



John Kelly

July 26, 2023

John Kelly was born John Ostrowski II on November 7, 1978, in Yonkers, NY, to John and Anne Maureen (Andersen) Ostrowski. We are deeply saddened to announce John's sudden passing at age 44 on July 26th, as the result of a tragic accident. Our hearts are heavy during this difficult time.

John grew up in Westchester and Putnam Counties, where he developed a strong love for nature and the love of animals. John graduated from SUNY New Paltz and fulfilled his dream of becoming a police officer in a small town in Westchester County and then as a police officer for the NYC Police Department. Later on, John achieved his Master's Degree in Corporate Communications at NYU to work in the private sector.

John met his husband, Joseph Grieco when a mutual friend made the introduction, and the relationship quickly took shape. Within two and half years, they had set up a home with their Frenchies, Olive and Beesley. Spending the end of summer in Cape May with John's parents became a much-enjoyed tradition.

Two years ago, John and Joe purchased a New Jersey mountaintop property bordering New York State and began clearing the property with a plan to build their forever home. A move to Vernon, NJ, brought new friends and outdoor activities near their construction site. The local car show on Wednesday nights

was a definite highlight, and visiting the rescue animals at the farm brought much joy to John.

John's quick-witted humor and ability to connect with others touched many lives. John would have liked to be remembered for his humorous anecdotes and exaggerated imitations. It has been said more than once that if hosting a party, always include John. "John knows how to work the room." And of course, who can forget John's infinity for the Seinfeld series...he had all of the characters' mannerisms down to a tee. It was evident John shared Larry David's humor.

John's love for everything Christmas will continue to be cherished and honored by those who held him dear. For those friends and family members who care to share special moments about John, please consider adding your memories to the guest book or the memorial website.

John is survived by his husband, Joe Grieco, after 14 years together; his parents, John and Anne M Ostrowski; John's paternal grandmother, aunts, uncles, and numerous cousins, Eileen Grieco, Joe's siblings, Billy, wife Hailey, sister Ann Marie, and nieces and nephew.

A memorial for John's life will be held at Barrett Leber Funeral Home, 148 Dean Drive, Tenafly, NJ. 07670 on September 16, 2023, from 2:00-5:00 p.m.

A non-profit to honor John's Legacy will be available shortly. Donations to the non-profit will fund local causes and thus will be a thoughtful and meaningful way to make a difference while remembering John.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

SEP **16.** 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Barrett Leber Funeral Home

148 Dean Dr

Tenafly, NJ 07670

(201) 568-8043

<https://www.barrettleberfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall

AR

“ I still think about you frequently John. You are missed and loved by so many. I truly wish we had more time to build our friendship. 💙



Angelina Rivera - April 15, 2025 at 02:39 PM

AR

“ You do not shoot any animal so that was so stupid of him to do!!!

Adele Robinson - January 09, 2025 at 03:11 PM

CM

“ I hope you knew how much I loved you and always enjoyed every minute when we hung out. You were too good for this world. We didn't deserve such perfection. I always hoped we would have ended up working together. I think of you often and wish I would have called you back that day.

John Kelly, you were a ray of sunshine that this world will always need n miss ❤️ 🙏🏻



Catherine Melendez - September 18, 2023 at 11:28 PM

RC

“ *John was a Great friend and I will always remember him for his optimism and our shared interest in Englewood and government.*

I'm grateful for having met you and the impact you had.

I Miss You John and attending local functions without you will not be same.

May Eternal Rest be Granted Unto Your Soul... My Love and Prayers to Joe and John's Parents...

RJ Clemor



RJ Clemor - September 16, 2023 at 05:48 PM

KT

“ John, you will never be forgotten💔. It's been a good few years since we last spent time together. Your gorgeous smile & infectious laugh are forever imbedded in my brain. Meeting you shortly after you & Andy met began a shared friendship based on our outlandish, unique & hysterical sense of humor. Not everyone got it, but we reveled in it 😊. So many times ONE funny word, comment, experience or idea turned into imaginary scenarios that became more & more embellished each time we brought them up. Our bellies & cheeks hurt from laughing so hard. I can still hear your incredible impersonations😜. You, Andy and I used to say we should create (and star in, of course) our own “twisted humor” movies or TV shows!!! We always believed we'd be a huge hit. Laughter & vivid imaginations are such amazing gifts to share, and you, John, were a true master of sharing and putting smiles on others' faces.

Rest easy my friend💙.

My prayers have been going up for John's parents and the entire circle of beloved family & friends🙏.

~ Kathy



Kathryn Devins Tracey - September 16, 2023 at 03:19 AM

LK

“ Cheers to all the years we had you, John Kelly ❤️ missing you more than you know my sweet friend.

