



John F. Sexton

April 8, 1952 - August 8, 2015

Rye - John F. Sexton, 63, of Rye, passed away peacefully at his home on Saturday, August 8, 2015 with his beloved family at his side, after a battle with kidney cancer.

He was born in New Brunswick, NJ on April, 8, 1952, a son of the late Maj. John F. Sexton, of Melrose, MA, and Eleanor (Donahue) Sexton, of Pittsburgh, PA.

John was raised in Rye and graduated from St. Thomas Aquinas High School in 1970. While at STA, he served as captain for both the football and basketball teams, and was selected to play for the New Hampshire Shrine Team in the annual all-star football game. He attended Bridgton Academy prior to accepting a full football scholarship from the University of New Hampshire. He went on to be the captain the 1974 New Hampshire football team, and was often honored as the MVP. While at UNH, he met and married his wife of 41 years, Jacalyn (Shumway) Sexton, of Amherst, MA.

John was both self-employed as a business developer at J.F. Sexton Co., and worked corporately in business development at DeWolfe Co, and later at Russound, headquartered in Newmarket. Always active in his community, John served as the President of Big Brothers Big Sisters and was a lifelong volunteer serving various organizations. He was a member of the Rye

Recreation Commission, and was the Chief Umpire of Rye Little League for over 35 years. He took pride in coaching his daughters youth soccer team for over 10 years. He preached and practiced teamwork over winning, and took a group of unpromising but dedicated players from last place to the New Hampshire State Finals.

Even more than his professional achievements, sports, parenting and mentoring defined him. His boundless enthusiasm for planning off-beat athletic challenges drew family, friends and colleagues to join him in adventures both locally and globally. He reveled in teaching and challenging others to push limits of what each thought they could do. He ran with the bulls in Pamplona, Spain, surfed famous waves throughout the world, skydived in various locations, and participated in multiple marathons, triathlons and most recently, a Tough Mudder. Surfing, a life-long practice, became a passion in John's later years. He could be found surfing regularly at Cable Road Beach, encouraging friends and strangers alike, offering his board and lessons to anyone for the asking.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Jacalyn and his devoted daughter, Jennifer Sexton of Rye; three sisters, Cindy Lewis and husband John, and Eleanor Sexton of Durham, Elaine Sexton of New York City, a brother, William Sexton of Portsmouth, and several nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be from 4 to 7 pm on Tuesday, August 11, 2015 in the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home, 811 Lafayette Rd., Hampton. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 am on Wednesday at the Saint Theresa Parish Church, 815 Central Rd., Rye. Burial will be in the Central Cemetery, Rye. Family and friends are respectfully invited. A Celebration of Life will immediately follow at the Wentworth by the Sea Country Club, 60 Wentworth Rd., Rye. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675 or

online at www.woundedwarriorproject.org or the Massachusetts General Hospital Papillary Renal Cell Cancer Research.

Cemetery Details

Central Cemetery

20 Central Road
Rye, NH

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 11. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *John F. Sexton*

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ *Just read STA's alumni and noted listing of John's passing; I played football at STA with John, and he always encouraged me to never give up, and always push the limits.*

I always applied his advice throughout my personal challenges, and his advice resulted in my having a fulfilled life both personally and professionally.

Thanks for the advice John, and you will always be present in my memories, especially recalling the locker room conversations and advice!

Mark Portyrata

Mark Portyrata - December 31, 2015 at 08:26 PM



“ *My deepest sympathies go to John's family.
He was a wonderful man.*



Robin Baker - August 12, 2015 at 06:29 PM

JT

“ We are so saddened with the news of John's passing. Our hearts go out to you at this time. He certainly left behind many memories with dear family and friends that I know you will cherish forever.

Much love from the entire Tighe Family - Jeannette and Brad, Christopher & Katie & Samantha, Brian & Kristin & Jackson & Norah, Bethany & Tony, and Katelyn

Jeannette Tighe - August 12, 2015 at 09:47 AM

ML

“ Indeed....'John never told us how to live; John lived and let us watch him do it'.....

All our love to a beautiful family,

*Mark and Donata Luz
Rye, NH*



Mark and Donata Luz - August 12, 2015 at 07:11 AM

AL

“ Our thoughts and prayers,are with John and his family,I grew up with the family,with the Philbricks,and Carberry's.John was a good man.We send our condolences to the family,we will miss John.From,Alan Ladrie(Lanny) and Dorothy.




Alan Ladrie - August 11, 2015 at 09:14 PM

AI

“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



Aidan - August 11, 2015 at 03:40 PM

 JoAnn
Hodgdon

“ We will miss John's smiling face...the Mayor of Cable Road Beach.
How lucky are those whose life he touched.

JoAnn & Dave Hodgdon

JoAnn Hodgdon - August 11, 2015 at 01:54 PM

JM

“ Dearest Jackie and Jennifer, and all other family members,

*Being a Rye girl, I knew John like a brother. He was a great man full
of spirit and passion. May your happy memories bring you comfort.*

*Fondly,
Joy MacMillan (Noonis)*

Joy P. MacMillan - August 11, 2015 at 01:00 PM



“ 162 files added to the album LifeTributes



Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - August 11, 2015 at 11:41 AM



“ John was a great pal from the old "Rye kids" days, we surfed every day we could, made our own skim boards and generally had a blast. He was a fun, honorable and steadfast friend. We are better for having known him and sadder for having lost him too soon. Much love to Jackie, Jenny and John's siblings.

Sheila Philp

sheila philp - August 11, 2015 at 11:05 AM



“ I was John's high school coach. I watched him develop his athletic skills on the field behind the school and his character in the school. Every one of his teammates respected him. He was a hugh contributor to the 1967 ,68, and 69 football teams. He played woth some very good players, and was one of them. But in 69 most of the great players had left. I will never forget that night in Portsmouth when he beat them single handedly. And I was so proud when he became captain of UNH, my school where I was also captain. John may God rest your soul

Bob Weeks - August 11, 2015 at 06:52 AM

SB

“ I am truly saddened with the news of John's passing. I had the good fortune and pleasure of coaching John at STA. In all my years in athletics and coaching, there wasn't a finer gentleman than John Sexton. He had it all, ability, good looks, intelligence and a radiating personality. There wasn't a single person who disliked John Sexton. My heartfelt condolences go out to his wife and family. RIP John.

Steve Bamford, Cape Cod, MA.

Steve Bamford - August 10, 2015 at 07:46 PM

MC

RIP John Sexton. My favorite and best high school friend and beach buddy. I will always have the fondest memories and a ton of fun stories that I still tell today from STA, long walks on the beach, eating tuna fish sdws. at Holiday Shores and hanging out in the "hood"! My sincerest condolences and heartfelt sympathies go out to your loving wife, daughter and family. God Bless!

Michele Dupuis Castner
Virginia Beach, VA

Michele Dupuis Castner - August 11, 2015 at 07:42 AM

ML

“ To all the Sexton Family
Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. I have many fond memories of John and myself surfing the waves in Rye.

Mark and Roberta Ladrie.



Mark Ladrie - August 10, 2015 at 06:21 PM

TB

“ *My deepest condolences to Jackie, Jennie, and the Sexton family. John was one of my closest friends back in school. I have very fond memories of those days shared with him. I ran into John from time to time and we'd always share a laugh. I'll miss that. John was truly a special guy. Thoughts and prayers to his family during this sad and difficult time.*

Tom Brown

Tom Brown - August 10, 2015 at 09:51 AM

RF

“ *Richard Scholl for The Scholl Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of John F. Sexton.*



Richard Scholl for The Scholl Family - August 10, 2015 at 08:53 AM

RS

“ *I had the good fortune to work with John, once you work with John you become friends, good friends and friends for life. John will be truly missed by all that had the good fortune to meet John. Generously shared his vast knowledge and experiences helping anyone and everyone he could. A true gentleman with a positive attitude enjoying life to the fullest, kind hearted and gentle. My heart goes out to Jackie, Jenny and the entire Sexton family, hold on to all your awesome memories as you will cherish them for life.*

*Love you John,
Rich Scholl*

Rich Scholl - August 10, 2015 at 08:10 AM

SC

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Steve Comeau - August 10, 2015 at 05:29 AM

TJ

“ *My goodness the Summer Games were Great. Most of us will never forget. Most of us arent recovered yet.*

*They lead to many long term friendship. Thank You.
Tom Jackson*

Tom Jackson - August 09, 2015 at 07:29 PM

 Bridget
Hughes

“ Jackie, Jenny, and the entire Sexton family,

A life well lived goes on forever in the minds and hearts of those we touch. Know that John truly was a phenomenal human being. Those of us fortunate to receive a fantastic smile and hug when we would run into him, knew a man of phenomenal humility. John was a man who knew how to grab for all the gusto of life, and taught us all that there are no limits except those on which we place on ourselves. His adventurous spirit, love of children, boundless energy, but most importantly his love and commitment to you, his family, are examples to all of us on how to truly live a good life. He has touched many hearts. Thank you for sharing him with us, and for allowing him to share his knowledge and love of sports with so many on the seacoast.

As the song goes...our universe will never be the same, so glad you came, so glad you came.

Peace to you, John, teaching the angels how to surf, and umpiring endless games in heaven.

Every rainbow will hold your smile, every wave your laughter, and every heart and mind gratitude.

Until we meet again, may God hold you in the hollow of His hand.

Bridget, Tom and Aaron

Bridget Hughes - August 09, 2015 at 10:49 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John F. Sexton.



August 08, 2015 at 04:15 PM

 Petro
Petro

“ Jackie & Jennie, deepest condolences to you.
Sending you both hugs and thoughts of peace
during this difficult time.
Love,
Petro & Maya



Petro Petro - August 08, 2015 at 03:19 PM

BR

“ Jacky and Jenny, my sincerest condolences. John was a great man
who gave so much to the girls and boys of Rye, the people of Rye
and the youth of the seacoast for so many years. He will be sadly
missed by so many, but he taught and influenced such a vast
amount of young people, he will long be remembered.
May God bless you all in this trying time, and have faith knowing
that he lived an honorable life. He unselfishly dedicated his life to
the most Noble of causes, our children. God bless you John.

Bill Roach
Rye

Bill Roach - August 08, 2015 at 02:51 PM

ML

My captain in sports; my friend of 44 years in life. You will be missed.
Michael Lanza and family

michael lanza - August 12, 2015 at 06:42 AM

ET

My heart goes out to the Sexton family. John was a high school friend
and, even at a young age, was a prince of a guy. He had a great sense
of humor and character to match. What a loss.

Ellie Trueman - August 12, 2015 at 03:09 PM

JB

Jackie, Jennie and the Sexton family,

Our sincere condolences to you all. We fondly remember the many childhood memories and great life experiences over the years. He was a special person who touched many. We may have lost John prematurely, but we will always cherish our memories with him in our heart.

Jack and Pam Blalock

Jack and pam Blalock - August 19, 2015 at 05:02 PM