



## John C. Primerano, Sr.

October 24, 1924 - October 16, 2019

Rye – John C. Primerano, Sr., 94, formerly of Exeter, died peacefully Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at Webster at Rye.

He was born in Cambridge, MA October 24, 1924 a son of the late Vincenzo and Mildred (Altomare) Primerano.

John was raised in Arlington and was a graduate of Arlington High School.

John was a veteran of WW II serving with the US Army 101st Airborne Screaming Eagles as a paratrooper. He jumped in Operation Market Garden in the Netherlands and fought in the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium. He earned the Bronze Star for his service. John took pride in sharing his military experiences with school children both in the US and in the Netherlands. He was well known for his storytelling and was very active with Company E 506th 101st Airborne Division (Reenacted). His life story is told in a book entitled Down to the Wire.

Mr. Primerano was employed in maintenance by the John Hancock Insurance Company in Boston, MA specializing in heating, ventilation and air conditioning. He was a resident of Exeter for over 40 years.

He was the husband of the late Myrtle Carmody Primerano and longtime companion of Joan Goodall of Exeter, NH.

He leaves his son John C. Primerano, Jr. and his wife Elizabeth of Reading, MA, two daughters, Jeanne Ryan of Boston, MA and Mary Ann Primerano of Dracut, MA, his four grandchildren, four great grandchildren, and his sister Edna Drown of Arlington, MA. He also leaves seven stepchildren Linda Laprise, James, Steven, Richard, William, Donald and Harry Carmody.

Visiting hours will be from 11 AM to 1 P.M. Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home-Crematory, 811 Lafayette Road, Hampton. A prayer service will immediately follow at 1 P.M. in the funeral home. Burial will be in the Hillside Cemetery, Seabrook. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in John's name to the Wright Museum of World War II Wolfeboro NH (<https://www.wrightmuseum.org>)

# Cemetery Details

## Hillside Cemetery

100 Lafayette Road  
Seabrook, NH 03874

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **23**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory  
811 Lafayette Road ·  
Hampton, NH 03842  
(603) 926-6500  
info@remickgendron.com  
<https://www.RemickGendron.com/>

## Service

OCT **23**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory  
811 Lafayette Road ·  
Hampton, NH 03842  
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# Tribute Wall



“ *John C. Primerano, Sr.*

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September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ *My name is John Primerano and I am from Philadelphia. For a long time when my name came up on the Internet, Mr. Primerano's came up as well. I finally called him about 5 years ago to introduce myself to him. We had some things in common, though we were not related. My father was a veteran of The Battle of The Bulge and was named Vincent. Mr. Primerano told me his father's name was Vincenzo. he had a grandmother name Lucia and my father's mother was named Lucy, which would probably be the Americanized version of Lucia. I told him that, while I was turned down for military service and regretted it, I had entertained in the USO. he made me feel better by telling me I had done my part and not to feel any regrets. I had a few more interesting conversations with him, read his book---very interesting--- and was thinking about him recently. I just found out about his passing and would like to extend my belated condolences to his family.*

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**John Primerano** - May 04, 2020 at 10:22 PM

DR

“ I had the honor of getting to know John at a dinner at a friend's house, and a few months later we visited with John at his Exeter home. On Veteran's Days over the years, John had spoken to her middle school classes of his experiences. What an impression he must have made! So many of the old vets had their spirits crushed by things they were exposed to in wartime, and they were never able to open up and communicate even the good and human... it was all too painful to recall. Not so with John, and we are all lucky for it.

I got one of Cailin Casey's books, *Down To The Wire*, and John inscribed it for me... "I hope you enjoy reading this as much as I enjoyed living it." And he signed it "John Primerano 101st A.B. Div 501st P.I.R. Regt HQ Wire Section...4/14/14". What an honor it is to have this book and re-read it again in John's memory; and what a great job Cailin did in documenting John's recollections and weaving-in the historical background of world events impacting John's life and those of his generation.

"All Gave Some, Some Gave All"... Thank you to our Vets!

David Raymond

North Hampton, NH

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David Raymond - December 11, 2019 at 05:35 AM

HD

“ Without regret we heard the news of John passing away. We remember John as a warm and happy man who came tot visit us several years. It was a honor to have know such a great man and veteran!

