



John Anthony Watson

April 7, 1942 - July 30, 2022

John Anthony Watson (80) of Annville, Pennsylvania passed on to his heavenly reward on Saturday, July 30, 2022 after an extended illness. He was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Patricia May Watson (nee Kennedy).

John was born in 1942 in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. He enlisted in the US Air Force as an air traffic controller after graduation from Lebanon Catholic High School and served his country proudly for 24 years including tours of duty in Spain, Thailand, and Korea. His high school sweetheart, Patricia, and their children traveled with him to Amarillo AFB, Texas, Loring AFB, Maine, McGuire AFB, New Jersey, Wiesbaden, Germany, and Patrick Air Force Base, Florida where he retired from the USAF as a Chief Master Sergeant. John then worked for Pan Am World Services in Cape Canaveral, Florida providing launch support for the Space Shuttle Program, and later, The Titan Rocket Program in The Marshall Islands. John also worked as Director of Quality Assurance for Johnson Controls and Director of Development for Sodexo Healthcare Facility Solutions for many years achieving ASQ certification as a Six Sigma Black Belt for his expertise in Lean processes. John was known and respected for his sharp mind, strong work ethic, leadership, mentorship, and integrity.

In addition to John's service to his country, clients, and coworkers, he will be remembered for his love of his family, wise advice, selflessness, love of history and gardening, sense of humor, patriotism, faith, and respect for all

human life, born and unborn. After retiring, John dedicated himself to volunteering at Morningstar Pregnancy Services in Harrisburg and served on their board of directors until his death. His passion for helping women, babies, fathers, teens and children in crisis was known to all who loved John. In his retirement, he also became a member of The Knights of Columbus (Council #9875), attended mass as often as possible, prayed the rosary daily, and set alarms on his phone for almost every hour of the day to pray for the specific needs of his children, grandchildren, and other loved ones.

In addition to his wife, Patricia, John was preceded in death by his parents, Tellis Lewis and Mae Lou Watson (nee Frantz), his brother, Theodore Watson and sister in law, Louise Watson (nee Pesta) of Alabama, sister in law, Kathryn Kennedy Weidner and her husband, Marvin Weidner, Sister in law Suzanne Kennedy Heilman and her husband Neil Heilman, brother in law, Robert S. Kennedy, Jr., and son in law, Stephen Smith. He is survived by his four children, Marjorie Reagan of Winter Garden, Florida, Christine Watson Hagan (husband, James) of Cleona, Pennsylvania, Mary Watson Smith of Sanford, Florida, John James Watson (wife, Amanda) of Owego, New York, beloved sister in law and adopted daughter, Colleen Kennedy Vickers (husband, Dale) of Deltona, Florida, sister in law, Gladys Riddle Watson of Auburn, Alabama, grandchildren, Bridget Reagan, Maerissa Smith, and Saxon Smith all of Sanford, Florida, Gwyneth Watson, Matthew Watson, Cameron Bosell and John Patrick "Jack" Watson all of Owego, New York, and Daniel Hagan of Cleona, Pennsylvania, as well as, many dear nieces and nephews, grand nieces and grand nephews, cousins, and friends.

A funeral mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 20, 2022 at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, 125 Spruce St., Annville, PA, 17003.

Visitation will be held prior to mass from 10:00 -11:00 a.m. at the church.

Burial with full military honors will follow immediately at Holy Cross Cemetery, 1810 Jay Street, Lebanon, PA 17046

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent in John's memory to: Morning Star Pregnancy Services 2509 N Front St, Harrisburg, PA 17110 or St. Paul the

Apostle Catholic Church- Youth Group, 125 Spruce St., Annville PA 17003.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **20**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church
125 S. Spruce St.
Annville, PA 17003

Memorial Mass

AUG **20**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church
125 S. Spruce St.
Annville, PA 17003

Tribute Wall

BH

“ Memories from being on Kwajalein together with John and Pat. Jim knew John from work but on Kwaj we became good friends with them. Lots of Fun, Laughs, Story telling, Support, and Love. John was a good listener, had a calm voice and you walked away feeling the Peace he gave you. I have many memories of John and Pat but the list would be too long....

Rest Peacefully with Our Lord and Savior, John. Barbara Hobin

Barbara Hobin - August 20, 2022 at 09:34 AM



He often spoke fondly of you and your husband. Thank you for your kind message. Marjorie Watson Reagan his oldest.

Marjie Reagan - August 23, 2022 at 04:30 PM

RU

“ Roger D. Priest, USAF purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of John Anthony Watson.



Roger D. Priest, USAF - August 19, 2022 at 01:37 AM

RP

“ I worked for John in the Marshall Islands, we lived on Kwaj and worked on Meck. It was a 45 min. commute each way on a high speed catamaran. One morning we were minutes from departing and John stepped on board and motioned for me to follow him. He lead me off the boat, I thought I was being fired! we crossed the street and then sat on a park bench. There setting under the palm trees with the sun just rising he told me my Dad had died back in Florida. He shed as many tears as I did. What a kind man he was.

Roger Priest - August 15, 2022 at 03:24 PM

DH

Roger, touching story showing John's true character. I was USAF also stationed on Fanning Island in the 60's. Don where we did Rawinsonde runs.

Don Hassenbein - August 20, 2022 at 05:41 PM



Mr. Priest the flowers were so beautiful we took them home to his house while we visited with family and friends. He remembered losing his own father and would be touched by your words as we are. Thank you so much. Marjorie Watson Reagan John's oldest daughter.

Marjie Reagan - August 23, 2022 at 04:34 PM

BW

“ I worked with John while we were in Kwajalein. It was an honor to get to know John and Pat. We have an angel he gave me for Christmas, and it always bring a smile and fond memories each year as we place it on our Christmas tree. One year Pat wanted to surprise John with balloons at work for his birthday. Imagine his surprise when he finally made it to his office after many delays along the way from the ferry boat...balloons were everywhere in his office with a sweet note from Pat. The boat crew along with many of the people working with him made this surprise possible. He was a wonderful person that touched many lives along the way. Rest in peace with Pat.

Bonnie Whitley - August 08, 2022 at 09:32 AM



Thank you for your flowers and sharing this sweet memory of our parents.

Marjie Reagan - August 13, 2022 at 11:48 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Anthony Watson.



August 04, 2022 at 06:28 PM