



## John Bernard Kennard Jr.

April 15, 1953 - March 28, 2018

Kennard Jr. John Bernard, of Canton March 28, 2018. Loving husband of Debbi for 12 years. Beloved father of Anthony (Jacquelyn), Kaleigh (Stephen) Barber, and Ashley Kennard. Dear grandfather of Hannah & Hailey Kennard. Dear brother of David (Gretchen), William, Daniel (Debbie), Ellen (Robert) Madison and Laurie Lanker.

Proud employee of the University of Michigan for over 40 years retiring as the Director of Finance and Administration for the University Musical Society. John loved golf, bowling and all University of Michigan Sports. He had a deep commitment and relationship with Jesus Christ our Lord. John fought a courageous battle with cancer.

Memorial Visitation Monday, April 2nd 2-8 PM at Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, 46401 Ann Arbor Road W., (Between Sheldon and Beck) Plymouth.

Gathering Tuesday, April 3rd 10 AM until the 11 AM Memorial Service at Connections Church, 3855 Sheldon Rd., Canton, MI 48188.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the University Musical Society.

To share a memory, please use the Share a Memory tab on the web page.

# Previous Events

## Gathering of Family and Friends

APR 2. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home Plymouth  
46401 Ann Arbor Road West  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
(734) 459-2250  
plymouth@vermeulenfh.com

## Gathering of Family and Friends

APR 3. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Connection Church  
3855 S. Sheldon Road  
Canton, MI 48188

## Memorial Service

APR 3. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Connection Church  
3855 S. Sheldon Road  
Canton, MI 48188

# Tribute Wall



“ *John Bernard Kennard Jr.*

December 07, 2023 at 05:11 AM



“ *Dear John,  
I'm so sorry I just learned of your passing. You hired me in 1980 in the medical service plan office. That opportunity changed my life. I became a CPA and a lawyer and throughout the years I remembered you fondly. I attended your wedding at the barn. I often think of you, Tom, and Doug at the MSP. PS- I will never forget the happy hour where you drank 20 Kamakazi's and drove home safely. You made a difference in my life.*

**Lillian Tarafa** - March 12, 2021 at 10:18 PM



*This is Bob Angueira*

**Lillian Tarafa** - March 12, 2021 at 10:21 PM



*I miss him. He hired me in 1980; I worked with Bob as well. I would like Bob to know I miss him, too.*

**Tom Hayes** - October 12, 2023 at 11:55 PM

NE

“ I first met John at Bill Knapps, in 1969. I was a cook, John was a busboy. Later, we worked together at the Del Rio Bar in Ann Arbor. He was always fun. He was always fully committed to whatever he was doing. I'd only seen him a few times since the 80's, but I'd talk to him about music and his job.

*I'm very saddened to learn of his passing. I only found out today, from another old pal.*

*Geez, John - look what happens when you lose track of your old, gold friends.*

*Please accept my condolences, and my apologies for missing his service,*

*Neil Lau*

*Ann Arbor Mi neillau@hotmail.com*

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Neil - April 03, 2018 at 11:06 AM

HH

“ Hannah and Hailey purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of John Bernard Kennard Jr..



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Hannah and Hailey - April 01, 2018 at 09:18 PM

JB

“ I am very sad to hear this news. John was such a kind, unassuming, warm, approachable presence during all the time I was first on the Advisory Committee and then serving on the UMS Board. He will be greatly missed.

*I am away from Michigan now so won't be able to join you next week, but wanted to respond to your message to share my thoughts at the loss of this special man.*

*Janice Stevens Botsford*

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**Janice Stevens Botsford** - April 01, 2018 at 07:14 PM

LM

*Worked with John at the Medical Service Plan late 70s, he was a wonderful guy who we had so much fun with. He will be missed by so many. May he Rest In Peace,*

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**Linda Macek** - April 29, 2018 at 09:08 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Bernard Kennard Jr..*



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April 01, 2018 at 06:21 PM

MG

“ John was my mom's cousin and someone who I recognized from Hellner family gatherings growing up but didn't know due to our age difference. That is until 2007 when my wife and I bought our first house in Canton. I'll always remember my grandpa telling me that John was going to stop over and say hi because he lived in our neighborhood. Come to find out, we bought the house right next door to John and Debbie. When I opened the door I recall both of us saying "I know you!" It was hilarious and destiny I suppose because over the 9 years we lived there we became really good friends. He was also the best neighbor.

Even though John was a big dude with a booming voice my little kids loved talking to him. "Mr. John" as they called him, listened to all the babbling and always smiled and found it amusing. Even after we moved a few years ago John and Debbie would still make time to come over for their bday parties. It was great.

We are going to really miss John for all those reasons and more but are truly glad we had the chance to get to know him as well as we did.

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**Mike Grange** - April 01, 2018 at 10:31 AM

SN

“ John will always be remembered to me as a wonderful colleague, one with the whole package: smarts, principals, and professionalism alongside spirituality, sensitivity, and kindness. He taught me so much and I will always treasure his support and friendship. His laughter will continue to linger in the corners of Burton Tower and we will miss him at UMS.

Sending my very best to John's family,  
Sarah Nicoli

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**Sarah Nicoli** - April 01, 2018 at 09:40 AM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of John Bernard Kennard Jr..*



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March 31, 2018 at 08:34 PM



“ *Your loving brothers and sisters purchased the With Distinction for the family of John Bernard Kennard Jr..*



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**Your loving brothers and sisters** - March 31, 2018 at 09:48 AM



“ *With Love from Jim and Sally Stapish purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Bernard Kennard Jr..*



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**With Love from Jim and Sally Stapish** - March 31, 2018 at 09:20 AM



“ *Jim & Pam Swope, Kevin, Randy & Cindy Schultz purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John Bernard Kennard Jr..*



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**Jim & Pam Swope, Kevin, Randy & Cindy Schultz** - March 31, 2018 at 08:40 AM

RR

“ I remember vividly a fishing trip John & I made to Nagagamissussius in northern Ontario. Finding a dead moose near the Indian cemetery was one of the highlights! After we found the hole with all the perch & walleye though we forgot about catching pike or anything else. It was fresh catch of the day for dinner after that.

*I have so many fond memories of Harlem Nutcrackers and May Festivals and Summer Festivals and Ford Honors Programs with John and the gang at UMS. I will always remember John standing up in whatever A2 bar we were in and shouting UMS RULES BABY! Then ordering a tray of Iceball shots. He was a CLASSIC. A great friend, a good boss and a decent guy all around! You will be sorely missed. RIP JK*

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**Ron Reid** - March 30, 2018 at 08:01 PM

 Warren Williams

“ *To the Family of John Kennard,*

*John will always be remembered fondly by all of those he touched at UMS. I cherish the memories of working with John (2000-2004), meeting in his office, talking about two kings: Elvis (John would revert to his full Elvis voice) and Jesus (King of Kings!).*

*We had a lot in common. He sang in a chorus, as did I. He married his business acumen with the arts, as did I. We were both believers. We connected.*

*John used to bring Tony to the offices (Tony was a very young man at the time). What a beautiful bond.*

*Most of all, I will remember John's kindness. I always knew I had a friend in John while at UMS. Now I know I will always have John as a friend in eternity.*

*Sincerely,*

*Warren Williams*

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**Warren Williams** - March 30, 2018 at 05:06 PM

CH

“ *I was another that had the great pleasure of getting to know John through UMS. He was always a delight to talk to; open, frank, full of laughter and intelligence. He cared about the institution that he worked for because he cared about people and bringing to them things in life that were good for both mind and soul. John will be much missed.*

*Carl Herstein*

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**Carl Herstein** - March 30, 2018 at 04:36 PM

TC

“ *From the Knights of Columbus Wednesday night Golf League at Brookside Golf Course in Saline, Michigan.  
We were saddened to hear of John's passing on Wednesday. We were hoping that he would win this battle and join us again on the league. We will surely miss him. John and his playing partner Emmett were some of the original members of the League. He was passionate about life and especially passionate about his golf and loved playing and winning.  
He will be missed by all of us.  
Ann Arbor K of C Golf League*

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**Tim Chaffee** - March 30, 2018 at 11:55 AM

DJ

“ *John Kennard was one of the most pivotal people in my early career. He was a mentor, he cared, he was a friend. Since my time many years ago working at UMS I keep in touch and enjoyed every time I could run into John in his office, at his desk, doing the same thing I saw him do every day years before. He was great at what he did, he did it with flare and passion in his own way. I will never forget that he was a child of God, he loved Christ. I appreciated him for his conviction. His personality and his infectious smile and laugh will never be forgotten. He will be missed, he is loved always.*

*Dear friend though the journey was hard and long, I can say proudly well done, well done. And now you can rest. May God always keep you and bless you and your family.*

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**D. Johnson** - March 29, 2018 at 11:22 PM

MK

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Mike Kennard - March 29, 2018 at 07:24 PM

BG

“ Those of us who were blessed to know and work with John remember him with deep warmth and gratitude. As a former UMS colleague and friend of John's for 25 years, I treasure his memory and give thanks for his presence. He made a difference in so many ways.

*With affection,*

*Beverley Geltner*

Beverley Geltner - March 29, 2018 at 05:53 PM

AF

*Debbie, my heartfelt prayers be with you and your family. John was an amazing person who impacted many lives. Lv you dearly your sister/friend in Christ!-) Augustina*

augustins frazier - April 02, 2018 at 12:11 PM



“ Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Bernard Kennard Jr..



March 29, 2018 at 05:52 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Bernard Kennard Jr..* ”



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March 29, 2018 at 05:29 PM