good mood and never met a stranger. So sorry to hear of his passing.*

Janice Lowrance - May 12, 2021 at 09:21 AM



“ *Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of John Christopher William Kearey.*



May 12, 2021 at 07:42 AM



“ *We had the priviledge of knowing John when he was in South Africa. Our hearts linked and as a family we did much with John, Marita and their family. John was always someone who could be depended on and trusted and he was always the first one there if anyone needed any help. He was humble and kind and never needed the praise for the things he did. He loved the Lord and used what he had and who he was to bless many. We spent much time in their home and were blessed to laugh and cry with them and share our lives. Thank you for the beautiful memories we have of you special man, Ian and I will always be grateful to have had you in our lives. To Marita, Anthony, Bridgit and Ryan you are in our hearts at this sad time. We will pray much for you for strength for the journey that lies ahead and for an overwhelming sense of God's presence with you. We send you so much love from Ian, LaVerne, Jodi and her family and Dustin and his family.*

Laverne Bell - May 12, 2021 at 07:32 AM



“ *Although I met John through business, I came to consider him a good friend. His character was larger than life and he always had something positive to share or just to have a laugh. It was an honor knowing John and I will always remember him.*

Christopher La Mack - May 11, 2021 at 10:41 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Christopher William Kearey.*



May 11, 2021 at 09:16 PM



“ *Marlo Mikeal purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of John Christopher William Kearey.*



Marlo Mikeal - May 11, 2021 at 08:41 PM



“ *Leah Smith lit a candle in memory of John Christopher William Kearey*



Leah Smith - May 11, 2021 at 04:24 PM



“ *I was truly blessed by God when I got the opportunity to work for John Kearey! He has inexhaustible energy and a sense of humor as big as all out doors. He had unlimited construction knowledge and the ability to relate to people which made him a true leader. God Speed John, God Speed!!! You will be missed!!*

David Potter - May 11, 2021 at 04:23 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Christopher William Kearey.*



May 11, 2021 at 04:16 PM



“ *Cynthia Vincent lit a candle in memory of John Christopher William Kearey*



Cynthia Vincent - May 11, 2021 at 04:14 PM



“ *I am so very sorry to hear of John's passing. He was larger than life and while he didn't hold back when he was upset with you, he also didn't hold back when he was pleased with you - you always knew where you stood with John :) He was a great man who will be missed by everyone who knew him.*

Ginger Hutchens - May 11, 2021 at 04:08 PM



“ *Ginger Hutchens lit a candle in memory of John Christopher William Kearey*



Ginger Hutchens - May 11, 2021 at 04:07 PM