

JOHN P. KANCHE, SR.



John P. Kanche, Sr., 81, passed away peacefully in Ft. Myers, FL on St. Valentine's Day with his wife Melanie at his side. He was born in Warren, Ohio on May 20, 1943, to Michael, Sr. and Elizabeth (Holenchak) Kanche while his father was serving in Germany on the frontlines of World War II.

Born with one kidney, John had his first kidney transplant in 1987 with his brother William Kanche as the donor.

The kidney gave him 21 strong and healthy years, but in 2008 he needed a second kidney transplant, this time his son John Kanche, Jr. was the donor.

John outlived all expectations and was a force of life. He was hospitalized for 55 days during the first wave of Covid-19 in 2020, but bounced back and remained healthy for another five years until a recent complication.

John attended St. Mary's School in Warren for 13 years where he excelled in basketball and golf, and attended Bowling Green State University on a partial golf scholarship. He was proud of his accomplishments as a lifelong golfer, especially 10 club championships, 13 holes-in-one, and a silver medal for low score in the USGA U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship qualifier. In 2016, John and his brother Bill won a gold medal in golf at the global Transplant Games.

A beloved salesman and entrepreneur, John spent 17 years with the Parker Pen Company before becoming co-owner of Fountain Pen Service, an office supply wholesaler, and then retiring from United Stationers. His career took him to Cleveland, Washington D.C. and Pittsburgh, where he raised his family, coached sports and supported the community.

Preceded in death by his parents, his first wife Barbara (Casalinova) Kanche (d. 2002) and his granddaughter Lilliana Mariah Kanche (d. 2007), John is survived by his wife Melanie Staub Kanche and children Michele (Mark) Fetting of Pittsburgh, PA, Jeni (Mike) Napolitano of Gibsonia, PA, John P. Kanche, Jr. (Elizabeth) of Mt. Lebanon, PA, and stepchildren Travis (Olivia) Lancaster of Uniontown, PA and Talia (Emily) Lancaster of Columbus, OH. Papa K. is also survived by his grandchildren that gave him tremendous pride and joy, including Ellin Jade, Leah Mary, Nathan Mark, Adella Grace, Sienna Joan, Luca Michael, Teresa Rose, Lucille Casalin, Violet Anne, John Peter III, and Mina Aleen.

John is also survived by his siblings Joanne (Richard) Gramelt of Vienna, OH, Michael (Peggy) Kanche of Sandia Park, NM, Karen (Paul) Racz of Warren, OH, and William (Linda) Kanche of Warren, OH, and many nieces and nephews.

Friends will be welcomed at a visitation at the **BEINHAUER FUNERAL HOME** at 2828 Washington Road, McMurray, PA 15317, on Sunday, February 23rd from 3-5 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. A funeral mass will be held at St. Bernard Church, Saint Michael the Archangel Parish in Mt. Lebanon, PA on Monday, February 24th at 11:30 a.m. (everyone please meet at the church).

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to the National Kidney Foundation at www.kidney.org.

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