



## John Francis McMahon Jr.

June 9, 1955 - November 16, 2024

\*\*\*OBITUARY IS POSTED BELOW ANNOUNCEMENT\*\*\*

Dear Cherished Friends and Family,

We want to express our sincere appreciation to all who have offered their love and support to our family during this difficult time. As you are aware, John lived a life that had far-reaching effects on countless individuals, organizations, and communities. To ease some of the weight on our family of the unimaginable task of laying him to rest, it is our request that there be a concerted effort in honoring his life and memory. We thank everyone who wants to show their love and respect for a life well-lived and request that everything be coordinated through a single point of contact, Fire Chief David Cambareri, 239-707-4530 or [cambareri@scpfd.org](mailto:cambareri@scpfd.org).

John's Funeral Service is Friday, December 6, 11:00am at Hertz Arena.

Thank you again for your continued thoughts and prayers for our family.  
The McMahon Family

Obituary:

John Francis McMahon Jr., a cherished individual known around the world for his kind, loving, and humorous personality, left this world on November 16,

2024, at age 69. He was born on June 9, 1955, in Oceanside, NY, at South Nassau Hospital. John was the son of Dorothy Murial Mass and John Francis McMahon Sr. He lived an amazing life filled with tremendous passion, servant leadership, and a deep love for the fire department.

He graduated in 1973 from Hicksville High School on Long Island, NY. John had various hobbies, including music, eating yummy food, traveling, hockey, riding motorcycles, playing soccer, and even serving as a dedicated soccer referee in the area for many years. He was very active with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in Emmitsburg, MD, and the Fallen Firefighter Memorial in Ocala, FL.

John was a second-generation firefighter; he followed in the footsteps of his father and joined the Hicksville Fire Department as a volunteer. As soon as he was able to jump on the back of a truck, he did. Open-cab trucks with the back runner and no roof were his favorite, even in winter. In 1979, he became a Suffolk County 911 dispatcher, and his love for the job only grew. His dream was to always become a paid firefighter. When the opportunity rose, he left New York and joined the Lehigh Acres Fire District, where he worked for one year. He transferred to the South Trail Fire & Rescue District, where he climbed the ladder to Deputy Chief of Operations. He retired from South Trail after 30 years. In true John McMahon fashion, he couldn't put his helmet down and continued to volunteer as a lieutenant with Bayshore Fire District. After 7 years of retirement, he had the opportunity to work at North Collier Fire & Rescue as Assistant Chief of Operations. He worked there for 3 years and retired for a second time. He continued to teach at the North Collier Fire Training Center. Throughout his entire career, he served on the CISM (Critical Incident Stress Management) Team, debriefing and counseling first responders. He had a long career doing what he loved, and he never lost his passion. Many people called him "Chief," and others also referred to him as a fire service legend.

Throughout his career, he also graduated from Edison College with an associate degree in Fire Science. With his degree, he enjoyed teaching fire recruits at FSW and Fort Myers Fire Academy. He had an incredible rapport with his students. He taught them not only to be great firefighters but to be ambassadors in their community and to come out of the academy a better person. He would have difficulty remembering all their names, so they were all dubbed "Snappaheads." Every time he would see a student in public, he would greet them wholeheartedly and be curious to know about their journey after graduation. He would often meet with students over lunch and prep them for interviews so they would have the best chance of getting hired. John was very passionate about teaching and was excellent at it.

One of John's most commendable accomplishments was his status as President and Drum Major for a bagpipe/drum band he started called Guns-n-Hoses Pipes-n-Drums of SWFL. This band is composed of first responders, veterans, and patriots. They would be available to play for any community event and/or special ceremonies for first responders and veterans. Last year, they played 161 events, and he was probably there for all of them. He had such a passion for the band, and he loved how they could brighten people's days through their music and tributes. He made incredible friendships and connections and had a determination to honor first responders in a manner worthy of their sacrifices. The band will live on in his memory, and they will continue to make a difference in the community just as John did.

