



## John Michael Zanella

May 25, 1938 - March 27, 2020

Albany-It is with broken hearts the family of John Michael Zanella must announce his passing into heaven on March 27 at the age of 81. He died very peacefully with his wife sitting next to him, holding his hand, after a short illness caused by a dental procedure infection that traveled into the valves of his heart and into his back.

Born in Albany on May 25, 1938, he was the son of Michael and Elizabeth (King) Zanella. John graduated from Phillip Schuyler High School in 1957. He was named into the 'All Albany' football team for the Knickerbocker News and Times Union by his coaches in his senior year. He was also captain of his football team. In addition, he also attended Albany Business College in the early 70's.

John worked a variety of jobs while in school to help make ends meet at home. He had many stories about being a life guard at Mid City swimming pool in Albany when he was a teenager. While in high school he worked at Raymond print shop and Cromwell printing. It was printing that became his work passion and while he worked at several companies (Williams Press, served his printing apprenticeship at JR Condon & Sons) it was his almost 40 years with the Times Union (and Knickerbocker News) that continued to

capture his love of printing and the newspaper. John started his career at the newspaper in 1961. He worked in the composing room until 1976 as a printer and was also promoted to night foreman. Then in 1976 as the composing room became more computerized, he joined the retail sales advertising department as a salesperson. He retired from this position in 2000.

He loved the newspaper and the work he did there.

Vacations became a big part of Barb and John's life. It was beyond enjoyable to travel with special friends. Some of the areas they traveled to included: New Jersey Shore for family vacations (along with other families for more than two decades), Aruba (for multiple years), California, Florida, the Carolina's, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, Texas, and so many more.

John served our country in the US Army from 1962-64 and trained in Fort Gordon, Georgia. He was a member of the signal Corp, stationed in Okinawa for two years where he worked as a cryptographer.

He was a proud member of the Italian Benevolent Society in Albany since 1958. His grandfather was one of the original founders of the IBS. John had many hobbies, not the least of which was golf as he was still playing last season, at least three times a week. Throughout his life he also enjoyed fishing, hunting, bowling, etc, etc, etc.

However one of his greatest joys was the role of grandfather to his

precious grandchildren, Austin and Alysa. He was an active presence in their lives from the moment they were born and it would bring an instant smile to his face when he saw them.

John's friends will attest to often hearing him announce "I'm the luckiest guy in the world." He enjoyed life and cherished his family and his friendships for which there are many.

In part, one of the reasons John could enjoy his life so much is because of some special doctors who served him well over the years finding health issues that would have shorten his life and getting him well again. We graciously thank these doctors and their staff. We would also thank the doctors, PA's, nurses and staff at St. Peter's Hospital during his recent stay there.

Survivors include his wife, Barbara (Foster) Zanella; daughter Lori (Pendleton) Donato and son-in-law Bill Donato of Colonie; grandchildren Austin and Alysa Brino; brother Michael (Laureen) Zanella of Reisterstown, Md.; sister Donna (Bill) Parker of Cohoes; brother-in-law Paul Foster of Oskaloosa, Iowa; along with several nieces and nephews. Also surviving are his dearest friends who meant so much to him.

Memorial donations could be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, P. O. Box 758516, Topeka, Kansas 66675-8516 or the Shriners Hospitals for Children, Attn: Office of Development, 2900 N. Rocky Point Dr., Tampa, FL 33607.

Funeral services will be held privately due to the COVID-19 Pandemic at McVeigh Funeral Home, 208 North Allen Street, Albany, NY 12206.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

To leave a message for the family, please visit [www.McveighFuneralHome.com](http://www.McveighFuneralHome.com)

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# Cemetery Details

## Memory Gardens Cemetery

983 Watervliet Shaker Road  
Albany, NY

# Tribute Wall

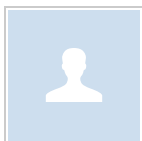


“ *McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of John Michael Zanella*



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**McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc.** - March 31, 2020 at 04:15 PM



“ *John Michael Zanella*

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October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *Barb band family,  
In may 22 years inn Classified I came in contact with John in the  
Production and Sales areas. He was one of the softest spoken  
persons with a smiling demeanor that was pleasant to be around.  
He will be remembered in many great memories by many, many  
people.  
GOD will hold him in his Hand forever.  
Many blessing to his family.  
With fondest remembrances,  
R. David Cherry*

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**R. David CHERRY** - April 13, 2020 at 06:01 PM

TG

“ Dear Barbara,Lori,Bill, Austin and Alysa, We are so sorry to hear of John’s passing. What a beautiful soul. Johns smile could light up a room. John was one of the sweetest people we knew. He is with our Lord now May he Rest In Peace. Our prayers are with you all, Gods’ Peace, Love Tony and Linda Grimaldi

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**Tony and Linda Grimaldi** - April 08, 2020 at 07:34 PM

JE

“ Condolences to the John Zanella family....Joe Ford----Joe Early.... we where all young street kids playing ball at the CYO on First St--- Boy's Club on Sherman St hanging out in the "Old Neighbor" hoods....God Bless.... John.... Rest In Peace

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**joe early** - April 02, 2020 at 02:14 PM

MCVEIGH  
FUNERAL HOME, INC.  
(518) 489-0188

“ 50 files added to the album Life Tributes



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**McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc.** - March 31, 2020 at 04:15 PM

CC

“ *Dear Barbara and Family,  
Words can't express the sadness Rich and I feel for you and your family. John's smile and attitude were the best. We have to remember the great times together--like sitting around the table at Sacandaga Lake. We were very fortunate to know John, it was a blessing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. He will be missed very much but not forgotten. We know John is looking down on you. God bless you all.*  
*Chris and Rich Cardone*

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**Chris and Rich Cardone** - March 31, 2020 at 09:54 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John Michael Zanella.*



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March 30, 2020 at 06:31 PM

SG

“ *Barb and family,*

*My deepest condolences. How lucky I was to have met you and John through our dear friend Val, aka dark head. John's beautiful smile will be missed. Keeping you in my prayers during this difficult time.*

*Warmly,*

*Shannon Galuski*

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**Shannon Galuski** - March 30, 2020 at 01:57 PM

RP

“ Barbara and Family, We are so sorry for your loss. John was such a good friend to Rocky during his treatments and struggles over the last few years. His words of encouragement and visits meant so much to both of us. Rocky and John were friends for so many years and he will be greatly missed by us both. John and Rocky both really enjoyed their afternoon martini. May John fly with the angels now and may he rest in peace in Gods hands. Take care of yourself and cherish all the wonderful memories that you have . With caring thoughts and prayers, Rocky and Rita

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**Rocco Prinzo** - March 30, 2020 at 10:19 AM

FH

“ John was one of the most caring men I have ever met. Always a gentleman and one of the many mentors when I started at the Times Union. His wife Barbara and his family are in my thoughts. I know his beautiful spirit will live on in the hearts of his family and all who had the pleasure of knowing John.

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**Frances Ingraham Heins** - March 30, 2020 at 08:28 AM

PM

“ Dear Barbara,  
My sincere and heartfelt sympathy to you and your family in your loss. Thoughts and prayers are with you all as you go through these days. May God strengthen and uphold you in His Love. Pam Miller

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**Pam Miller** - March 29, 2020 at 08:50 PM

LF

“ Dear Barb and the entire family of John,

*Our condolences to you on the loss of John. I so enjoyed every conversation I had with him over the years. He was a very special person and so generous in every way. Even with the pain he was in, he made it to Bruce's mom's funeral.*

*Bruce and he had been speaking by phone over the last month regarding his illness. I am so glad they were able to do so.*

*We look forward to celebrating his life with you in the near future.*

*Love,  
Lorraine and Bruce*

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**Lorraine Ferguson** - March 29, 2020 at 08:18 PM