-Lamb



Lambrini Kolios - September 15, 2023 at 04:45 PM



“ The best smile and kind heart ❤️ will forever miss you Jonh Kelly!
-Elta



Elta Ko - September 15, 2023 at 04:22 PM

AO

“ 1 file added to the album JII'sFamily Keepsake



Anne Ostrowski - September 14, 2023 at 11:12 AM

AO

Always In Our Hearts, Love, Mom & Dad

Anne Ostrowski - September 14, 2023 at 03:14 PM

AN

“ *It's not every day you meet someone as special, kindhearted, and as wonderful as John Kelly. His smile lit up a room and he made you feel welcomed and warm. I hope he knew how much of an impact he made on people. Since I first met him I knew his was good. Knowing there were someone in this world like that made such a difference. John was truly one of a kind and will be missed by so many. I wish I got to know him better.*



John, I will always remember you, your beautiful smile, your kind heart, and your charming & witty sense of humor. Thank you for being you.

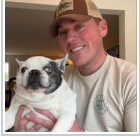
Angelina - September 13, 2023 at 10:34 PM



“ *115 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Barrett Funeral Home - September 13, 2023 at 08:26 AM



“So how do I say goodbye? When I couldn’t, you always saw the best in me, right or wrong, you were always on my side. But I’m scared of what life without you is like...” it’s always been me & you since the day we met, I love you & I’ll always miss your face and kisses 💔



Joe Christopher - September 03, 2023 at 12:58 AM

RU

“John, Your wit... Your whole face lit up when you smiled and laughed. The characters you invented, my favorite was Little Johnny. Your imitation of the Seinfeld episodes, especially your love for George! Apple picking, hiking in the mountains, clubbing, the way you tease like a brother. Driving over a Hudson River bridge, and totally teasing me because I accidentally called it a lake. That fabulous and spontaneous trip to Maine! The tender way you connected with the brokenhearted.... You were a true friend to so many! God be with the ones who loved you the most and cherished you. God be with your Joe and your parents. Believing in the Lord to bring them peace and comfort and support. And for Joe compassion and favor.

Ruthie - September 02, 2023 at 12:43 PM

DS

“ Dear John,
I cherish the moment I met you as you walked into the club room at our condo. You took on the leadership of the property with grace and success. It was a shining moment in our history and you were always such a pleasure to converse with. Your articulate command of the English language could earn you a spot on the National stage if you do chose. I will always cherish our friendship. Your legacy will always continue here and I know you are doing greatness above.
With love and gratitude, Dorrie Sardis

Dorrie Sardis - August 31, 2023 at 06:47 PM



“ I'm so, so, sorry to hear this devastating news. John, I will love you forever. You are one of those people who came into my life and forever changed me. You made me a better person. I will always remember how open and welcoming you were to everyone. If someone needed a friend, you were there. I miss you so much. I've been going through old photos and want so badly to call & talk to you about them. I hope you know how much of a difference you made. Mr. & Mrs. O, you couldn't have raised a better son.



Lisa Hladky Pauszek - August 30, 2023 at 09:38 PM

AG

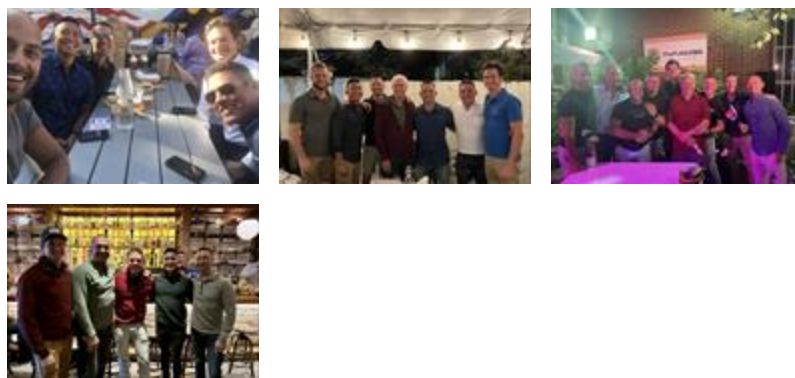
“ Aaron Grinoch lit a candle in memory of John Kelly



Aaron Grinoch - August 30, 2023 at 08:41 PM

DP

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



David Pacquiao - August 30, 2023 at 12:29 PM

KV

“ Kemberlee Young VMD lit a candle in memory of John Kelly



Kemberlee Young VMD - August 30, 2023 at 11:55 AM

HA

“ *Hank lit a candle in memory of John Kelly*



Hank - August 30, 2023 at 11:10 AM