



JOHN KEVIN SHARKEY

September 5, 1950 - December 30, 2017

John Kevin Sharkey, 67, passed away Saturday, December 30, 2017 at the Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born and raised in Newark, he had lived in Parsippany, Morristown, and Saugerties, NY for the last 17 years before recently moving to Cranford.

John was a decorated US Army Veteran having served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He served as a Spec 4 and mortar specialist with the 23rd Infantry of the Army Combat Special Forces Unit. John flew over 150 helicopter missions over combat and was wounded in action. For his service, he was awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star with Combat, the Distinguished Combat Action Ribbon, Combat Infantry Badge, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and two Air Medals.

An electrician, John was a longtime member of the Local #68 GIBLIN Association of the Operating Engineers in Fairfield. He retired in 2000.

John was an avid hunter, fisherman and boater, and a Harley Davidson enthusiast. He was a member of the Hess Angels Harley Davidson Club, American Legion Post 342 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Survivors include his beloved wife, Joanne C. (nee Melillo); his loving daughter, Stefania K. Sharkey and her companion, Frank D'Olivera of Jefferson; step-children, Bob Tarantino and his wife Rose of Clark, Cheryl Barese and her former husband John of Rhinebeck, NY; Maria Rizzolo and her husband Peter of Randolph, and Gabriella Popo and her husband Joe of Scotsdale, AZ; his siblings, Thomas Sharkey of Oak Ridge, Karen Del Riccio of Florida, James Sharkey of Lake Hiawatha, Michael Sharkey of Lake Hiawatha, and Joseph Sharkey of Lake Hiawatha; his step-grandchildren Giana Maria Barese, Anthony James Tarantino and Giovanni Barese; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his siblings Patrick Sharkey, Marion Curran, and Virginia

Roman.

In lieu of flowers, the family would be grateful for memorial Gifts to the Wounded Warrior Project, Inc. (woundedwarrior.org).

Cemetery

**Gate of Heaven
Cemetery**
225 Ridgedale Avenue
East Hanover, NJ, 07936

Events

JAN Visitation 02:00PM - 07:00PM

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S.J. Priola Parsippany Funeral Service
60 North Beverwyck Road, Lake Hiawatha, NJ, US,
07034

JAN Mass 10:00AM

5

St. Christopher Roman Catholic Church
1050 Littleton Road, Parsippany, NJ, US

Comments



“ To the Sharkey family, my dear cousins, my sincerest condolences on the passing of John. John you were always my mother's favorite & one of mine. We grew up together and had some great times, the Macks & the Sharkeys. My favorite memory is when you returned from Nam & we took your dog Omar to the park in a car. I had my window open & he kept jumping out, you got so mad cause you had to keep stopping to catch him, again Maureen again. You didn't stay mad long though. As you join the other family members in heaven I know Omar will be waiting for you on the rainbow bridge. Love and miss you! Maureen Mack

Elaine Alvarez - January 07, 2018 at 11:38 AM



“ To the Sharkey family, please accept my sincerest condolences on the passing of your loved one, John K. Sharkey. I remember John from meetings of the LZ Hope veterans support group at the East Orange VAMC, years ago. I hadn't seen him recently, but I often thought of him and valued his friendship. He was a strong and courageous Vietnam vet, who fought the good fight, during and after the war. May his soul rest in peace forever.

Robert J. Farrell
Jersey City, NJ

Robert Farrell - January 04, 2018 at 07:11 PM



“ To Joanne and family,

My dear friend.....please accept my heartfelt and sincere sympathies, to you and all of John's family. I didn't know John well, but from the few times I met him, I realized this was truly a good man. May he rest in peace, riding the Harley wind, free of the suffering, from this devastating disease. I will keep John in my prayers, and all of you, in my thoughts and in my heart. God rest his soul. With love, Marie Tedesco

Marie Tedesco - January 03, 2018 at 03:30 PM



“ dear buddy I am so very very sorry we didn't see each other before you left. I will miss you so very much. will miss the rides, the friendship, most of all the stories we shared of NAM experience. I had the honor of knowing you for the ten short years. it's so true you were a gentle giant. my heart goes out to Jo and your family. there is a place up there for veterans, and one day we will ride together again. till then I will miss the shit out of you. you will always be in my heart. love you, your buddy Alex

alex cicale - January 02, 2018 at 02:57 PM



“ Uncle John,

Remember "Who Loves Ya." You were the best Uncle I could have ever wished for. You were also the biggest war hero I ever had the privilege of knowing. I am so blessed to have had you in my life and know that you are in heaven with My Mom, Aunt Marion, Uncle Pat, Grandma and Grandpa and will be interceding in our lives every day. You will always live in all of our hearts.