*Our condolonces to family and friends.*

*Marijn en Henk van Dorland, Ingen "The Island" Betuwe Holland*



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**Henk van Dorland** - December 08, 2019 at 06:19 AM



“ Both of my grandpas were gone before I was born. My step grandpas were both gone by 1990. John was like having another grandpa for the last 15 years or so. Thanks for being a great grandpa and a great friend John. His insight into his WW2 experiences were invaluable to all of us in E Company, 506th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division Reenacted. We miss you profoundly John!!!

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**J Arnold Yeske** - October 30, 2019 at 11:08 AM

GD

“ *My condolences to John's family and friends. I had the pleasure of taping his story from his childhood through his military experiences. It was quite a story. Copie of which I gave to the Exeter Historical Society and to the Exeter library. It is on dvd. I saw John several times at the Exeter cemetery on Memorial Day. Sorry to learn he has passed. He is in a more peaceful world now. George Dufour, Exeter*

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**George Dufour** - October 23, 2019 at 07:28 PM

LM

“ *John loved and respected his comrades in arms and they loved and respected him. That says so much about the man.*  
*Mark Reiner*

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**L. Mark Reiner MD** - October 23, 2019 at 03:53 PM

BH

“ *Thank you sir for all the stories you told our children.*

*May you rest in peace.*

*Many condolences for all friends and family.*

*Bart & Yvonne Habraken*

*(photo taken: September 17, 2012 in Eerde)*



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**Bart & Yvonne Habraken** - October 23, 2019 at 01:22 PM

EA

“ I had the honor of knowing John the past 13 years. He would come to the office every 6 months for a simple ear cleaning. We'd spend 2 minutes taking care of it and and 30 minutes talking. His stories were amazing and told with a true love for those he served with and the people of the countries he fought in. He was a true hero. One of my most prized possessions was a gift from John...a Geronimo challenge coin. Every visit he would challenge me with a coin and if I didn't have my challenge coin to respond I'd owe him a coffee.

One of my favorite days was when he honored me with an invitation to his home. He showed me pictures and shared more stories over the hours we spent together that day!

I will miss him dearly. He was a national treasure!

Eric Anderson

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**Eric Anderson** - October 22, 2019 at 09:13 PM

MS

“ Thank you John for all you gave us.  
Thank you for our freedom.  
Thank you for your courage.  
Thank you for everything.  
We will never forget you!!!



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**Marianne Siebers** - October 22, 2019 at 03:34 PM



“ 98 files added to the album Life Tributes



Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - October 22, 2019 at 02:56 PM



“ Wayne Bradley purchased the Lovely One Spathi phyllum Plant for the family of John C. Primerano, Sr..



Wayne Bradley - October 22, 2019 at 11:38 AM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



J Arnold Yeske - October 21, 2019 at 05:18 PM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of John C. Primerano, Sr..*



October 21, 2019 at 10:40 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of John C. Primerano, Sr..*



October 20, 2019 at 07:15 PM



“ *In 1944 during operation Market Garden you landed nearby this windmill. Since then you returned many, many times to see with your own eyes that it was worth it what you have done for our community. You loved it to return to this area. We loved to listen to your stories and we loved your presence. We can't thank you enough. Now you have made your last jump. May you rest in peace.*



**G. Manders** - October 20, 2019 at 02:50 PM

JL

“ Loved seeing John's devotion to Edna, and enjoyed his stories; I still have his book!

*My condolences to Edna and Elizabeth. ~Jean Leen*

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**Jean Marie Leen** - October 19, 2019 at 11:27 PM

 Jim Huwe

“ I met John when he came to my dad's funeral in 2010. He was sitting in my dad's chair with his 101st hat on. I had to do a double take and say, wait a minute, Dad!? No, not dad, he's here for him. We shook hands and started to carry on as he regaled me with stories of his exploits with dad.

*John and Elroy both served as wiremen in WWII in the 101st Airborne division, 501st parachute infantry, Regimental Headquarters.*

*John met my father in Holland in Sept. 1944 during the Market Garden campaign. Dad had to go back to England after receiving a shrapnel wound a few days later. The wound he received, while with John, got infected a few days later and John looked at dad, who was turning green. John said, you better go see the medics, you look like s###! He razzed dad for getting sent back to England. Dad would simply tell him, "well somebody has to take care of the nurses." LOL!*

*They continued on in Bastogne at the Battle of the Bulge.*

*They rekindled their friendship about 30 years ago.*

*John truly honored our family by traveling out to Wisconsin to attend the funeral. For that, I am eternally grateful. God love him. He was a character and it was nice to stay in touch over the last 10 years.*

*I will miss him greatly. Rest in peace my friend.*

*Jim Huwe*

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**Jim Huwe** - October 19, 2019 at 09:05 AM

MW

“ Without regret I heard the news of John passing away. I remember John as a warm and happy man who came tot visit my classroom every year. And year after year the kids loved his stories, his presents and his presence. He made the war a war of people for kids who only know war from videogames. It was a honor to have know such a great man!

*My condolences to family and friends.*

*Rest in peace.*

*Martijn van de Wetering*



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**Martijn van de Wetering** - October 19, 2019 at 06:36 AM

AL

“ Rest in peace, John.  
The memories of your stories, your humor, your friendship and your hospitality will always be with us.  
We wish both Joan and your family strength.

*Ad & Antoinette*

*Eerde*



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**Ad van de Laar** - October 19, 2019 at 04:17 AM

LH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Luke Havenport** - October 18, 2019 at 01:38 PM

LH

*Veghel, Netherlands 2014*

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**Luke Havenport** - October 18, 2019 at 01:38 PM

LH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Luke Havenport** - October 18, 2019 at 01:30 PM

LH

*Veghel, Netherlands 2014*

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**Luke Havenport** - October 18, 2019 at 01:38 PM

MM

“ *Mr. John was one of the feisty WWII vets on a College of the Ozarks trip to Europe we helped sponsor. We all learned much from him & his stories. We also enjoyed his follow up trips back to C of O with Joan. John was kind, funny, honest, caring & an all around great guy. We salute you one final time Mr. John, rest in peace.*  
*Rex & Marcia Mahlman*



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**Marcia Mahlman** - October 18, 2019 at 11:13 AM

MJ

“ Dearest One-and-a-half, I'll miss you.

*My sister and I got to know John, our #1.5, in September 2004 during the 60th anniversary of Market Garden. We had just met our #vet Elroy in May and we learned about their friendship. Soon enough, we got to know John as the amazing story teller he was, his tales full of humor, emotions and love for the men he fought with and the people he fought for.*

*We offered him the #2 spot on our veterans list, but he wasn't satisfied, claiming the first three syllables of his name suggested he should be number one. But since his last syllable sadly said "no", we met him halfway. #1.5 it was and remained, even after we offered him the #1 spot when Elroy passed.*

*We loved listening to him and loved to watch him interact with people, especially his Airborne buddies and the children. He was a unique character who liked a laugh, but was always very modest about his own role, never considering himself a hero.*

*And yet, to me, that's what he was. So now that he can't protest, I'll say it one more town.*

*Goodbye my hero, my friend, my #1.5.  
Say Hi to mom and Elroy and try to stay out of trouble out there.*

*With love,  
Melanie Janssen.*



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**Melanie Janssen** - October 18, 2019 at 08:09 AM

KG

“ I will never forget the day John called me to ask permission to ask my Mom to marry him.

*I told him I would be proud to have him as my 2nd Dad!*

*Then I asked him what if I said no?*

*He said, "To Hell with you, I would ask her anyway. I was only being polite."*

*My Mom said No, but they went on as if they were married anyway.*

*John,*

*Thank You so much for the Love and Happiness you gave to my Mom,*

*And to all of his family, I am so sorry for your loss, he was such a joy to be around.*

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**Ken Goodall** - October 17, 2019 at 08:12 PM

MJ

*Sorry for your loss Ken. Please give my love and sympathy to your mother.*

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**Melanie Janssen** - October 18, 2019 at 09:09 AM

JG

*Edna ,sorry for your loss. Hope you are well . We miss not hearing from you . Roland and Judy Gosselin*

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**Judy Gosselin** - October 21, 2019 at 03:10 PM

CW

*For ten years, I had the honor of John's visits to my Exeter classes to share his stories and materials from World War II. His visits were a highlight to the year. His warmth and understanding in explaining the horrors of war made huge impressions on my classes. He so enjoyed reading their responses to his visits, and never in ten years was there a single negative comment. Not only did John share his war stores from his incredible photographic memory of the events, but he also told valuable lesson stories of certain circumstances. I loved visiting with him at his home and having him visit my home. He always had a story! One of my last visits with John was when we went to the Wright Museum and gave the museum several of his materials. He was a gem, and he will be missed. Clara Whitney*

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**Clara Whitney** - April 03, 2020 at 09:07 AM