



John Richard Evanetski

April 30, 1947 - August 8, 2010

On Sunday, August 8, 2010, John R. Evanetski of Fort Collins, Colorado attained a peace that the world could not give him. He did this under the loving care of his neurologist and friend Dr. Mihaela Alexander and the staff of Littleton Adventist Hospital. John was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania on April 30, 1947 to John R. and Frances Sawejko Evanetski.

He was educated in Scranton Catholic schools and served in the United States Navy during the Viet Nam war. Upon discharge, John became caregiver for his mother until her passing. John attended Pennsylvania State University, majoring in journalism. Upon completion of his studies, John worked for a brief time at Moses Taylor Hospital, Scranton, PA as an orderly. In 1975, John married Ellen Kranick and moved to Warren, PA, where he lived most of his adult life. During this time, John worked as a journalist for the Jamestown Post Journal where he met his lifelong friend, Steve Bishop. He later became a self-employed publisher. He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Warren. John was a man of many interests. He loved the outdoors and spent many happy years sailing, skiing, hiking, camping, cycling, and horseback riding. He was a volunteer for a therapeutic horseback-riding program in Pennsylvania. John was an accomplished fine woodworker, gardener, and cook. He loved to entertain friends. He travelled extensively in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. In his later years, John became a gifted poet. He said that poetry helped him express things that he couldn't talk about. His website, JREPOEMS.BLOGSPOT.COM contains some of his work. John

leaves behind family including sister, Nancy and brother-in-law, Robert Turley of Wellington, Colorado and the extended Turley family; Aunt Jean Hodoroski of Saco, Maine; cousins, Marie Purser of Saco, Maine; Carl and Jeffrey Sawejko of Swansea, Massachusetts, and Eileen Hanhauser of Dover, Delaware. John's friends both old and new, include roommate and partner in "John and Don's Hugs and Fun Clubhouse" Don Uhlenhake and many staff; too numerous to name at Spring Creek Health Care Center. Friends in Warren include Steve and Jetta Bishop, Bob and Sue Klebacha, and Dr. Charles and Lynn Bentz. The entire extended Kranick family of the Scranton area was also a large part of John's life. John's family wishes to thank Drs. Joseph Jacob and Samuel Laney, Northern Colorado Rehabilitation Hospital; Dr. Mihaela Alexander, Colorado Neurodiagnostics; and Drs. David Van Sickle and Adair Prall, South Denver Neurosurgery whose compassion and caring gave John quality of life. Also, the staff of Spring Creek Health Care Center who gave John a home and the Yellow Cab Dial-A-Ride staff who gave John a social life. John and his beloved cat Ted, along with Bob and Nancy Turley, wish to express their sincere thanks to everyone who made John's life so full and wonderful. In response to repeated requests from his sister, John has already sent several signs to let us know there is a better place for us all and that he is there. Memorial Contributions may be made to the John R. Evanetski Memorial Fund in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive, Fort Collins, Colorado 80524. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Monday at 10:00 a.m. at Blessed John 23rd University Center, 1220 University Ave. Interment with Military Honors by the Fort Collins All Veterans Honor Guard will follow at Grandview Cemetery. Those who desire may view Mr. Evanetski at Bohlender Funeral Chapel on Sunday from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil Service will be at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday at Bohlender Funeral Chapel with a reception to follow.

Tribute Wall

HR

“ I knew John from Spring Creek, where I work. I was thinking about John and missing him today, and tried to find his poetry blog online, which is how I came across this site, and thought I would add my own thoughts. John had a beautiful soul, a tender heart, a wicked sense of humor, and an uncanny resemblance to Sean Connery. He will be greatly missed, and I look forward to playing Scattergories with him in Heaven someday!

Heidi Ridgway-Curtis - October 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ How do I express my deepest apologizes for your lost. I met John less than a year ago. I was a music therapy student at CSU who decided to play chess with John every week for a semester for a service learning assignment. Let's just say that I was not good at chess when I first started. Through encouragement and humor John let me know this. He beat me a lot. And I mean a lot. By the end of the semester our games usually ended in a stalemate. He was so willing to teach not only about chess, but life in general. The lessons I learned from him are invaluable and I thank him so much. I am sorry that this condolence is coming so late, but I didn't realize John had passed until I called to see if he wanted to play chess again this year, today. I know that he is no longer with us, but I will always remember what he taught me and am so sorry to say goodbye to a friend.