“ Our deepest love and sympathy to Barbara, Lori, Bill, Austin and Alysa. Hugs, Love and prayers are sent to you.....John will be missed by so many who have shared his love of life.....Linda and Paul Zoller

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**Linda Zoller** - March 29, 2020 at 02:57 PM

NP

“ Dear Barb, I am sorry to hear about John. I always enjoyed visiting with him. He was so warm, and friendly. I will really miss him.  
Natalie Pfaffenbach



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**Natalie pfaffenbach** - March 29, 2020 at 01:52 PM

PT

“ Dear Barb, I am so sorry to read about the loss of John. I wish I could be with you at this time. You and John are in my thoughts and prayers. The two of you were a joy to be with.

Pat Taylor

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**Pat Taylor** - March 29, 2020 at 09:58 AM

MA

Barb and family. There are no words that can comfort you and the family with your loss. I have been your neighbor for 29 years and will surely miss seeing John almost daily. I will always remember our long walks before both our backs gave us trouble. If there is anything i can do for you, please feel free to ask.  
Rest in peace John.

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**Mickey Angier** - March 29, 2020 at 10:28 AM

SD

“ Barb, Lori, Bill, Austin and Alysa: words just cannot express the sadness that fills my heart right now. I loved John as if he was my brother. He was such a strong and loving individual who had the respect of everyone he knew. He was a devoted and long time member of the WAIBS. For all who knew of our birthday group, we will continue on even though we have lost Mary, Joey and now John. In closing I know how much he loved you Barb and want you to know that our thoughts and prayers will be with you and your family always. God has his newest angel.  
Love you, Sal

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**Sal D'Amore** - March 29, 2020 at 06:53 AM

EB

*Barb,lori,bill,austin,alysa.So sorry for your loss.John was always such a gentlemen. We always had such a great talk about church,especially Fr.Tony.John is now with Our lord and savior and the test of all his friends and golf partners. I will keep all of you in my prayers for strength. Ed&Ellen Barnes*

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**Edward Barnes** - March 29, 2020 at 01:40 PM

AH

*Barb I am so sorry to hear of John's passing. My prayers are with you and your family. God help you in your time of need.Nina Hoyt*

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**Anna Hoyt** - March 29, 2020 at 07:14 PM

BD

“ *Getting to know and interact with John was one of the best parts of becoming part of the Sunday AM golf game " with the boys". Always a big smile and hug greeted you. John would often have a funny story and always wanted to know " where did you go this week Mr traveler?". His presence will be sorely missed. We will find a way to make sure he is with us on the course and I know he will be there in our hearts. My condolences to his wife and family. Will miss you Johnny Z.*

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**Brian Dillman** - March 29, 2020 at 06:52 AM

JR

“ *Barb and family I'm so sorry to hear of John's passing. He was always a kind person with a constant smile. Thinking of you at this difficult time.*

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**Jennifer Rodd** - March 28, 2020 at 10:16 PM

LP

“ I am very sad to read of his passing. John was always a gentleman and an all around nice guy. My sincere condolences to Barb and the Zanella family and friends. Rest in peace, John!

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**Larry Powers** - March 28, 2020 at 07:56 PM

AL

“ Barb, my sincerest condolences on the passing of John. He was a pleasure to work with him. I particularly enjoyed his "can do" attitude, his joy and zest for life. It was a privilege to have worked with you both at the TU. My prayers go out to your family, he will be missed.

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**Audrey Lahoff** - March 28, 2020 at 06:24 PM

CH

“ Barb... Rich and I we so sorry to hear about John's passing. We will remember him and all the great times we shared at the TU. I loved his laugh and he will be missed. God bless you all and our prayers are with you and your family.

