

John T. Leonard

February 14, 1943 - November 3, 2025

Albany, NY-John T. Leonard, 82, Industry Leader, Devoted Father, Loving Grandfather, and Friend to Many.

John Leonard passed away peacefully on November 3, 2025, after a full and rewarding life. He was 82 years old. We will miss his dynamic personality, endless stories, humor, and deep caring for those he loved.

Born in Albany, New York in 1943, John attended St. Patricks' Elementary School and was the first student at St. Patricks to receive a scholarship to attend Christian Brothers Academy (CBA Class of 1960), where he was a star athlete and active member of the JROTC program. His hard work and ambition earned him another scholarship, this time to Siena College (Class of 1964). Both CBA and Siena remained deeply influential throughout his life, with John remaining a lifelong supporter and advocate for both institutions.

After college, John joined Travelers Insurance Company, where he enjoyed a long and successful career, culminating in his retirement in 1993. During those years, John and his family lived throughout New York State and Connecticut, with Albany and West Hartford being the most notable.

The pinnacle of John's professional life came with his 25-year devotion to building MEMIC, initially a start-up insurance company that grew under his

leadership into a major regional workers' compensation provider. As President and CEO, John guided MEMIC's transformation into a company with billions in assets, creating opportunities for countless employees and stakeholders. His vision, energy, and leadership earned him numerous awards and widespread respect throughout the insurance industry. He loved every moment of it.

Following his retirement in 2017, John embraced the next chapter of his life in Sarasota, Florida, where he relished the simple pleasures of sunny days at The Vue, afternoons by the pool, and time spent at the Ritz-Carlton Beach Club. Never one to slow down, John remained active on corporate boards and pursued his lifelong passion for investing. Travel was a defining joy and he estimated spending more than 90 days each year at sea, cruising the world and visiting all seven continents. His fondness for a good Marriott became a running family joke and a cherished part of his legacy.

John's love for family was unwavering. He is survived by his three children, Kelley Leonard, Becky Langis (DJ), and John Leonard (Erin), his beloved sister Jeanne Morrill, and eight adoring grandchildren: Shannon, Patrick, Emma, Katie, Braden, Tanner, Darby, and Fiona. He maintained an enduring friendship with his former wife Candace Leonard, and was a devoted uncle to Giles, Alice, and Jim, along with their families. John shared a loving relationship with his longtime companion, Teri Dizon, with whom he created many wonderful memories. He was predeceased by his parents, Alice and James Leonard, and his brother James, his childhood hero.

A proud supporter of Maine, John played an instrumental role in its economic and community life, from MEMIC's success to investing in the Maine Red Claws, dining in the Old Port, and catching Sea Dogs games with his grandchildren.

An accomplished runner, he was a proud finisher of two NYC marathons and

countless local road races. He loved the beach, whether at Old Orchard, Martha's Vineyard, or Sarasota. John was a passionate Boston sports fan, enjoying numerous Patriots and Celtics games, though he always kept a soft spot for the New York Giants.

John's generosity was boundless. He gave freely of his time, resources, and wisdom, supporting countless causes and institutions that mattered to him. True to form, he continued giving even after his passing, sharing the gift of donation.

John Leonard lived an extraordinary life defined by purpose, humor, family, and adventure. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered by all who had the privilege to know him.

Relatives and friends are invited to St. Agnes Cemetery, Menands, NY on Saturday, November 15, 2025 at 11:00 am for the Rite of Committal.

To leave a message for the family please visit www.McveighFuneralHome.com

Those wishing to honor John's memory are encouraged to donate to a charity of their choice in his name.

Cemetery Details

St. Agnes Cemetery

48 Cemetery Ave
Menands, NY

Previous Events

Rite of Committal

NOV 15. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Agnes Cemetery
48 Cemetery Ave
Menands, NY

Tribute Wall

RS

“ John was a wise and generous friend. I will miss our dinners at his favorite places every winter in Sarasota.

*Rich Sega
Port Charlotte, FL*



Rich Sega - November 23, 2025 at 12:53 PM

CW

“ John was a kind and caring man, and I consider myself lucky to have know him. He exemplified the word Brother and was a proud CBA alumni who lit up the campus with his positive energy and kindness when he visited. He stayed connected to his classmates and quietly helped families in need have an opportunity to attend CBA. He often spoke of his kids and grandchildren with such love and pride. He will be missed.

