



John Robert Strachan

May 9, 1921 - December 19, 2013

Loudonville-John R Strachan, a man of notable tenacity, loyalty, charm, humor, intelligence and generosity moved on to eternal life at age 92 on December 19 at his Loudonville home.

John was born May 9, 1921 in Mount Vernon, NY, whereupon God broke the mold. His parents were Capt. William J Strachan, USN and Josephine McCormack Strachan of Harlem, NY. He was predeceased by his brother William J Strachan, Jr and his beloved wife Frances Marie Weir.

John graduated high school at Mount Saint Michael Academy in the Bronx and was a proud member of the United States Naval Academy's class of 1944. Primarily aboard the destroyers USS Kearny and USS Rodman, he served in the Navy during World War II in the North Atlantic, Mediterranean and South Pacific, and also during the Korean War. John attained the rank of Captain.

In 1952, he partnered with his brother-in-law David Weir and purchased the Pepsi-Cola Albany Bottling Company, subsequently adding Pepsi franchises in Schenectady, Utica, Keeseville, Binghamton, Auburn, Syracuse, and Rochester, NY, Pittsfield and Springfield, MA as well as Hartford and New Haven, CT. Renamed Pepsi-Cola Allied Bottlers in 1987, the company grew under his management into one of the largest bottling companies in the country. The 1000 people employed at Pepsi Allied knew him simply as John, and to them his door was always open. Well respected throughout the soft

drink industry, he served as President of the Pepsi Cola Bottlers Association in 1972 leading the fight to protect small business against the Federal Trade Commission. That effort resulted in President Carter signing into law the Soft Drink Interbrand Competition Act of 1980. He was named the Beverage Industry Man of the Year in 1985, and was inducted into the national Soft Drink Hall of Fame in 1987. He led by example and enjoyed fostering growth in others.

The same intensity that drove John at work fueled his passions during his free time. He grew up near Yankee Stadium, and inherited from his wise parents an indomitable love of Yankee baseball and Navy football. He hunted and fished at every chance throughout North America. His legendary Army-Navy game tailgates drew hundreds of friends, colleagues and dignitaries. Deeply proud of his Irish ancestry, from whence he got his impish sense of humor, John annually celebrated St Patrick's Day with gusto.

Devoted to his community, John supported numerous charities including the Albany Center for Disability Services, the Wildwood School, the Albany Boys Club, and the US Naval Academy Athletic Association. He served on many boards, among them St Peter's Hospital, the Albany Center for Disability Services, Siena College, and Doane Stuart School.

The family thanks Michelle, Deshia, Yvonne, Gary, Jeannie, Monica, Genevieve, Loretta, Rosemary, Jackie, Valerie, Becky and everyone at Community Hospice of Albany for the great care they provided John in his final years.

John is survived by his children Mary Strachan and husband Nicholas Ward of Scituate MA, Patricia O'Keeffe and husband Thomas of Loudonville, Ellen Pappas and husband Michael of Menands, Angela Strachan, and John Strachan, Jr and wife Janie of Williamstown, MA as well as 17 grandchildren

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated 9:00 am on December 27 at St Mary's Church, 10 Lodge Street, Albany, NY. Interment will be at St Agnes Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Center for Disability Services Foundation, 314 S Manning Blvd, Albany NY, 12208 in memory of John R Strachan.

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

Cemetery Details

St. Agnes Cemetery

48 Cemetery Ave
Menands, NY

Tribute Wall



“ *John Robert Strachan*

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *John was a very loyal alum of Mount Saint Michael Academy in the Bronx. He was very well prepared for life at the Navel Academy, and kept his moral compass focused on values learned from the Marist Brothers. He was a very generous benefactor of the Mount and helped ensure that financially needy students received the same great education he did -- and we are very grateful for that support over many years. His legacy and loyalty will be remembered in the Chapel as inscribed in our Book of Prayer.*

Thank you John, and know that the students of the Mount will keep you in their prayers.

Sincerely, Dr. Anthony Miserandino, President, Mount Saint Michael Academy.

Dr. Anthony Miserandino - December 28, 2013 at 04:41 PM



“ *We're thinking of you and remembering good times on Ross Court and through the years. Love to all.
the deBeer family*

the deBeer family - December 24, 2013 at 08:59 AM

JB

“ Our condolences go out to the the Strachan family. I have worked at Pepsi since 1987 and there has been a huge loss since the day the Strachans and Weirs sold the company. John was a great man to work for and you always recieved a hello or a light blink from his car in passing. Those days are missed and so is John. Sincerely John Breen & Joe McNamara

John Breen - December 23, 2013 at 03:30 PM

DH

“ My condolences to the Strachan family in their loss. I enjoyed the 15 years that I worked for John and always found him to be a generous and honest person.
Sincerely, Dick Hayner

Dick Hayner - December 23, 2013 at 11:58 AM

JG

“ I worked in utica for John ,he was always an excellent boss. we had many good times here trying to win contests he would put on for sales, I won two trips to Disney world for my family which they never forgot.Many times after sales meetings John would stay and talk about fishing ,family and would even ask how you think he could grow the business,and after our meal the famous Irish Coffee was served.Most of all John knew most of his employees on a first name basis, something you won't see in big business today,and he said he liked longevity in his people, another thing companies usually don't want anymore I had 40 yrs thank you John and God bless.
Jim Gau Thepepsipeddler@roadrunner.com

jim gau - December 23, 2013 at 09:35 AM