



Johnnie R. Patterson, Sr.

August 12, 1959 - March 28, 2018

Johnnie R. Patterson, Sr., 58 years, a lifelong resident of Monroe, Michigan, went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, March 28, 2018.

Born August 12, 1959 in Monroe, John was the son of James R. and Elgie (Drummonds) Patterson. John was a 1977 graduate of Jefferson High School, where he excelled at football, basketball and track and field. John went on to attend both Grand Valley State University and the University of Toledo. He played football at both universities. In 1987, John received his Bachelor's of Education from the University of Toledo.

On December 1, 1989 John married his beloved wife, the former Shari A. Ford, in Toledo, OH.

John was the first President and CEO of The Monroe County Convention and Tourism Bureau. He also owned and operated Monroe Fitness and Physique and was a teacher for Jefferson, SMCC, and Monroe High School.

He also coached football and was the strength and conditioning coach at New Boston Huron High School.

John was a member of St. John The Baptist Catholic Church and a Life Member of The University of Toledo Alumni Association. He served on the EDC board in Monroe.

John loved and was a great promoter of Monroe County, Michigan and all it has to offer. He organized and ran the River Raisin Jazz Festival since its inception and the 4th of July fireworks at the Sterling State Park. He hosted a radio broadcast; "Jazz of Upfront" and a television broadcast; "Upfront with John Patterson". He also wrote a weekly column in the Monroe News for children; "Do You Know Monroe County with Johnnie Tourism". John loved music and played the guitar, was a movie buff and enjoyed all things that were sports related, especially the Olympics. John worked out regularly and won a national championship in power lifting. John was also a cat enthusiast. Most of all John enjoyed time spent with his family.

John is survived by his beloved wife of 28 years; Shari, his loving mother; Elgie Grabitz, two cherished children; Johnnie R. (Jackie Burrous) Patterson, Jr. of Berkley, MI and Lauren Celine (Thomas Young) Patterson at home, and a sister; Mary Ann (Joel) Schultz of Dundee, MI. In addition to his father, John was preceded in death by his step father; Roman Grabitz.

In keeping with John's wishes cremation will be held. Memorial Visitation will be held on Monday, April 2, 2018 from 1-8 PM in the Bacarella Funeral Home, 1201 S. Telegraph Rd., Monroe, MI 48161 where a memorial service with family and friends sharing will be held that evening at 6:00 PM.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Humane Society of Monroe County to benefit the cats and kittens.

Comments



“ The first time I met John@ the river raisen jazz festival 14yrs ago, I was trying to say hello to him, he said I don't have time right now, but when he did have time he came back to chat for a few, over the years we became friends I found out his birthday was 3 days before mine so every year he would make sure to tell me happy birthday. You will be missed my friend....

Lance Mckay - April 10, 2018 at 02:10 AM



“ Condolences to Shari, his Mother, and his children. He loved Monroe and Monroe appreciated everything he did for Monroe.
Marie Betrus Smith

Marie Smith - April 03, 2018 at 11:51 AM



“ Shari and family,
Sorry I cannot be there in person to give you my condolences. I've known John since I moved to Michigan as he and I went over the wall in Leadership Monroe together. His contributions to Monroe were great and he will be deeply missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Lonnie Pepler Moyer

Lonnie Pepler-Moyer - April 02, 2018 at 10:11 AM



“ Shari, John, Lauren
Words cannot express the sorrow and heartache felt with the loss of your Husband, Dad, Friend. Every conversation I had with John centered on Family....the most important of all things. He was my Friend, an asset to the community and most of all a family man. I will miss him everyday. God Bless. John McGovern

John McGovern - April 02, 2018 at 09:38 AM



“ Having spoke to John on Facebook several days ago, it hit me hard to hear of his passing! I trusted his good advice about people of different opinions to respect each other. He showed respect and caring to all. John collected music and he purchased a shoe box full of hit single 45's from me. He also gave me a tour of his awesome office. I gave him a poster size picture of Elvis which I painted in black and white. He had me sign it. It was an honor to know him. May God comfort his adored wife Shari, children John and Lauren, and mother Elgie.



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Johnnie R. Patterson, Sr..



March 31, 2018 at 07:56 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Johnnie R. Patterson, Sr..



March 31, 2018 at 04:15 PM



“ John was a great man and teammate He will be truly missed.

Mark Sharkus - March 31, 2018 at 02:03 PM



“ Shari, John and Lauren,
There is no way that mere words from me can even begin to dampen the sadness that you must feel at this time. I was always impressed with the warmth and genuine friendliness of you husband/father. He made me and everyone else always feel welcome and appreciated.
It was an honor and a privilege to have known him and to have been even a small part of your lives.
Certainly if there is anything that I may do to dampen the grief of your loss please do not hesitate to call on me - ANYTIME!!!
Be well.
Munk

Richard Munk - March 31, 2018 at 12:55 PM



“ A sad day. You will be missed as will the wonderful, thankless work you did for Monroe. Rock on John

Jeffery Albergo - March 31, 2018 at 12:51 PM



“ Shari, Lauren and John Jr.
Please keep you head held high during the loss of your loved one. John was a great friend and he will truly be missed by all. I will cherish the great memories he left us all with the Jazz festivals, the artist I've had the pleasure of meeting due to him and all the invitations given me to participate in his events. You will always have a friend here in Toledo. The great jazz events held here is just an addition to great things he accomplished. God bless you and keep you always. Love Twine

Twine - March 31, 2018 at 09:56 AM



“ Until we meet again my friend ! Thank you for all you have done for our community !
Love and Prayers for your family ! The Haynes family



joe haynes - March 31, 2018 at 06:51 AM



“ Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of Johnnie R. Patterson, Sr..



March 30, 2018 at 07:49 PM



“ Shari, Elgie, Mary Ann, Johnnie Jr. and Lauren, there are not words sufficient for me to tell you how sorry I am that you are experiencing the sadness of Johnnie's passing. Last Fall, His mother and I had the opportunity to visit a little with him and it was a good visit. Because of geography, I never had the opportunity to spend time

with Johnnie. We shared several experiences and took some photos together. Johnnie assured me he was confident in his salvation experience. May God bless each of you with a special blessing suited to your particular need.

Cousin Damon Patterson

Damon Patterson - March 30, 2018 at 05:32 PM



“ John welcomed me with open arms when I first arrived in Monroe in 2003 and continued to be a loyal and loving friend ever since. I will celebrate a private mass for the repose of his soul and the consolation of his family and friends. -Fr. Jack

Fr. Jack Quinlan - March 30, 2018 at 06:08 PM



“ Elgie Shari Lauren Johnny and family I was so very saddened by this news of John's passing. He was a great friend and did so much for our community. Sending prayers 5o all of you during this hard time Blessings LeeAnn Russeau (Harmon) When we were in school

LeeAnn Russeu - March 30, 2018 at 06:11 PM