“Saint John Baptist de La Salle, Pray for us. Live Jesus in our hearts forever!”

Colleen Ward - November 15, 2025 at 03:02 AM

GJ

“ John was such a remarkable man whose kindness and vitality will always be remembered. His spirit of generosity and kindness leaves an endearing legacy in our community, and our hearts are with yours as you grieve.

Gretchen Johnson - November 14, 2025 at 02:18 PM

SH

“ I recall fondly interviewing with John for a new position in the Manchester, New Hampshire office, where John came out from behind his desk, not wearing a tie, and sat next to me. He instantly felt like an old friend.

I was so fortunate to have been offered that job and spent 19 years at MEMIC, before retiring in 2022. It is a wonderful company that I've always been proud to associate my name with. And I know his legacy of leadership will carry on with the new management.

steven Hansen - November 13, 2025 at 07:04 PM

EH

“ We are deeply sorry to hear about John's passing and want to extend our deepest sympathies to his family. You don't know us - but want you to know the impact John had on us. Early on in our careers he was a true gentleman and early supporter of what we were trying to do with our business. We respected him not only what he accomplished at MEMIC but what he contributed to the insurance industry overall. A true legend in our book. He was a generous guy, quick to pick up the phone or give you his time and always true to his word. He was one of a kind and will be missed.

Eric Harnden & Steve Hauck

Eric Harnden - November 13, 2025 at 01:21 PM

TN

“ John cast a long, positive glow over many lives including mine. He was kind, positive and devoted to those he loved. He will be missed.

Tom Nightingale - November 12, 2025 at 09:10 PM

LK

“ John was truly an icon in the workers' compensation industry and a valued member of Synergy Comp Insurance Company's board. John's wisdom, humor, professionalism, and straightforward commentary will be missed. Most of all, I will miss him as a friend. May his memory be eternal.

Lew Kachulis

Lew Kachulis - November 11, 2025 at 02:45 PM

PK

“ I remember John as gracious and genuinely interested in people and in what life experiences they had to offer each other. He built MEMIC into the powerhouse it is today, and he did so with keeping the focus on the people of Maine first in his heart. I worked with him personally and never took for granted his heartfelt thanks. I will certainly miss this great man. Rest easy, John.

Pam Kinner - November 11, 2025 at 08:37 AM



“ I remember when first started working at memic how great John Leonard. was at going around saying hi to all the employees. And making sure everyone felt welcomed. He will be greatly missed.
Kathleen Shevenell

Kathleen Shevenell - November 10, 2025 at 04:06 PM

SS

“ I am so very sad to hear of John’s passing. I had the privilege of working with him for many years at MEMIC, and he was a great leader. He was a kind, positive, and genuine person. No matter what your position was in the company, he made you feel important and valued. He took the time to say hello to everyone any time he was on the floor. I was always amazed how he remembered everyone’s names! Any time he saw you in the hall or the elevator, he always inquired about how you were and how things were going.

He will be truly missed and remembered. My deepest condolences to his family and loved ones.

Sandi Smith

Sandi Smith - November 10, 2025 at 03:26 PM

JB

“ I had the privilege of working with John for many years. He was a leader who consistently exemplified integrity and promoted a culture of principled leadership, mutual regard and benevolence.

When he would visit the MEMIC New Hampshire office, he made a point to walk up and down the aisles to talk to the employees as he always wanted to be sure to say hello to everyone.

I want to extend my deepest condolences to John's family.

Janine Bard

Janine Bard - November 10, 2025 at 12:21 PM

VC

“ So incredibly sad to learn about the passing of John Leonard. I remember all the times he visited the New Hampshire office. He would take the time and say hello to everyone individually. He was kind and made his employees feel valued. My deepest condolences to his family.

Vera Cruz - November 10, 2025 at 11:33 AM

SD

“ I was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of John Leonard. John was more than a boss — he was a mentor and a truly caring leader who fostered an environment of respect, trust, and kindness.