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**Catherine Hotaling** - March 28, 2020 at 05:02 PM

MN

“ Dear Barb and family,  
We are so sorry to learn of John's passing. What a huge loss! He was such a special guy and one of my favorites from my TU days. John always had a smile or a chuckle to share. He was also a good friend.  
I expect he is teed up for an eternity of 18 holes upstairs!  
Much love to you, Barb. May your family and friends provide solace and support.  
You are in our thoughts and prayers.  
Melissa and Bruce Nelson

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**Melissa Nelson** - March 28, 2020 at 05:01 PM


DH

“ *Barbara and Lori..Im saddened to hear of John passing. Ive no words to take the pain and saddness away. But our Lord can. Look to Him for comfort and guidance during this difficult time. I continue to love you...*

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**Dottie Hotovec** - March 28, 2020 at 04:54 PM

KS

*Barb I'm so sorry for your loss. He was a Special Guy & will be missed*  


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**Kathy Sherwood** - March 28, 2020 at 05:26 PM

LD

*To the Zanella and Parker families, The Women's Auxiliary of the West Albany Italian Benevolent Society wish to express their deepest condolences for the loss of John. He was a wonderful person. We will be making a donation to the Shriners Hospitals in his name.*

*Louise Donato, President*

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**Louise Donato** - March 28, 2020 at 05:33 PM

JW

*Dear Barb, we were deeply saddened to hear of John's passing. He was a great guy with a wonderful sense of humor and a deep abiding love for his family and friends. May your many happy memories comfort you now and in the difficult days ahead. Please know our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. May He Rest In Peace.*

*Sincerely, Jan and Frank Walsh*

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**Janise Walsh** - March 28, 2020 at 06:44 PM

HW

*Dear Barb, Lori, Bill, Alysa and Austin, Mare and my deepest sympathy goes out to you and your entire family. John was the nicest guy in the world and would do anything for anybody. My first recollection of John was at my brother Bob's graduation party from the State Trooper's Academy. We also enjoyed our parties at the WAIBS picnic site when Paul was in town from Iowa. Barb, we will be saying prayers for the whole family as we grieve with you. The world will be different without John, but we all have our memories of him.*

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**Harry Whipple** - March 28, 2020 at 08:01 PM

MM

*Barb, Lori, Bill, Alysa, Austin and family. Our heart goes out to you guys. John was always a pleasure to be with and always greeted us with a warm heart and smile. He will be truly missed but never forgotten. His smile and amazing attitude has touched so many and will live on. ❤️ The Morin family*

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**Michael Morin** - March 29, 2020 at 11:21 AM

HG

*I always enjoyed John. He usually had a kind word or smile that helped even me get through some bad days. Whether in the office or on the golf course, his big smile always made me smile and I enjoyed his infectious attitude. When I got to the paper in the beginning, he was one of the first to make me feel welcome. Always remember that. RIP John. Bigger fairways above.*

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**Harry Griffin** - March 29, 2020 at 12:06 PM

LK

*Dearest Barb and family,  
Words can't adequately express the deep sorrow that Norm and I feel right now. We both loved John very much. Just thinking about the two of you always brings a smile to my face. He was a dear, sweet man that most definitely will be missed. I am so grateful that I had a chance to spend time with you both a few weeks ago. I will cherish that forever. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Norm and Linda Koenigsreuter*

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**Linda Koenigsreuter** - March 30, 2020 at 06:39 AM

AM

*Dearest Barb and family  
I cannot tell you how sad Tony and i are for the passing of John. He was a special person. Our hearts are broken. Our deepest sympathy to you and family and our prayers with you.  
Anthony and Nancy Melucci*

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**Anthony & Nancy Melucci** - March 30, 2020 at 05:57 PM

NT

*I worked at the Times Union with John he was a great friend . I was the vice chairman at the newspaper when John came in one nite and said he wanted to work so I was the first person*

*to meet John at the paper what a wonderful thing that he came to us. I remember many good things about John and what a great friend he was. My prayers go out to Barbara and her family Nick Turi*

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**nick turi** - March 30, 2020 at 07:40 PM

MC

*Barb,  
It was so uplifting to see John's contagious smile while at the Times Union for so many years. My sympathies go out to you and your family. May this Easter weekend play a special part in your heart with God's love, peace and comfort there with you.  
Mark Corelli*

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**Mark Corelli** - April 10, 2020 at 01:51 PM