John was a devoted husband to his wife Lauri, which they shared 35 beautiful years together. He was a dedicated father to his three daughters Shannon, Caitlin, and Brodie, whose lives were greatly enriched with love by his presence. He loved being a grandfather to his two grandsons, Sean and Deaglan, and now joins his grandson Jameson in heaven. He has two

beautiful sisters, Loretta McLaughlin and Patricia Palmer. John treasured being a godfather to Brynn Keane. John additionally has a wonderful extended family consisting of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins. His departure leaves an unfillable void in their lives, yet they find comfort in the memories and everlasting love they shared.

In remembrance of John's life, the family asks that charitable donations to be made to the Guns-n-Hoses Pipes-n-Drums of SWFL, a local non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that John created. Donations can be sent directly to the band through the link below. Donations will be used to help members continue their presence in the community at ceremonial services, purchase and maintain necessary band equipment, and support the organization at large. As we grapple with the loss of his physical presence, we find solace in knowing that his spirit lives on through the band's music. A memorial fund in John's honor will be announced at a later date on behalf of the family.

John would not want us to be sad and cry over his loss. He would want his tragedy to inspire us and to be the best person we can be. For fellow first responders, share his story with others. Learn and exemplify his passion and dedication to the service in whatever capacity is available. As he would say, "leave the job better than how you found it" and make a difference in every life you touch. Remember him outside of this tragic loss with the positive and fun memories you have of him. Honor him by representing what he stood for— family, selfless love for others, empathy, and making someone smile.

A Funeral Service will be held on Friday, December 6, 2024, at 11:00 am at Hertz Arena located at 11000 Everblades Parkway, Estero, FL 33928. There will be a very large presence for the procession; if you want to join us outside to experience the vast outpour of love and respect for John, all are welcome.

Guns-n-Hoses Pipes-n-Drums Donation Page: <https://www.paypal.com/donate>

e?token=ucnNZubMRSiL2BwpxieV3kryRpOsS5PMAGI3qow9rINVdCpmR4N  
QrdkQKXo\_rkz2u1E4RADh81L88A8e&locale.x=US

Arrangements are under the care of Gendron Funeral & Cremation Services  
located at 2325 East Mall Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33901 239-274-0088 [www.gendronfuneralhome.com](http://www.gendronfuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 5. 4:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Gendron Funeral & Cremation Services Inc. - Fort Myers, FL  
2325 E Mall Dr  
Fort Myers, FL 33901  
(239) 274-0088  
mike.gendronfuneralhome@msn.com  
<https://www.gendronfuneralhome.com/contact-us/fort-myers-chapel>

## Funeral Service

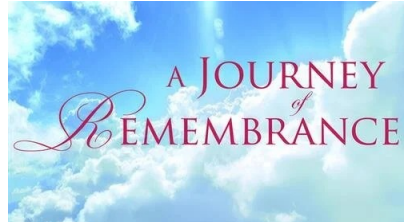
DEC 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

Hertz Arena  
11000 Everblades Parkway  
Estero, FL 33928

# Tribute Wall



“ *Gendron Funeral & Cremation Services Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of John Francis McMahon Jr.*



**Gendron Funeral & Cremation Services Inc.** - December 03, 2024 at 03:58 PM



“ *53 files added to the album Life Tributes*



**Gendron Funeral & Cremation Services Inc.** - December 04, 2024 at 10:55 PM

CS

*My heart goes out to the family, friends and so many who John touched. He was an amazing person and so willing to help anyone. I am grateful that I got to know him and work so many different events with him. Blessings to his family and thank you for sharing John with us. RIP Brother, we got it from here!*

**Chaplain Milton Smith** - December 06, 2024 at 05:59 AM



“ A grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Francis McMahon Jr..

December 04, 2024 at 08:11 PM



“ 499 files added to the album LifeTributes



Gendron Funeral & Cremation Services Inc. - December 03, 2024 at 07:45 PM



“ FL Joint Council Fire & Emerg Services purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of John Francis McMahon Jr..



FL Joint Council Fire & Emerg Services - December 03, 2024 at 12:10 PM



“ Lauri and family Words cannot express my sympathy. John and Bob are watching over all of us now, just as they did at STFD Prayers and Strength

Karen Price - December 03, 2024 at 11:35 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Francis McMahon Jr..

