



## John A. "Jay" Gardner

February 17, 1957 - September 3, 2019

Portsmouth - John Augustus "Jay" Gardner, III passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on September 3, 2019, in Portsmouth, NH.

Jay was born to Jack and Kim Elaine Gardner in Weymouth, MA, in 1957. He grew up in Tewksbury, MA, graduating from Tewksbury High School in 1975 and New England College in 1981.

Jay leaves behind his wife of almost 27 years, Laurie A. Kennedy, two daughters, Hannah and Sophia, sisters Kristie, and her husband Bruce, and Tracy, and brother, Glenn, many nieces and nephews, the Tea Club, Red House crew, Opera House Cup, the Big Chill, Rock Lobster and friends from around the world.

A consummate host, Jay knew how to throw a party and had a knack for making everyone in a room feel important. He was a generous man with an infectious smile and spirit. His interest in the hospitality industry began in college and continued for decades. A restaurateur, starting at The Seven's on Beacon Hill, he was then a co-owner for 25 years of The Rattlesnake Bar and Grille on Boylston Street in Boston. He owned The Press Room in Portsmouth, NH, for 24 years and created a space for both performance and enjoyment of all types of music. Jay was also a co-owner of Jumpin' Jay's Fish Café in Portsmouth, NH.

Rugby, the quintessential English sport, was a passion for Jay, and it captured his imagination after a semester abroad in Arundel, England. He brought back this interest to New England College (NEC) in Henniker, NH, where he started the NEC Men's Rugby Club (now known as the New England College Rugby Football Club [NECRFC]). In 2014, Jay received the Red Jacket from the Rugby Hall of Fame after being nominated by the NECRFC. In 2016, he received the Deborah Spring Reed '60 Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award at NEC for his contributions to the college and community.

Jay was a dedicated and loving father, husband, brother and friend; he will be dearly

missed.

Calling hours will be from 4-7pm Sunday, September 8th at Remick & Gendron Funeral Home, 811 Lafayette Road, Hampton NH.

Memorial donations can be made to The Association of Frontotemporal Degeneration (AFTD) at [<https://www.theaftd.org/support-aftds-mission>]

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

SEP 8. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory

811 Lafayette Road ·

Hampton, NH 03842

[info@remickgendron.com](mailto:info@remickgendron.com)

<https://www.RemickGendron.com/>

# Tribute Wall

JL

“ We will always be grateful for the years we knew Jay Gardner. We will especially miss the mischievous smile and warm hugs he reserved for Press Room regulars; our hearts go out to his family, whom we also came to know and love. -- John and Darby Leicht

John and Darby Leicht - September 15, 2019 at 06:20 PM

BL

“ If Jay hadn't hired my friend Tony Caz at the Rattlesnake 26 years ago, I never would have had the pleasure of getting to know him..  
The planet lost a great guy and father friend..Were going to miss you Jay...  
Bobby Mazda

Bob LeBlanc - September 07, 2019 at 02:46 PM

DK

“ Jay was the first person I had to deal with (after Jack said yes!) in starting our business (Harpoon). He was always a gentleman, always fair, always kind and always one to extend himself. He taught me that there could be very good people in the business. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Dan Kenary and everyone at Mass. Bay Brewing Company

Dan Kenary - September 06, 2019 at 06:57 AM

LS

“ Jay a very lovely man, so sorry for his loss as he kept the vibrant part of Portsmouth well vibrant!

laura stutz - September 05, 2019 at 09:57 PM

AT

“ Jay did such a good job with The Press Room after our beloved Jay Smith passed away. I will always remember his welcoming smile when I'd return to Portsmouth, after my job transferred to Portland, OR. YOU will be missed Jay! 💕💕💕

Alison Turner - September 05, 2019 at 06:19 PM



“ We were so so saddened to learn the news of Jay’s passing this afternoon. Mark and I thought the world of Jay and always enjoyed our moments when we would run into him in Portsmouth. RIP Jay - you were one in a million. Mark and Beth Rogers

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**Beth Brownlie Rogers** - September 04, 2019 at 08:51 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you.  
Love,  
Carl "Dobbs" and Myra de Gersdorff

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**Carl de Gersdorff** - September 04, 2019 at 05:14 PM