



John David Weissgarber

June 20, 1940 - September 5, 2018

Lifelong Katonah resident John David Weissgarber passed away Wednesday, September 5, 2018 at Albany Medical Center surrounded by family.

John was the second son born to Anna (Quirk) and Michael Weissgarber. He graduated from John Jay High School and served in the National Guard for six months immediately after high school. He retired in 2003 from the New York City Department of Environmental Protection.

In July 1961 in Bedford Village, John married the love of his life Bertha "Bertie" Woodstead and together had two daughters, Cherrie and Laurie. Although John and Bertie later divorced, their daughters were always first in their lives. When Bertie died in 1980 of cancer, John took Bertie's son, Christopher Gebbia into his life and heart and treated him as a son.

John loved living in Katonah and only moved to the New York State Fireman's Home in Hudson in December 2013 when his health declined -- but he never really left Katonah. He was a sixty year volunteer member of the Katonah Fire Department and served in many roles with Engine Company 2. For the department he served as Secretary, Secretary-Treasurer, Vice President and President and in 1974 as Chief when the department celebrated its Centennial. John was also a KFD newspaper columnist and volunteer at the annual carnival. He was a Westchester County Parade Judge for many years, served there as Secretary and belonged to numerous other fire organizations in the area. He was a member of the Blue Vests, Past President of the Westchester County Volunteer Fireman's Association, Hudson Valley

Volunteer Fireman's Association member and Southern New York Volunteer Fireman's Association member.

In the early 1970s, his older brother Michael took John to his first Drum and Bugle Corps competition. He was hooked for life! He saved vacation time for the summer so he could attend as many competitions as possible. He had numerous drum corps friends spread from coast to coast. He once said this about a fire department and drum corps -- "both work for the good of the unit and not the individual" and that is why he enjoyed the drum corps so much. At one time he belonged to thirty drum corps booster organizations. He loved the Women's UCONN Basketball team! The Mets and Jets were his teams and later the Carolina Panthers.

Left to cherish the memory of John are his daughters Cherrie and husband Joseph Reinhardt of Waxhaw, North Carolina and Laurie and husband Steve Harden of Red Hook, New York and his honorary son Christopher Gebbia and wife Heather of Fernandina Beach, Florida, brother Thomas and wife Cynthia of Mendon, Massachusetts, grandchildren Leo Vogel of San Diego, California, Ryan Vogel of Red Hook, Sara Reinhardt of Waxhaw and honorary grandchildren Jacob and Jesse Gebbia of Fernandina Beach. He is survived by a niece and nephews - MaryJo McCarthy, Peter, Richard, Michael and Elisha Weissgarber. Friends for life were many for John including Katonah Fire Department members, Westchester County Parade Judges members and people throughout Westchester County and beyond.

John was preceded in death by his parents Michael (1982) and Anna (1997), and two brothers, Michael (1990) and Peter (2018).

Visitation will be Monday, September 10, 2018 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at the Firemen's Home, 125 Harry Howard Avenue, Hudson. John will be buried with his parents in Saint Joseph Cemetery, Norwich, Connecticut.

In lieu of flowers, his children ask that you donate to his favorite junior drum and bugle corps, Phantom Regiment. A scholarship will be presented to a 2019 Marching Member in his Honor. Phantom Regiment, 420 N Main Street, Rockford, Illinois 61103. (www.regiment.org)

Previous Events

Calling Hours

SEP **10**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Firemen's Home Chapel
125 Harry Howard Avenue
Hudson, NY 12534

Tribute Wall

TH

“ *Always love Jonny*

thom - November 05, 2021 at 02:39 PM

TP

“ *I started working for the DEP in 1994 and John was the first person to train me. I have so many amazing memories of John and it is so sad to hear of his passing. John was a great man and will be missed.*

Tony Pironti - September 09, 2018 at 10:50 AM

SM

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. My father, Roger Schacklinsky was a friend of Mr. Weissgarber and as a kid I remember parades and drum and bugle competitions and getting stuck in a downpour with my father at the Katonah parade one year and him having to explain to my mother why all of us were soaked to the skin. May he RIP and maybe my dad will see him in heaven. - Sharon Schacklinsky McGreevy*

Sharon McGreevy - September 09, 2018 at 08:51 AM

CC

“ *I grew up in Katonah and knew the Weissgarber family well, having gone though school with Tom. Such an asset to the community. My heart goes out to the family. You are in my thoughts.*

Chris Bernhard Cummings

Chris Cummings - September 08, 2018 at 01:23 PM

IR

“ My wife , Mary Jo and I send thoughts and prayers to the family members . Some great memories with John .

Ivan Read - September 08, 2018 at 07:57 AM

CR

“ Cherrie Reinhardt lit a candle in memory of John David Weissgarber



Cherrie Reinhardt - September 08, 2018 at 07:24 AM

CH

“ 1 file added to the album JohnD



Cherrie - September 08, 2018 at 06:47 AM

CH

“ 1 file added to the album JohnD



Cherrie - September 08, 2018 at 06:42 AM

CH

“ 1 file added to the album JohnD



Cherrie - September 08, 2018 at 06:38 AM

CH

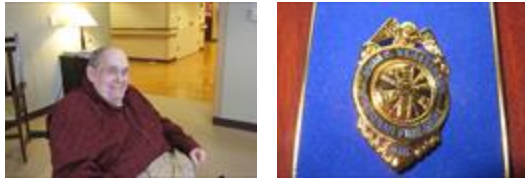
“ 1 file added to the album JohnD



Cherrie - September 08, 2018 at 06:32 AM

CH

“ 2 files added to the album JohnD



Cherrie - September 08, 2018 at 06:31 AM

PJ

“Gonna miss my Uncle. Always had a smile on his face. So many great memories of spending time with family, listening to his jokes and humorous personality. What a reunion in heaven, Grandma, Grandpa, Uncle Mike, Uncle John, Pete Sr. We love and miss you all.

Pete Jr.

Peter Weissgarber Jr - September 07, 2018 at 07:21 PM