He believed in his employees, led with integrity, and made everyone feel valued. I'm grateful for the example he set and for the lessons I learned from him about leadership, empathy, and decency.


He will be deeply missed and long remembered by all who had the privilege of working with him.

Susan Devlin - November 10, 2025 at 10:48 AM

DS

“ I had the pleasure of knowing John for decades while I worked at Siena. We shared the CBA (Brothers) and Siena (Saints) legacy. We were also both passionate sports advocates.

He was friendly, committed, compassionate and always spoke highly and passionately about his loving family.

I will light a candle
Andre at Siena's Grotto  and say a prayer for John, Teri and all the Leonard family.

David Smith - November 10, 2025 at 08:28 AM

LO

“ We are deeply saddened by the passing of our dear friend, John.

We met John when we all moved into The VUE, as some of the first early buyers in the condominium. From the moment we met him, we were honored to have him as a friend. We always enjoyed spending time with him — such an interesting businessman, full of engaging stories and great enthusiasm for life.

John was kind and generous, with a big heart. He was always off on his next cruise or adventure, and we loved seeing him at The VUE gatherings, by the pool, at the Ritz beach, or during our get-togethers.

Our hearts go out to John's family and to Teri, whom we've had the pleasure of getting to know and spending time with. We shared wonderful memories traveling with John and Teri through the Rocky Mountains — by train and bus — every moment filled with laughter and warmth that we will always cherish.

With our deepest sympathy and love,

Andrea and Mike

Luz Andrea O'Brien - November 09, 2025 at 02:38 PM

JH

“ Teri, our hearts feel sadness for you and the whole Leonard family. We were lucky enough to know John for these past 10 years or so. He will be remembered and missed for his twinkling eyes, great sense of humor, sharp business sense, keen intelligence and generosity of spirit. It's a loss for us both personally and to the entire Siena family. Please know we are thinking of you during this difficult time.

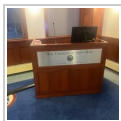
John & Mary Held

John & Mary Held - November 09, 2025 at 12:07 PM



“ Uncle John was the center to our family. He was always very generous and supportive of my mother, whom was his sister. His generosity and kindness was extended on all us (my mother , myself and family , my brother and sister and their families). He led a life of strength and significance. He touched the lives of many in a myriad of ways. It was great knowing him, we all feel that way. May uncle John Soar with the angels 🙏.

Jim Anthony - November 08, 2025 at 10:35 AM



Sincerely Jim Morrill

Jim Anthony - November 08, 2025 at 10:35 AM

TF

So sorry for your family's loss. He was a great man who will be missed by all who had the pleasure to meet him. 🙏❤️

The Langis Family - November 08, 2025 at 11:46 AM

JV

Teri

You and John were always so gracious when you hosted our Siena University gatherings in Sarasota. We will miss John and offer our sincere condolences and prayers.

Jim and Diana Venter.

Jim Venter - November 09, 2025 at 02:16 PM

JB

Charlie and I were so sad to hear of John's passing. I always enjoyed being in his company. Our deepest sympathy to Kelley, Becky and John and their families. He now rests in the palm of God's hand.

Judy and Charlie Bergin

judith Bergin - November 09, 2025 at 03:55 PM

TC

John and I had been friends -- both personally and professionally -- for over 30 years. We had such a kinship in our business and shared so much about so many things. He was so proud of his family and shared many stories about his children and grandchildren.

My wife Shirley and I extend our condolences to all John's family. He was one of kind, for sure.

Tom and Shirley Callanan

Tom Callanan - November 09, 2025 at 04:06 PM

DE

So very sad to hear of John's passing. What a great leader. I had the privilege of working with John for many years while at Memic. He knew the name of every single employee and always spoke to us no matter where we were, whether in the lunch room, elevator, or walking down the street. I missed him immensely when he retired and how he made me feel like I was an important member of the team. Always had a kind word for me. Rest in peace, John, I will never forget you.

Diane Evans - November 10, 2025 at 05:43 PM

AB

Dear Kelley, Shannon and Patrick...we were so saddened to hear of Jonn's passing. may your memories of him be a blessing, to comfort you all in the days to come.

*With Love,
Ann & Peter
Bergin*

Ann Bergin - November 23, 2025 at 11:43 AM