December 03, 2024 at 11:30 AM



“ As Drum Major for Guns and Hoses Pipes and Drums, John's contribution to various military ceremonies and events was immense. Under his leadership the group was often the highlight of the program! John and his leadership will be greatly missed. Thank you, John. Fred Bondurant, The MG James L Dozier Lee Coast Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America.

**Fred Bondurant** - November 29, 2024 at 05:33 PM



“ Lauri, Shannon, Caitlyn and Brodie: John was my friend and colleague for more than 30 years. But it is never long enough. I miss him, his passion for CISM, Guns and Hoses and his family. I planted a grove of trees in his honor and memory from me and the entire CISM team. The trees will live on, providing shelter and nurture just as he did. Our condolences.

**Mary Ellen Frazier** - November 25, 2024 at 07:12 AM



“ Mary E. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Francis McMahon Jr..

**Mary E.** - November 25, 2024 at 07:01 AM

DH

“ *Condolences to the McMahon Family from the Hanifan Family. We have known the McMahons for decades. John Boy and I tagged along to many Hicksville Fire Department events with our fathers who were active members of Hose Company 4. Rest in Peace John. You will be missed  
Dennis Hanifan and Family*

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**Dennis P Hanifan** - November 22, 2024 at 11:10 AM

MM

“ *The whole world is shook. My heart is pouring out to the McMahon family. So many wonderful childhood memories & beyond. The entire Makar family is thinking of you all. We are constantly reaching out to each of you with a hug and sending prayers during this unimaginable loss. We love you John & the McMahon family!*

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**McKenzie Makar** - November 21, 2024 at 09:59 PM

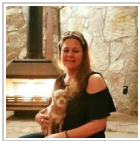
RR

“ Lauri, You and your family will be in our prayers in these difficult times, I've been friends with John for over 50 years, we both joined Hicksville FD at the same time and became great friends. He was in my wedding party in 1976. He left to go to Fla. and I went to the NYPD but we've stayed in touch with each other thru the many years, although I doubt you remember my Wife and I even visited him before he retired from South Trail. Most of our communications through the years have been memes. I would send funny things about the Fire Service and he would send back funny things about Police. We just messaged each other of how we've been friends for so long. I will never ever forget him, he will always be John boy to me. All I can do is pray that you and your family can somehow find some peace, and may John boy rest in eternal peace. Hopefully someday I will see him again. God Bless, Bob and Diana Rose



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**Robert Rose** - November 21, 2024 at 08:31 PM



“ Dear Laurie and family  
You are all in my prayers 🙏  
Sue Huppelsberg

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**Sue Hupp** - November 21, 2024 at 06:15 PM

MM

“ To Lauri and the McMahon family--words cannot say how Cel and I feel. Thank you for sharing this wonderful man with us. John you are my friend, mentor and leader. You taught me how to be a drum Sgt., among many other things. I will use your examples to be the best you taught me to be. All our love and prayers, Mike (#4) and Cel McCain

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**Michael McCain** - November 21, 2024 at 03:19 PM

GG

“Lauri, Shannon, Caitlyn, Brodie and Sean there are no words I can say to take away the pain you have. I can only offer the simple words of Jesus who said I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in me though they may die yet shall they live. And whoever dies in me shall have eternal life. See you again someday John. Rest In Peace and Welcome Home brother.

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**Glenn Gerber** - November 19, 2024 at 11:45 PM

JC

“One of our fond memories with John was the night of his retirement from South Trail FD. After the party was over about 20 of us staying at the hotel walked over to TGI Fridays at 1:45 am and told the staff we would make it worth their while if they served us. They were wonderful I taking care of us and we took care of them. We laughed the whole time. It was a great night. Rest peacefully John. Your bigger than life personality and amazing friendship will never be forgotten.  
JC Collins

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**JC Collins** - November 18, 2024 at 10:16 PM

HB

“Henry and Bonnie Burke purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of John Francis McMahon Jr..



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**Henry and Bonnie Burke** - November 18, 2024 at 06:56 PM

HB

“ Henry and Bonnie Burke planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Frances McMahon.

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**Henry and Bonnie Burke** - November 18, 2024 at 06:56 PM