



John Joseph Purtz, Jr.

February 13, 1955 - June 10, 2015

It is with heartfelt sadness we announce the passing of John Joseph Purtz, Jr. following a courageous battle with cancer. John was a beloved partner, son, brother, uncle and friend to many.

John was born and raised in New York. Growing up in NY, John was an alter boy, played in bands and worked as a camp counselor for disadvantaged youth. While in New York, John worked in the hotel management industry for many years.

After moving to Florida, John realized his calling as a special education teacher. He returned to school, getting both a Bachelors and Master's degree from Florida Atlantic University in special education. He was in the honors program and on the Dean's list. John taught for twenty years in the Palm Beach County school system, most recently at Dwyer High School.

Throughout John's battle with cancer, he kept a positive and inspirational attitude. He worked closely with his primary team, Doctors Robert Scoma and Glenn Englander, and received comfort in the trust he had in that team.

John is survived by his long time-partner Mary Hall, parents John and Mary Purtz, brother Charlie Purtz (Lynn), nephew Danny Purtz (Nicole) and niece Natalie Farrish (Doug) all of Long Island, New York, Mary Hall's family, the

Reilands from Houston, Oregon, California, Arizona, Florida, Colorado and New York, long-time friend Terri Clement of Jupiter, Florida, and many more beloved friends and colleagues.

John enjoyed his life to the fullest. His kindness, passion for his profession, and witty sense of humor will be sorely missed by all.

A funeral mass will be held on at 12:00 PM on Monday, June 15, 2015 at St. Jude Catholic Church in Tequesta. A committal service will be held at 10:30 AM on Tuesday, June 16, 2015 at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Cemetery in Royal Palm Beach. In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to the American Cancer Society or the Dwyer High School Special Education Department.

Tribute Wall



“ *John Joseph Purtz, Jr.*

October 22, 2023 at 10:17 AM



“ *Rest in peace, sweetheart.*

Mary Hall - Jupiter, FL - Significant Other - February 17, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *I was sorry to hear about John passing we worked on staff together at Camp Dineen New Paltz New York CYO summer camp the Summers of 1973 and 1974 I believe John was loved and respected by both staff and campers alike he would provide great entertainment at our bi-weekly counselor shows through his gifted guitar playing I believe I have a couple of photos that I could pass on to the family love and fond memories sincerely Paul Carr*

Paul Carr - New York, NY - Friend - June 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *I send this message with prayers and sympathies for John's family and loved ones. He was a kind and generous man, totally devoted to the special population he served and he will be missed. I hope it serves as some comfort to know that he will be remembered for the lives he touched.*

God Bless You John

Kristy Hoot - WELLINGTON, FL - June 22, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ I always loved to see John coming out for a break back at Lincoln Elem. He always made us laugh. He was passionate, funny, and a genuinely good, caring person. We have lost a great man. My condolences to all of his friends and family. Mary, Terri,

Danielle Brandt - Jupiter, FL - coworker - June 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ I am just hearing of Mr. Purtz's passing. I am very sorry. He was one of Steven's teachers during his first year at Dwyer. I will never, ever forget how on the first day of school that year he approached me to ask me if I was Steven's mom. I had been waiting to pick Steven up after school in the parking lot. Boy, did my mind race, thinking about what he would have to say, but I was thrilled when he started to tell me how smart Steven was! He told me he didn't have material that was high enough for Steven's abilities and that he had to order some! He just praised him so! I knew I had made the right decision to get him to Dwyer after that conversation that afternoon. It was always such a pleasure to see Mr. Purtz during the next four years that Steven was at Dwyer. I am sorry for all the kids who will be attending there now and in the future. They will not know what a champion Mr. Purtz was.

Phyllis Kelly - Jupiter, FL - June 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Mary,
So sorry to hear of John's passing. He had been sick for a long time and I continued to pray that he would overcome his hurdles. I have fond memories of working with John for many years at Lincoln. He will be missed!!
Dianna

Dianna Howell - Jupiter, FL - Co-worker - June 15, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ I am so sorry to hear of John's passing. I remember him from St. Matthias, Christ the King HS and Woodbine Street. A beautiful person. I'm glad he found his calling as a teacher. I'm sure he was a terrific teacher.

Richard Schulz - Ridgewood, NY - Old friend. - June 15, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ I went to St. Mathias and Christ the Kind with John. We had a lot of laughs and a lot of fun. Sorry I didn't reach out to him sooner. I will always regret that. Rest in Peace My dear Friend.

Tony Giovanniello - Nashville, TN - Friend - June 14, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ John,
God has opened his arms for you to come be with him now. There is a special place for you in his kingdom. Your children at Dwyer will surely miss you. And they are all better for have had you to help them in their lives to make them a happier and better student and one of god's special child on this earth.
Chuckie says hi as always. We will miss your happy smiling face at dwyer. You will still be there in the cafeteria every day at 11:00. I know you will be watching over us and your students. You will surely be missed. I will miss you.
Michelle

michelle - jupiter, FL - co worker/friend - June 13, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NN

“ He was a great uncle , will always smile and think of him when I hear the ramones , he will always be here in our hearts and in our memories.

Natalie - New York, NY - Niece - June 13, 2015 at 12:00 AM