



## John Edward O'Shea Sr.

August 5, 1937 - October 14, 2024

John E. O'Shea, Sr. was born on August 5, 1937 in Tallulah, LA to John B. and Mayme O'Shea. He grew up as a fun-loving, spirited boy with a zest for life, enjoying sports and music. John was a championship golfer, playing on the Louisiana Tech golf team. His love of music included being an accomplished trumpet player in high school and college, often booking gigs across Louisiana and Mississippi. At Tech, he met the love of his life Ann Lestage at the Newman Club for Catholics. They were meant to be together as Ann tried to set him up with her roommate, but John had other plans. They were a lovely Catholic couple in the heart of the Bible Belt. They married on July 30, 1960 in Campti, Louisiana in the picturesque backyard of Ann's childhood home.

Upon graduation from Louisiana Polytechnic Institute in 1959 (now Louisiana Tech University - his kids often thought their father should be institutionalized!) with a BS in Accounting, John entered the working world as an insurance salesman. However, his dedication to public service called and John entered the Navy in 1960 and soon achieved his Officer's Commission. He saw all aspects of the Navy from being in the cockpit, to serving on ships, to even commanding the ground support for the Blue Angels. He often claimed that he couldn't resign his commission until his replacement arrived to take over – his replacement was Roger Staubach.

John and Ann started growing their family during his Navy days. He had his first three children back-to-back-to-back and soon had a houseful of kids.

When he left the Navy, he began a career with Freeport Sulphur first working on the offshore platforms then moving to a job in downtown New Orleans. This began a lifelong love affair with New Orleans. John and The City That Care Forgot were made for each other. He loved music, food and fashion and there is no other city like the Big Easy. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Junior Achievement and the Irish Channel Marching Club. He was President of the Young Men's Business Club (YMBC), the Lions Club and Louisiana Tech Alumni Association.

Before moving to New Orleans, they had their fourth and final child while spending a year in company housing in Port Sulphur. John and Ann loved Mardi Gras and took their family to every parade in town. A favorite O'Shea family memory was spending the Sunday before Fat Tuesday seeing three parades in a row then going to eat at Pancho's before watching Bacchus. It was heaven!!!

John became a salesman with Freeport selling to the paper industry. He left New Orleans in 1986 and moved to Wisconsin then to the Charlotte, North Carolina area. Ann and John loved their 5 years in Wisconsin and made lifelong friends during their 30+ years in North Carolina. They were one of the founding families of St. Mark Catholic Church in Huntersville, North Carolina. John joined Cowans Ford Golf Club and continued to enjoy his favorite passion – golf. After retirement, he walked three rounds per week with his golf buddies.

John loved to take pictures and each Christmas there was a wonderful family Christmas card sent to all of their family and friends. From carousels of slides to Panasonic cameras to digital cameras to finally a robust phone photo gallery, this man saw the complete evolution of the camera and loved educating himself on each new invention.

Ann and John cruised and travelled all over the world. Before the ship left harbor, John had typically met half the boat as he loved people and telling stories (some of which were even true). With his warm smile, deep southern accent and engaging manner, everyone he met felt as if they were his best

friend. He loved making people laugh and sharing stories.

John is survived by his wife of 64 years Ann O'Shea, his four children – John Edward, Jr., Mary Marks (Kurt), Lisa Nolan (Patrick) and Michael (Janel); his 14 grandchildren (lovingly known as Pop) – Julie O'Shea (Matt Nyberg), Christopher O'Shea (Lindsay), James O'Shea, William Marks, Michael Marks, Amelia Marks, Peter Nolan (Katherine), Thomas Nolan (Jillian), Molly Bodner (Alexander), Joseph Nolan, David Nolan, Jacob O'Shea, Tyler O'Shea and Erin O'Shea.

The family will have a visitation on Saturday, October 19, 2024 at 9:30 am at Our Lady of Good Counsel Roman Catholic Church followed by a Catholic mass at 10:30 am. A private burial will be held at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan at a later date. Memorial contributions can be made to the Fox Run Scholarship, 41100 Fox Run Road, Novi, MI 48377 or Alzheimers Association, Michigan Chapter, 25200 Telegraph Road, STE 100, Southfield, Michigan 48033-7443, <https://www.alz.org/gmc>.

To share a memory, please use the share a memory tab on this webpage.

# Previous Events

## In state

OCT **19**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church  
47650 North Territorial Road  
Plymouth, MI 48170

## Funeral Mass

OCT **19**. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church  
47650 North Territorial Road  
Plymouth, MI 48170

# Tribute Wall

JC

“ I ate breakfast many times with John at Golden Boys. I'm sorry to say I did not know he and his wife had moved. He was especially delightful at breakfast on St Patrick's Day. He dressed the day and loved it! He was a wonderful person, and I will miss him...

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**John Cissell** - October 23, 2024 at 09:24 AM

MD

“ Ann and family -- my sincere sympathy and condolences on your loss of John. We were friends through the Golden Boys and had many Irish talks and shared many Irish jokes and stories through that relationship. It was always a loss to me when St. Mark's got John and his family and St. Theresa lost them. When I learned of his passing into God's kingdom, I realized what a good friend I had lost. May the memories he left with you keep you warm and loved for years to come.  
Peace and God's blessing,  
Mark Daly

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**Mark Daly** - October 22, 2024 at 06:27 PM

RE

“ Ann, I am so very sorry. I am reminded what an accomplished man John was. He lived a full life; remember the best times.

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**Roberta Dale Ellison** - October 19, 2024 at 11:27 AM

CG

“ Oh my, there are too many great memories to share. So many good times. But I guess the a highlight would be the cruise to Rome, Jerusalem, Egypt and Greece for Ann and John's 50th Wedding Anniversary. We were 4 couples Was so much fun and as usual John always had a smile on his face and something to say. Ann, God's peace and love be with you and all your family, his loved ones. How proud he was of all of you. Hugs. Nick and Cathy

Cathy Gismondi - October 19, 2024 at 10:20 AM



Dear O'Sheas, what a beautiful obituary for a very special man. I'm thinking of you all and praying for you especially today as you lay him to rest.

Love,  
Jenny Nolan Dusenbury, Tim, Julian and Robert

Jenny Dusenbury - October 19, 2024 at 11:03 AM

RB

John was a true Irishman and a good Golden Boy friend. The world would be a better place if we had more John O'Sheas.  
Roy Bergquist

Roy Bergquist - October 22, 2024 at 08:54 PM

TF

“ The Zylinski Family planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Edward O'Shea Sr..

The Zylinski Family - October 18, 2024 at 05:51 PM

DC

“ Dana Barton and Robert Clay planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Edward O'Shea Sr..

Dana Barton and Robert Clay - October 18, 2024 at 03:12 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of John Edward O'Shea Sr..*



October 18, 2024 at 03:12 PM



“ *John and Ann were one of the first couples we met at St. Mark's. We too were founding members. John was always happy and engaging and no one else was as proud of being Irish as John was. He used to pass out special coins to his friends at church on St. Patrick's Day. He will be missed greatly. Barry and Tricia McCaa*

**Tricia McCaa** - October 18, 2024 at 01:47 PM



“ *We remember John's wonderful smile and always happy demeanor. He and Ann were the life of the party in our Kinnamon Park Community. He will never be forgotten. Marianne and Louis Alfaro*

**Marianne M Alfaro** - October 18, 2024 at 10:17 AM



“ *Chris, Jeanne, Patti and Marianne purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John Edward O'Shea Sr..*



**Chris, Jeanne, Patti and Marianne** - October 18, 2024 at 10:02 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of John Edward O'Shea Sr..



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October 17, 2024 at 04:59 PM



“ Danielle, Laura, Misael, Jeff & Meeta planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Edward O'Shea Sr..

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**Danielle, Laura, Misael, Jeff & Meeta** - October 17, 2024 at 04:59 PM



“ Keith Krista Marks, Chris Kim Phillips purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of John Edward O'Shea Sr..



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**Keith Krista Marks, Chris Kim Phillips** - October 17, 2024 at 01:07 PM



“ Keith Krista Marks, Chris Kim Phillips planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Edward O'Shea Sr..

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**Keith Krista Marks, Chris Kim Phillips** - October 17, 2024 at 01:07 PM

TF

“ *The Cox Family purchased the Fairest of All for the family of John Edward O'Shea Sr..*



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**The Cox Family** - October 17, 2024 at 10:54 AM

LM

“ *Love, Terry and Maria purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of John Edward O'Shea Sr..*



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**Love, Terry and Maria** - October 16, 2024 at 08:55 PM

PI

“ *Peter I. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Edward O'Shea Sr..*

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**Peter I.** - October 16, 2024 at 10:21 AM

PI

“ *Peter I. purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of John Edward O'Shea Sr..*



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**Peter I.** - October 16, 2024 at 10:21 AM