



John D. Vezina

May 20, 1962 - June 27, 2021

John D. Vezina, 59, passed away peacefully on June 27th, 2021 in Traverse City, Michigan. Reynolds - Jonkhoff Funeral Home in Traverse City is assisting the family and a private celebration of life is planned for a later date.

John was born in Escanaba, Michigan and grew up in Southern California and Gwinn, Michigan. Following the footsteps of his father and grandfather, he developed a passion for the water at a young age while sailing on Lake Michigan with his family and friends from Escanaba. He attended Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City and then worked in the maritime industry for many years, traveling extensively. Always seeking adventure, John was a free spirit and easily made many friends wherever he went. He had several hobbies and interests but especially loved spending time outdoors. He had a deep appreciation for the beauty of nature and wildlife. John was a kind-hearted, loving son, brother, uncle and friend who will be greatly missed.

Surviving family members include his mother, Judy Ryan; sister Kate; and brothers Kevin, David and Tim. He was preceded in death by his father, Dr. Paul Vezina.

The family extends sincere thanks and gratitude to John's special friend Caroline (Weber) Kennedy for her love and support, to Amber, and the staff at Medilodge in Traverse City for their compassionate care over the past several months.

Memorials may be made in John's name to the National Wildlife Federation. Online condolences may be conveyed at reynolds-jonkoff.com.

Comments



“ Send BEAUTIFUL Flowers Locally to the family of John D. Vezina. Express your condolences, giving comfort and support. Click here to view selections on our website

Send Flowers - June 30, 2021 at 02:49 PM



“ Hello Vezina Family,
I lived in Gwinn from 1973 - 1979. I worked for his father Dr. Vezina as a chairside assistant. I was married to Ron Kangas who was a Gwinn police officer. We divorced in 1979 and I moved back to Iowa. I will always be grateful for Dr. Vezina giving me the chance to learn the skilled trade of dentistry.
My ex-husband and I moved into their home that adjoined the dental office, in about 1977 or 78 and watched 2 of the boys, including John, while his father was away on vacation. We also went sailing with them on Dr. Vezina's 35' sloop, out of Escanaba, MI.

I am very sorry to hear of John's passing. I can be reached anytime at marykangas1954@gmail.com to share more memories if anyone is interested.

My deepest sorrow is yours.

(I lost my daughter Shanda, 8 yrs ago in 2013, when she was only 35.)

Take care,

Mary Kangas

Waterloo, Iowa

Mary Kangas - July 27, 2021 at 09:39 AM



“ John was a classmate of mine in Gwinn and I am saddened to hear of his passing. Like many former classmates, John and I drifted to other parts of the world on different currents and lost touch with each other many years ago. What comforts me though is reading that John had found his passion for what he wanted out of his life and pursued it on his own terms. Take care, Kevin. Bless you and the rest of your family.

Dennis Syrja

Dennis Syrja - July 05, 2021 at 04:47 PM



“ Thanks Dennis!

Kevin Vezina - July 08, 2021 at 04:07 PM



“ One memory: John and I were both living in Traverse City after attending Northwestern Michigan College. We shared a love of beautiful, natural places and I waited until the last orientation at MSU to commit to move. I wasn't there 24 hours when I called John in tears. I can't live here! There's no water! He was at my door 3 hours later and I didn't even know he was coming. I thought he would help me pack up & move back. But a true friend always guides you in the right direction when your own equilibrium is off. John is that friend; willing to go the extra mile (360 round-trip in this case). He didn't do what I wanted, but he did what was right for me. He gave me support and helped me pull up my bootstraps. It's just one of countless stories, but it demonstrates the depth of his loyalty and caring heart. He was a blessing in my life.



Caroline Kennedy - June 30, 2021 at 09:05 PM



“ When I was little I had to have my own comforts & was restless if I wasn't in my routine. I had the best Uncles & Uncle Jack is credited with giving me my first stuffed animal I loved for 10 years til it had a loose arm, a chipped eye & matted fur. Kosha the koala . My dad told me about all his adventures & love of the water we all share. I feel his & Grandpa Paul's presence & take comfort in knowing they are together.

Adrienne Vezina Fontanini - June 30, 2021 at 09:51 PM



“ Anita and I wish John "Fair winds and a following sea" Our heartfelt condolences to all the Vezina Family but especially to Judy, Tim, and Kevin. I never had a chance to know John very well but I do remember vividly his first trip on a sailboat. I was invited to crew on the maiden voyage of Tara. The rest of the crew were Tim and John, their Dad Paul D and their Grandfather Paul W. We sailed from Port Inland to Manistique, MI on a sunny summer day with a 10-15kt South wind. I would guess that the boys would only remember getting seasick and the large crowd that greeted us when we tied up in Manistique. Jim Fagan

Jim Fagan - July 02, 2021 at 11:56 AM



“ Aunt Judy, Tim, Kevin, Kate, David, and all our extended family, my heartfelt love and prayers go out to you all in this difficult time. With lots of love always, Kelly (Willman) Gouveia, Nashville, TN

Kelly - July 02, 2021 at 12:12 PM



“ Mom Judy, Tim, Kevin, Kate and David, We share your deep sadness at this time with the loss of our John (Jack) . Though I had not spoken with John in many years; I was comforted to know that he spent time with our Danielle (Vezina) Bandos and Mom Judy in Hawaii. I have sweet memories of John visiting Tim and I at our home in Gwinn, Michigan. John and I went to Gwinn High school together. We both shared the love of the Great Lake Superior and Michigan. One of my favorite memories was coming home to John singing and playing the Guitar to Adrienne (Vezina) Fontanini in her crib! John had a huge loving sensitive heart and he was easy to love! I am so happy to know that he was back in

Traverse City near his Brother Kevin when the Lord took him home. You all are so dearly loved, and in our Prayers!

Michelle Dragon , Paul D. Vezina & Amaya Rae K- Vezina, Denver, CO

MICHELLE F DRAGON - July 07, 2021 at 01:53 PM