Sara Wise - September 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

VL

“ "A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance." Ecclesiastes 3:4 John I will remember you always. You have a special place in my heart.

Vian Lopez - August 24, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Nancy and Bob, Our thoughts are with you two during this time. John was such a lovely person. I along with the entire staff of Northern Colorado rehabilitation hospital feel honored to have known him. He truly touched our lives. He will be missed. Beth

Beth and Greg Bullard - August 15, 2010 at 12:00 AM

NT

“ To all who have and will contribute to this guestbook: Your kind words and memories of John have been a tremendous source of comfort and consolation to me and have reaffirmed the fact that we are all interconnected with bonds of friendship and love so strong that neither time nor death can break.

Nancy Turley - August 14, 2010 at 12:00 AM

VB

“ John took great joy in life, approaching it with uncommon zest. He was a unique and decent man who I was enriched to have known and called my friend.

Vicky Barone - August 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Having lost touch from when we were next door neighbors growing up, it is wonderful to read about John's most interesting life. Hello to Nancy, if she remembers the sisters next door. My condolences to you as well.

Jackie Roberta Fazio - August 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ John was such a wonderful articulate man! I really enjoyed our conversations during the time I cared for him at Spring Creek. He had such a great sense of humor. Sometimes I didn't get his jokes, he would be laughing, we would just look at each other and start laughing more because of that. I know he is in a better place, he was a very kind, gentle man. I am glad he has made his peace, but he will be greatly missed!

Shi - August 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ John was a neighbor of ours when we moved to Warren in 1980. I used to give him some of my stuffed cabbage which he loved and smelled from his kitchen window when I made it, and he always asked for a helping. When on vacation, we would get each other's mail. Once he and Ellen were hosting a Christmas Eve party in 1982 and a drunk employee of a furniture store drove a company van into our front porch. We were not in the house, but visiting my parents in eastern PA. Had the porch roof not stopped the van, it would have gone into John's dining room full of guests. John and our other neighbor, Holmes Larsen, helped apprehend the suspect. He loved the outdoors and fall trips to Shenandoah State Park with Ellen plus skiing at Holiday Valley and Peak n Peek. He was a wonderful neighbor. I am sorry for your loss. He talked highly of his dear sister who lived in Colorado. He was kind and helpful and a wonderful neighbor.

John and Marian Aranyos - August 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ You were a good "big brother" to Nancy and myself when we were growing up. I loved the "get-a-ways" to the State Park in summers, seeking adventure "action" touring Colorado and always the "storytelling" of the "good-ole-days. Peace, Czyie

Sandra Czyzyk - August 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ Dear Nancy, Thinking of you, and John. My deepest sympathy to you on his passing. Sincerely, Margi Kranick

Marguerite T Kranick - August 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ Judge Wolfe and I send our condolences to John's family and friends. John was a fine, special and noble man and a wonderful friend. We spent many a special evening at his home on East Fifth and at the Pub at the Jefferson House, solving the world's biggest problems and sharing information--recipes, favorite restaurants, places to travel Colorado always at the top of his list, books to be read. He was an intelligent, thoughtful, caring and delightful companion in any group. I will treasure his memory and I'm glad he is at peace. Susan McConnell Wolfe

Susan Mcconnell Wolfe - August 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

FK

“ Godspeed, John! It is with sadness we hear of his too-soon passing to a better place. Our prayers and thoughts are with your family at this difficult time.

Francis & Donna Kranick - August 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TK

“ John was a student of mine at South Scranton Catholic high school. He was courteous, respectful, a true gentleman. My sympathy to the family including Nancy and Eileen who were also students.

Tom Klopfer - August 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ *From an old friend in Sacred Hearts elementary school. May you rest in peace John E. You'll be in my prayers.*

John Lukasik - August 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

GL

“ *In addition to all the wonderful and accurate things said about John in his obituary, I greatly enjoyed his sense of humor; we shared so many laughs.... I was blessed to call him friend.*

Gary Lester - August 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

PE

“ *Hello Nancy, I was sorry to read that your brother died. While I understand that he was not well, having to say farewell to a shared history cannot be easy. I am an adult only child, so can only imagine your loss. It must have been a comfort for him to be able to live near you as he coped with his health issues. I'm a Warren native and got to know John in his early days with the Post Journal. I was an employee at the County Court House for a number of years and then was an elected official. If what I did provided John with fodder for his professional career, yay! He probably could have written the book and perhaps he did! about the characters he came across during his reporting career. May you have the peace of memories and the knowledge that John is well again. Regards, Pat Evans*

