



John E. Soffey Jr

March 4, 1942 - May 12, 2018

Albany-John E. Soffey, Jr., 76, beloved husband of Ellen (Sis) Banker Soffey, died Saturday, May 12, 2018 in Naples, FL after a long illness.

Born and raised in Albany, NY, John was the son of the late John E. Soffey, Sr. and Rose Soffey of Albany. He was a graduate of Vincentian Institute ('59) and Hamilton College ('63). John was employed by the State of New York, retiring as Director of Personnel for the Civil Service Department.

An All-Albany football player at Vincentian Institute, John was a distinguished running back at Hamilton College, where he was also a member of the Psi Upsilon Fraternity. After graduation, to remain involved in athletics, John officiated local sports games. He began his career as a college football official in 1972 with the Eastern College Athletic Conference and then, in 1984, with the Collegiate Independents Football Officiating Association. From the league's inception in 1991 through 1994, John was an on-field referee for Big East football and was, in fact, the referee for the very first Big East football game. He was supervisor of officiating for the Atlantic-10 Conference from 1995-97 and subsequently became Coordinator of Football Officiating for the Big East from 1998 through 2007. He officiated major college bowl games as well as the Kickoff Classic and Army-Navy games. He was inducted into the

Capital Region Football Hall of Fame in 2011.

A natural athlete throughout his life, John was an avid tennis player and golfer as a member of Normanside Country Club, Delmar, NY and Naples Heritage Golf Club, Naples, FL.

John is survived by his wife, Ellen of Naples, FL, his daughters Laura (Albert) Spada of Westport, CT; Kim (Paul Cully) Soffey of Scottsdale, AZ; Kate Soffey (Stuart Cleary) of London, UK; and Beth (Dave) Parker of Wilmette, IL; four grandchildren, Matthew Spada, Katherine Spada, Sage Parker and Quinn Cleary; brothers Francis (Martha) of Naples, FL; Richard (Marie) of Chatham, MA and their children Jennifer McCassey and Joseph Soffey; sister Donna of Cohoes, NY; and cousins Dr. Frank (Joann) Cicero, Viola (Robert) D'Anza , Grace (Les)Farrow, Frank (Penny) Tomaro and John (Linda) Tomaro.

The family would like to extend its sincere gratitude to the staffs at Arden Court, Naples, FL and Atria, Guilderland, NY, who helped care for John during his illness.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with John's family Tuesday, May 22, 2018 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm in McVeigh Funeral Home, 208 North Allen Street, Albany, NY.

Funeral services Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at 9:00 am at Blessed Sacrament Church, 607 Central Ave., Albany, NY 12206. The Rite of Committal will be held in St. Agnes Cemetery, immediately following the Funeral Mass.

To leave a special message for the family, light a candle, obtain directions or view other helpful services please visit www.McveighFuneralHome.com

In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of John may be made to Blessed Sacrament Church, Albany, NY or to the Alzheimer's Association.

Cemetery Details

St. Agnes Cemetery

48 Cemetery Ave
Menands, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 22. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc.
208 N Allen St
Albany, NY 12206
(518) 489-0188
info@mcveighfuneralhome.com
<http://www.McveighFuneralHome.com>

Service

MAY 23. 9:00 AM (ET)

Blessed Sacrament Church
607 Central Ave (Father John Bradley Way)
Albany, NY 12206
(518) 489-0188
info@mcveighfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *John E. Soffey Jr*

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *The greatest brother any one could have to share life with.*

Dick Soffey - August 25, 2022 at 11:12 AM



“ *John was my classmate and fraternity brother and an all-around great guy. It was always a pleasure to see him again at class reunions. We shall miss him greatly.
Jace Kahn, Hamilton, 1963*

Grandad Kahn - May 23, 2018 at 11:03 AM



“ *John was true gentleman whom I was fortunate to have had as a football coach my sophomore and junior years of high school. He was not an outstanding coach but also an outstanding person. I would occasionally run into John and he always had a friendly smile and conversation. My prayers go out to his family at this time of sadness. May John Rest In Peace.*

Michael Podgorski - May 22, 2018 at 12:37 PM



*Should read;
Not ONLY a great football coach.....*

Michael Podgorski - May 22, 2018 at 03:40 PM

LR

“ *Sis and family
My late husband Al Russell was a loving friend and huge fan of John's. I know he would want me to send you our thoughts and prayers. Whenever the two of them were together, laughter would fill the room. John was a class act who really understood what friendship was all about.
Linda Russell*

linda russell - May 20, 2018 at 09:30 PM

GB

“ *John can you run back that tape one more time, I know it's 1:30am! Sis to you and your family our thoughts are with you. I think every official that worked for John prayed to see you walk in that hotel door with John. He was always better, maybe more milder with you around. You sure did complete him. You are a special person and John was so fortunate and so happy and proud to have you by his side. I am glad he is no longer suffering.
May you all be a peace.
Greg Brenner*

Greg Brenner - May 20, 2018 at 08:22 PM

PJ

“ *Sis, I was saddened to read of John's passing. Please add me to the very long list of friends who have great memories of times with John and great respect for him as a person. The very best from Brigitte and me to you and family. Phil Johnson*

Phil Johnson - May 20, 2018 at 10:48 AM

KA

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Kate - May 20, 2018 at 05:49 AM

LS

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Laura Spada - May 18, 2018 at 11:28 AM

LS

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Laura Spada - May 18, 2018 at 11:26 AM

KA

“ *I love and miss you Dad. I am so happy you have the peace and dignity you deserve now.*

*Love,
Kate*

Kate - May 18, 2018 at 10:25 AM

MS

We always enjoyed sharing special moments with John. Our son was truly blessed to have him as a father-in-law. And we in turn to share in loving our mutual grandchildren. Al and Mary Spada

Mary Spada - May 19, 2018 at 04:55 PM



Marilyn Poole

Sincere sympathy to his entire family. I used to work in Civil Service with John, even before his promotion to Director of Personnel. He was always a gentleman, sharing his stories of being a football referee. May your happy memories of him get you through this difficult time.

Marilyn Poole

Marilyn Poole - May 20, 2018 at 08:19 AM

LS

I offer my sincere sympathy to John's family. I worked with John in the Personnel Office of the Dept of Civil Service in the 1970s where I began my career. I'll always remember the laughs, his smile and his sincerity. He was a good guy and will be missed.

Larry Smith

Larry Smith - May 20, 2018 at 10:26 AM

JH

I worked with John for many years at the Department of Civil Service and he was always a gentleman, scholar, and a helpful soul. I am sure he is with God right now. He will be missed by everyone who ever knew him. John Rest In Peace in God's Arms

James Hennessey - May 20, 2018 at 11:09 PM

SF

Sis, I love John. He was my freshman room mate and the marvel of our football team. He was hard working, kind and the kind of guy you want with you in a fox hole or on the field. One of my favorite memories occurred early one morning during early arrival football practice. We had a hard time getting up. We bought a alarm clock with a particularly obnoxious clanging bell. When it went off nobody moved enduring the cacophony. John, from his lower bunk grabbed the football he always carried and hurled a perfect spiral pass knocking the clock to the floor. It broke into many pieces. It was silent. We were pleased. But we were late to practice and had to run laps. I will never forget him. Or you, Sis.

Sean Fitzpatrick

RIP JOHN, RIP ED KENNEY, RIP BRUCE TEMPLE.

Sean Fitzpatrick - May 23, 2018 at 12:14 PM