Love,
Joseph Roman

Joseph Roman - January 02, 2018 at 02:15 PM



“ Dear Joanne, Stefania, and family,
Deepest sympathy to all of you. Jo, my heart is so sad for all of you. John was such a good and kind man. I'll never forget our talks. We kept each other going. I'm still here for you. I'll never the visits to Saugerties. Your hospitality will never be forgotten. We always had such a great time. I know your strength and faith in God will somehow get you through this. You will always have the beautiful memories you and John had together. So now you have to take care of yourself. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Trust in God. Love, Joanne DeSanto xoxoxo

Joanne DeSanto - January 02, 2018 at 02:07 PM



“ So very sorry Joanne and family. We lost one of the best.. May be RIP as he is through with all his pain and suffering. Please take care of yourself, Joanne I couldn't bear to lose you too. Stay strong and let friends and family comfort you during this trying time. Love you, Pauline and Kevin

Pauline Toth - January 02, 2018 at 01:01 PM



“ My husband became fast friends with Sharkey through the Hess Angels riders in Saugerties, NY. I then had the distinct honor and pleasure of getting to know this gentle giant and his devoted and lovely wife Jo! Sharkey could have boasted about his honorable war record, but he was a very modest gentleman. He will be so missed especially by my husband as they became close riding buddies! But Sharkey could only ride on Sundays after Mass. Jo made sure that his soul was blessed before any adventures. His mold is broken so all we can do is our best to be as good a person as he. Broken hearted for all his family, who he loved beyond the universe.

Jo Cicale - January 02, 2018 at 12:04 PM



“ Over 50 years ago I met John Kevin when he was a teenager, that was the first night I went to the family home in Newark to pick up his sister Virginia, John and all the brothers gave me a good once over...John and I became friends, a friendship that last over 50 years, we were fishing buddies, he was the BEST fisherman I ever met, he could catch fish in an empty pond...But more importantly he was just an amazing person, kind, gentle for his six foot seven frame, always ready to tell a joke and laugh at one even if he heard it a hundred times before...By the way his sister Virginia and I became man and wife, now John is with her in Heaven...I will miss this guy...He became to me not an in-law, but a real brother..He was not just a friend but someone who ever met him considered as "Family". Those of us who had the opportunity to spend years with John Kevin are the lucky ones.. It will be a different world without you Brother John, be at Peace, we will always love you my Brother..

Steve

Stephen J. Roman Sr. - January 02, 2018 at 10:02 AM



“ Big Brother John, I regret not being able to see you before you were called up to heaven. After we first met, we helped each other to wallow through the V. A. quagmiere. We shared some good times together. You will be missed by any & all who got to know you. RIP Sincerely from Frank De Santo.....!!!!!!!

Frank De Santo - January 02, 2018 at 03:59 PM



“ Although I only knew you for a short time, I felt a deep connection. You both and especially John had a great attitude which I thought would have brought him a longer way in this life. But apparently he was needed for far more important things than on this earth. He is with God who took him quickly before any suffering, and I am grateful for that. I will never forget his pleasant nature no matter what he was going through! And Joanne, you were his rock, support, and salvation. I could always tell, he felt safe and comfortable with you by his side. You had a special bond! God Bless You Both. You will be in my prayers for your comfort, Joanne. John doesn't need prayers, he is already on his way to heaven.

Jacqueline Angelone - January 06, 2018 at 05:59 AM



“ Dear Joanne and family, so sorry about your Dearest John, i only met him a few times, but he was such a nice man and from how your family felt about him he was a kind and gentle man. I know your heart is hurting but know that John will always be in your heart. Again Mona and I are so very Sorry. Heaven just got an Angel. Laura and Mona

laura Reyes - January 07, 2018 at 03:59 PM