



John F. Merrigan

October 26, 1959 - October 28, 2025

Rye – John F. Merrigan, 66, of Rye, New Hampshire, died peacefully on October 28, 2025, surrounded by his wife and children. He was born on October 26, 1959, in Albany, New York. He was the son of the late William and Helen (Hurley) Merrigan. John is survived by his best friend and beloved wife of 40 years, Gale (Reale) Merrigan. Their marriage was an example of lasting love, devotion, partnership and true friendship. Together, John and Gale raised three children, Zachariah Merrigan, Abaigeal (Kyle) Cogan, Esq., and LTJG John Merrigan II.

John is also survived by his siblings Deborah Merrigan, James Merrigan and Michael Merrigan. He is predeceased by his brother William Merrigan. John's lasting impact and legacy is also felt by numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, grand-nieces and grand-nephews whom he loved dearly.

Being a devoted father and husband was John's proudest accomplishment. His favorite place to spend his weekends was on the sidelines of various sporting activities cheering on both his wife and kids. If not on the side of a football, soccer, or lacrosse field, he would be in the backyard playing catch with his children.

Those that knew John knew him to be the source of laughter, fun, and always a good time. John loved the ocean, and him and Gale bought their dream

beach cottage in 1996 to raise their family with an open-door policy to all. Whether it was hosting Thanksgiving dinner, Independence Day BBQs, or any given day of the week, all were welcomed by John for a warm meal, cold beer, and a good laugh. John also created “the Bench” across the street from his home for any passerby to share in the beauty of the sea he admired so much.

A funeral mass will be held on October 31st, at 1pm at St. Theresa’s Parish, 820 Central Road, Rye Beach, NH. The family invites all who knew John to join them at the service to commemorate his life. If you feel inclined to send flowers, we ask that instead you make a donation to St. Jude by clicking here (https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html?sl=donate-now&sc_dcm=137187318174&sc_cid=kwp&gclid=Cj0KCQjw9oblBhCAARIsAGHm1mScJnYWg2AAgDZq44faJYF8OuHFSOod-WUovPUsVmqgL9cDaNJWc1caAlofEALw_wcB&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAYnJpZBExU09zN3pma01LSFJPT0pxdQEeb2SAv16U8tyy3MJpZU-naHah8cYhe_4-bhFTcuWp47435gliZznR8nT2eUY_aem_hrgyl44s9nsySxTr_NJ0EQ) in his memory, a charity that he felt compelled to support in his life.

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

OCT **31**. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Theresa Parish
820 Central Rd
Rye Beach, NH 03871
(603) 964-6440

Tribute Wall

RC

“ So many memories of John Merrigan growing up in Liverpool NY. He was a great friend of the Colling’s. His parents and mine were good friends.I am so saddened to learn of John’s passing. May all his family know he was a true friend and will be remembered as such. He was a Boston Bruins fan and I a Toronto Maple Leafs fan. So many great games played between those two squads. So many 5 dollars bets I lost to John!! May you Rest In Peace my friend John Merrigan. Bob Colling Memphis NY

robert colling - November 01, 2025 at 10:47 PM

CO

“ I am so sorry to hear of Johnny’s passing. My deepest condolences to the Merrigan clan as Johnny was a devoted and loving husband, father, brother and uncle. His passing leaves a void for all those who knew him. May he rest in God’s eternal peace. 💜 Colleen

Coll - November 01, 2025 at 11:34 AM

LA

“ Lydia and Anjie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John F. Merrigan.

Lydia and Anjie - October 30, 2025 at 02:15 AM

LA

“ Lydia and Anjie purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of John F. Merrigan.



Lydia and Anjie - October 30, 2025 at 02:15 AM