



John Thomas Kerhoulas

August 5, 1939 - March 18, 2021

John Thomas Kerhoulas, 81, of Mooresville, NC, passed away on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. He was born on August 5, 1939 in Rock Hill, SC, and grew up in Charleston, SC. He was the son of the late Thomas and Evangeline Palassis Kerhoulas. Mr. Kerhoulas was retired from AT&T as an industrial engineer. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Penny Lee Kerhoulas; children, Thomas John Kerhoulas and wife, Anne, Andrea Creech and husband, Joey; brother, Rev. Steve Kerhoulas; sister, Jane Kerhoulas; grandchildren, Andrew, John, Kristin; and his beloved bichon, Dudley III.

A memorial service will be held for the family in South Carolina at a later date. For now we can think of no better comfort from our friends and family than a story of John, which can be left at www.cavin-cook.com.

Cemetery Details

Cavin-Cook FH & Crematory

494 E. Plaza Drive
Mooresville, NC 28115

Tribute Wall

RB

“ So sorry for your loss Penny, this is Johns friend from Indianapolis Western Electric Rodney L. Brown, just wanted to share Sheryl and my loss of our son Rick on April 9, 2023 (heart failure) he was 53. Phone Number 971 720 0679 Again I am so sorry for your loss. E-mail freckles672@comcast.net

Rodney Brown - April 19, 2023 at 12:15 PM

MW

“ We met John and Penny at church 28 years ago. They became good friends of ours. John had a friendly, outgoing personality as well as Penny. We shared many fun times together going places in our big blue van. John was a well of knowledge. Some things he shared were needed to know but other things???

He was such a protector of Penny. Whenever we were out and about he was always checking to make sure she was okay. I remember the day he came over to show us his little red BMW car that he loved. John was passionate about many things but most of all he was passionate about Penny and his family. The John I knew in the beginning is the one I remember, not the one I saw so little of after his accident 7 years ago. You will be remembered with affection and admiration John Kerhoulas.

Mable Wynn

Mable Wynn - March 27, 2021 at 01:14 PM

PC

“ We met Penny and John back in 2010 when we moved into our new home across the street from them. Ok Penny and I became fast friends. She would come to visit me and stay until dark and John would come over with his flashlight to walk her home.(across the street) to make sure she got home safely.

I remember watching John doing his daily yard work and a fine job he always did.

One of the things I remember most from John was that he always said “never let anyone follow you home.” He said “ If you suspect you may be being followed, take 4 right hand turns and if they are still behind you, you are being followed.

My boys still remind me of this whenever we drive home and someone is behind us.

I would visit Penny weekly and always remember John with his bigger than life smile as he was joyful that his lovely bride was getting some

Girl time. He would always say, “ take your time and enjoy yourself”! His love for his family and especially for his beautiful Penny was immeasurable!

John, you will always be remembered with fondness and you will be missed dearly!

Rest easy sweet friend!

Pam Caverly - March 23, 2021 at 10:18 PM

TK

“ Over so many years, there are many great memories.

Dad and I both enjoyed watching boxing matches when I was a kid. He would sometimes order some cheese and sausage from Wisconsin and we would share it while watching the big fights which usually included Muhammed Ali. Both of us would get so worked up, that it would hard to go to sleep that night.

We raced sailboats on the weekend. One year, we were able to win the championship in our racing category. It came down to us and another father and son team (we had the two biggest dads in the club). This provided “additional ballast” which could hold the boats upright in windy conditions. Most years, it was less windy which meant it was a two-boat race for last place... great times either way.

Our Florida trips during the annual factory closings where dad worked were treasured times for all of us. I was one of the lucky kids who got to visit Disney World the year it opened (1971). Many good family memories have been made there over the years (with multiple generations) because I had such a good time there as a kid.

Often, we just talked on the phone, took a ride in his car, or had some BBQ. Nothing important; just time together.

If I or my sister was doing something he did not approve of, we were in for a “lecture.” When we were kids, we would often say the other one “don’t tell Dad! Otherwise, I’ll get a lecture.” These were to be avoided at all costs. A spanking would have been better. The pain of a spanking was over much, much faster.

Dad was 100% a family man. He did all he could to care for and protect us. He will be missed and as I promised him... “you will be well-remembered.”

Tom Kerhoulas - March 23, 2021 at 01:48 PM

RO

“ Although John Kerhoulas will be sorely missed, the impact of his life will live on in the love and that joy he and Penny lavished on each other, their children, grandchildren and friends. It is obvious that John cherished Penny and his family completely. Celebrating his life has brought so many great memories back into focus for all who knew him.

That kind of love is established on and centered in The Lord who will comfort John's wonderful family and will be close to Penny until He brings them together once again.

I know that Penny is confident in God's perfect love for John, for her and their family.

What a gift it is to know a couple like John and Penny who invested so much love and loyalty in each other and in the covenant of their marriage and family. One day, John will surely delight in showing Penny their beautiful, eternal "cottage" by The Chrystal Sea.

*God Bless them,
Rosanne Mitchell*

Rosanne - March 22, 2021 at 09:08 PM

CH

“ John had a bigger than life personality. I rarely saw him without his big, contagious smile. He loved life and lived it fully. The children and grandchildren were his pride and joy. It gave him great pleasure to share life and experiences with them His life's goal was to care for, protect and encourage his family. He did it well. He was devoted to and cherished Penny. John possessed many fine qualities, but I think the most memorable was the way that he selflessly lived his life caring for those that he loved.

Cathy Houck

Cathy Houck - March 22, 2021 at 08:23 PM

KK

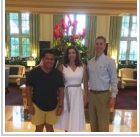
“ I have so many wonderful memories with Grandad. One of my favorites was when we were little, at their lake house, he would take us swimming and tell us that it was the fish nibbling our toes. Sure, sometimes it might have been, but I think most of the time it was just him messing with our toes. Grandad was also the best “Waving Pirate” this world has ever seen. The pirate hunts in Kiawah are something I will never forget.

Kristin Kerhoulas - March 22, 2021 at 03:53 PM

SK

“ John certainly was a loving husband and father who always took care of his family. I always chuckle when I remember how adamant he was about not getting a dog, how indifferent he was toward Mom's dog Fitzzy and how loving and protective he became over all the Dudleys! Also remember when he and Penny were dating and first married how much he loved to come to our house and eat dinner. The gravies and sauces were so different from the Greek food he had growing up. Peace be with you John.
Love, Pat and Stacey

Stacey Kneer - March 22, 2021 at 12:23 PM



“ It is impossible to pick what memories to share about Dad. He was my hero. He loved my mom so much that it was impossible not to see it. All who know me know I cannot get my ears wet. Well, mom and dad would make the 24 hour trip in the car to take my brother and I to a beach where I could safely get in . They would save all year to give us this 2 week trip each year packed with memories. They would make sandcastles with us on the white sand, let us ride on rafts in the water, take us to the early bird special at the Windjammer restaurant and even get Creme de menthe parfaits. It was amazing.

After church, almost each Sunday, we went to the Indianapolis Sailing Club to sail our little red Interlake. It was so fun to learn to sail and race. One time, it began to storm, Dad asked if I wanted to go in, we were winning, so no. We continued to race in an electrical storm. Not the brightest move, but boy it was fun!

Dad taught me how to play tennis in Indiana winter. Now, that was a sacrifice! It was cold and windy. I guess if you can play in those conditions, you can play anywhere!

When I got married, on his birthday, he loved my husband and treated him as family from day one. When our son, Andrew, was born, boy was Dad happy. He loved him so much and could not wait to go to the lake, beach, or show him the Charleston that he remembered it as a child. Andrew listened and enjoyed it all.

I think that if you remember one thing about my Dad, remember that he was a loving generous man who taught us a good work ethic and wanted us to KNOW what it was to belong in a family.

Andrea Creech - March 22, 2021 at 11:38 AM

SN

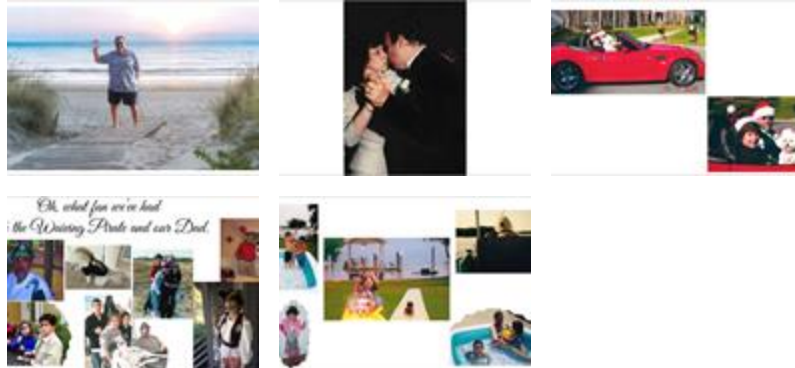
“ We were neighbors of the Kerhoulas family from 1972 to 1983 when they moved from the neighborhood. We became friends at our first meeting and remain so even though we are far apart. John once talked about when the day would come he could retire and live in the south once again. We asked where he wanted to retire to and he explained: “I am going to wire my snow shovel to the front of my car and drive south until someone asks ‘What’s that?’ I’ll live there. “. Then he just grinned and chuckled.
Big Greek, we miss you.

Steve and Vicki Snider, Indiana

Snider - March 21, 2021 at 06:38 PM

MR

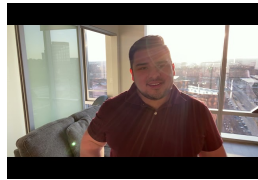
“ 12 files added to the album Memories Album



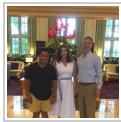
Michael Roberts - March 21, 2021 at 04:54 PM

MR

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Michael Roberts - March 21, 2021 at 12:07 PM



Beautiful way to pay tribute to the "Waving Pirate"!

Andrea Creech - March 22, 2021 at 11:19 AM

MS

“ So sorry to hear of the death of your husband, Penny. My sincere condolences to you and your family.

Marcia Starkey

Marcia Starkey - March 19, 2021 at 04:29 PM