Pat Evans - August 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ Dear Nancy, I've searched for Johnny and you since South Catholic, only to find him, once again in death. My heart aches for my friend and "paperboy" mentor. He gave me my first nickname "Eggs" and for that, I've always remembered him. I can't tell you how many days he and I would walk up the hill along St. Mary's cemetery and walk past your house on the hill. That is especially poignant in that I used to look at the one house across the valley where later we would live 1963 and look back at your house. I would love to catch-up with you about the days since you guys graduated from South Catholic. May the Lord bless you in your grief and may His Holy Spirit bring you swiftly as it seems, from your writings in the obituary to a realization of his presence with the saints in heaven where he awaits our arrival. Peace and blessings. Jack Edwartoski South Scranton and East Mountain edwartoskijd@bex.net

Jack Edwartoski - August 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ Dear Nancy, I've searched for Johnny and you since South Catholic, only to find him, once again in death. My heart aches for my friend and "paperboy" mentor. He gave me my first nickname "Eggs" and for that, I've always remembered him. I can't tell you how many days he and I would walk up the hill along St. Mary's cemetery and walk past your house on the hill. That is especially poignant in that I used to look at the one house across the valley where later we would live 1963 and look back at your house. I would love to catch-up with you about the days since you guys graduated from South Catholic. May the Lord bless you in your grief and may His Holy Spirit bring you swiftly as it seems, from your writings in the obituary to a realization of his presence with the saints in heaven where he awaits our arrival. Peace and blessings. Jack Edwartoski South Scranton and East Mountain edwartoskijd@bex.net

Jack Edwartoski - August 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Hi Nancy,I lived down the hill from your house back in the 50's,the last house on palm St.My parents were Al and Esther Roberta,my aunt and uncle ,Edmund Sonny and his wife Ann Louise,lived up on Crown Ave,Ann Schraner,sister ,Kathy,mom Naomi,and Paul We were very sorry to hear about Johns' passing.All our prayers are with you.God Bless

The Kakareka ,Schraner, Roberta families - August 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ John was a fellow classmate and graduate of South Catholic. Class of 65. He was always a gentleman. God Bless.

James J Timlin - August 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Vale, compare. You brightened many lives, including mine.

Denny Bonavita - August 11, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ John was a great guy and a great friend. His courage and humor during his illness were amazing, and an example for us all. John lived a full life, newspaper man, political consultant, world traveler, and my life is much richer for having him as my friend. He will be missed.

Steve Bishop - August 11, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Deeply sadden John has passed. He and I crossed paths many times over the years during our mutual journalistic activities Although competitors we were good friends.

Robert Seiden - August 11, 2010 at 12:00 AM

EC

“ Dear Nancy and Bob, What a beautiful tribute to a sweet and gentle man. You were kind to include me in the obituary. I am grateful his passing was peaceful and you were there with him. Now he is free. You have my deepest sympathy. Ellen

Ellen Coyle - August 11, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ We enjoyed having John as a customer. We extend our condolences to his family and friends.

Staff at Crone's Drug Store - August 11, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ John was one of the most positive people that I had known. He seemed to know a little about everything and always had a wealth of information to share. It was a pleasure to be in his presence and I feel honored to have had him in my life here in Warren. God Bless you John!

Monica Haritan - August 11, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ What a dear friend we have lost. We had so many wonderful days and evenings together and always with great food to share and enjoy. A love of movies yes, we could all quote numerous lines from the best ones, the outdoors, Teddy and the other beloved pets who came before him, friends, family - all of this meant so much to John. We thank you, John, for the treasure of your friendship. To you we say, "Happy Trails" Dear Friend - we will meet again. Nancy and Bob, please know how much we share this loss with you.

Rob and Susan Klebacha - August 11, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ *It is with great sadness that we heard today of John's passing. We will always remember our countless laughs with him. So many stories, so many memories. Rest in peace Evans. With love, Christopher and Amy Kranick*

Christopher and Amy Kranick - August 11, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ *Sending our thoughts and prayers to the entire family.*

Marissa and Kane - August 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ *Sad news for those of us who knew John here in Warren, PA. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.*

John & Brenda White - August 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM