



John Meenaghan

August 17, 1945 - April 21, 2021

Bradford, MA

John Meenaghan died on April 21, 2021 in Bradford, Massachusetts. He was 75 years old. He was born on August 17, 1945 in Queens, NY to Peter and Mary (nee Geraghty) Meenaghan. John grew up in Astoria, Queens with his three sisters, Agnes, Mary, and Kathleen. He attended parochial schools in Queens and Patterson, NJ and graduated from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice (City University of New York) in 1975 with a degree in Criminal Justice.

John had a successful thirty-year career as a Special Agent for the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (now Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives). He was stationed in New York City, Albany and Buffalo, New York, where he was the Resident Agent in Charge, in Miami, Florida, and ended his career as Operations Officer in Boston, Massachusetts, retiring in 2002.

John also served his country in the U.S. Army and was honorably discharged in 1967, continuing in the US Army Reserve until 1973.

John loved life and he lived it to the fullest. He was a life-long learner, was interested in just about everything, and made friends wherever he went. He loved animals, he enjoyed collecting early American artifacts, and enjoyed

traveling, as well as swimming, skiing, scuba diving, and golfing well into his later years.

Left to mourn John are his son Jesse; his wife Rita Paulits; his sisters Mary Dassaro and Kathleen Reilly; his brother-in-law Richard Reilly; his nieces and nephews Sean Reilly, Maura Reilly Kennedy, Bridget Reilly Regan, Jennifer Dassaro Holland, and Mary Dassaro Thompson; and numerous cousins and friends, including his special ATF friends Don Diener and Gary Wallace, and special friends Barbara O'Donnell, Allan Ball and their children Benjamin, Colby, and Caitlyn, and Dianne Sheppard. John will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

John was pre-deceased by his parents, his beloved sister Agnes Flanagan, his mother and father-in-law Alexandria and Janis Paulits, and his brothers-in-law Joseph Flanagan and Vincent Dassaro.

Funeral services will be private and there are no calling hours. Internment will be in Albany Rural Cemetery. To leave online expressions of sympathy, please visit www.MarraFuneralHome.com.

Please consider making a donation in John's name to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (mskcc.org), P.O. Box 5028, Hagerstown, MD 21741-5028; or to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA.org), 501 Front Street, Norfolk, VA 23510.

Cemetery Details

Albany Rural Cemetery

Cemetery Ave
Albany, NY 12204
<https://albanyruralcemetery.org/>

Tribute Wall

ST

“ Haven't seen John since Miami in the mid 80's. Sorry to learn of the loss of a good man. Rest in Peace John.

Steve - October 24, 2021 at 12:26 PM

BA

“ He arrested me in August of 1991 and he is now dead while I am still enjoying my life. You reap what you sow: <https://www.miaminewtimes.com/news/automatic-transgression-6364802>

Bill Avrich - October 03, 2021 at 08:23 PM

BA

Now John is where he belongs, pushing up daisies instead of arresting innocent vintage weapon collectors.

Bill Avrich - October 03, 2021 at 11:10 PM

LM

“ John was one of the funniest guys on the job. He always had you laughing even during the most serious moments. God Bless John.

Larry Murray - May 09, 2021 at 05:32 PM

JM

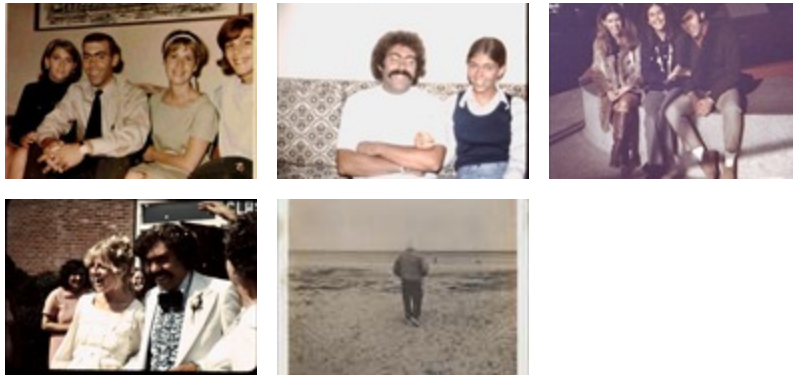
“ John was a dedicated ATF agent and even though he entered Bureau management he did not forget that he was always a street agent. I worked with John in Boston when he came aboard as the OCDETF Coordinator and then Division Ops. John continuously commented favorably on those Boston street agents who perfected original cases. One would come to the opinion that John truly wished he could be out on the street. After every Boston SRT op John would ask how the op went and if the team encountered any problems. He always volunteered to be a role player during Boston Division tactical training and performed in an exemplary manner. John possessed a friendly and joking demeanor and was a true friend.

Jim Markowski, Retired Boston DTA/SA

Jim Markowski - May 06, 2021 at 03:10 PM



“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Jesse Meenaghan - May 06, 2021 at 04:41 AM



“ *The BEST Dad anyone could ask for. Kind, generous, funny, and had the stories and intellect that would never let you be bored. Could be hard and tough at times but always with a heart of gold underneath. Easy to feel sad, but can't feel bad about the life he had because he experienced it all. Lived and loved life to the fullest every moment and was never alone in this world. Will be forever missed.*



Jesse Meenaghan - May 06, 2021 at 04:33 AM

BO

Jesse, your dad loves you with his entire heart and soul. You were his world!

Barbara O'Donnell - May 06, 2021 at 12:43 PM

BO

“ *John was my best friend in this entire world. Such a kind, funny person with a heart of gold. He treated my children as if they were his own grandchildren. So many memories that I will hold in my heart for eternity. With love. Please rest easy my dearest friend. Barbara, Al, Benjamin aka Boopy , Colby and Caitlyn. We miss you so very much!*

Barbara O'Donnell - May 05, 2021 at 04:09 PM

IN

“ To all the family and friends: we send you our wishes for strength and comfort. John was the kindest soul who understood animals and knew that they need all the friends they can get. We will miss his kindness. From all of us here at People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

Ingrid Newkirk - May 03, 2021 at 10:53 AM

BS

“ To Jesse, Rita, and John's family and friend's, my condolences for your loss. Its been years since I've seen John but throughout that time I have often thought of him. John was a great man with amazing stories, wisdom, and I will always remember him teaching Jesse and I life lessons when we were kids. I'll never forget John.

Brian Shepard - May 02, 2021 at 10:19 AM



Thank you Brian.

Jesse Meenaghan - May 06, 2021 at 04:35 AM

MA

“ What an amazing man. Best brother to his loving sisters and amazing uncle to his loving nieces and nephews. We are so thankful to have had Uncle Johnny in our lives, we only wish it could have been longer. Rest In Peace. Lots of love,
Maura

maura - April 29, 2021 at 08:19 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Meenaghan.*



April 28, 2021 at 05:47 PM



“ *I didn't know John all that well, but I always enjoyed talking to him at Al and Barbara's family functions. It was like talking to an old friend. He was one of our family and had such an inciteful view of life. I will miss him at future family gatherings. RIP my friend, it was a pleasure to have known you. Allan Ball*

Allan Ball - April 27, 2021 at 10:29 PM



“ *John was the best brother anyone could ever have hoped to have. Rest in peace. Love, Kathleen*

Kathleen Reilly - April 27, 2021 at 08:51 PM



Met John first day on the job at 90 Church Sreet, NYC. I knew right away he was a city guy and a guy I wanted to know. We were close friends in NYC, Albany and Miami. Together we incarcerated many armed career criminals during our ATF careers. I could always rely on John . RIP Johnny Boy and I'll see you soon. Don Diener PS: Jesse, you were ALWAYS on his mind

don diener - May 04, 2021 at 09:01 PM



Thank you Don for posting this. He always talked about you as well. I'd love to hear about more of the stories you two had together. It's a shame we never met but I felt like I knew you. Maybe someday. Dad was very special.

Jesse Meenaghan - May 06, 2021 at 04:38 AM