



## John Amato

July 23, 1924 - April 1, 2023

John Amato of Jupiter, FL, previously of Brookfield, WI, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on April 1, 2023 at the age of 98. John is survived by his loving wife of 71 years, Phyllis (nee Ferretti). Beloved father of JoAnn (Scot) Stewart, Susan, John (Cindy) and Dianne (Dan) Chase. He is also survived by eleven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

John was born and raised in Chicago, IL. He served in the US Army, World War II, European Theater. After returning from the war, he started his career in the automobile business. After several years of selling cars in the Chicago area, he opened his first dealership, Frank-John Ford in Grayslake, IL in 1957. In 1962, he moved to Milwaukee and opened what would become Southgate Ford. By the mid-1970's, he had built one of Wisconsin's largest and most respected Ford dealerships. Still his long term dream was to own and operate a General Motors franchise. His dream came true in 1980 when he opened Amato Oldsmobile. Like his previous dealerships, it was soon recognized as one of the consistent leaders, not only in sales, but overall service and customer satisfaction. After 30 gratifying years, he took a step back, but always continued to provide his expertise to the organization. Today, the Amato Automotive Group is now over 60 years old and is still flourishing with seven companies. John also served on several boards – banking, WI automobile dealers, and dealers of mega-Milwaukee.

In 1990 he and Phyllis bought a home in Jonathan's Landing in Jupiter, FL. He enjoyed golfing, boating, deep sea fishing, billfish tournaments and cruising in

the islands. They also traveled to many different continents enjoying numerous adventures. He continued to snow ski until he was 97 years old with the family in Aspen, CO.

John's family meant the world to him. He had a special relationship, not only with his four children, but with each of his eleven grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. His ability to speak with and learn about each of us made us feel so very special. He was truly a Head of the Family, guiding each of us. The Mass of Christian Burial will be at St. Patrick's Church, 13591 Prosperity Farms Road, Palm Beach Gardens on Friday, April 14, 2023 at 11:00 AM. A livestream of the Mass can be accessed at [www.stpatrickchurch.org](http://www.stpatrickchurch.org) (click on Online Mass). A reception will follow at Jonathan's Landing at 12:30 PM. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to St. Patrick's Church or The Jupiter Medical Foundation [www.jmcfoundation.org](http://www.jmcfoundation.org).

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

APR **14**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Patrick Catholic Church  
13591 Prosperity Farms Road  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

# Tribute Wall



“ *John Amato*

October 22, 2023 at 10:17 AM



“ *My sincere condolences to the entire Amato family.*

*Tim Jurkowski*

**Tim Jurkowski** - April 11, 2023 at 05:40 PM



“ *John was really a special guy! John was a member at Merrill Hills CC, he was a nooner and I was a baby nooner, we played golf every Thursday, and after golf we played poker, John loved to play poker.*



*We had dinner several times with he and Phyllis at their favorite restaurant, Caterina's in Milwaukee. John introduced my wife Jean to octopus salad.*

*I've always said that any 90 year old man that drives a Ferrari , has to be one great guy.*

*Our deepest condolences to the entire Amato Family.*

**Michael Denesha** - April 11, 2023 at 02:09 PM

DC

“ John was so special! He, my husband, and 10 others had lunch 5 or 6 days a week at the Club and then went to the locker room to play gin rummy.

*I miss seeing him at the Wellness Center! I saw him every day!*

*I am happy for him that he had so many grandchildren and greatgrandchildren*

*and I am happy for them that they had such a wonderful grandfather and great grandfather.*

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**Donna Cohen** - April 05, 2023 at 08:09 PM