



## John David Zwerner

January 19, 1964 - June 13, 2020

John D. Zwerner of West Point, Virginia, died unexpectedly at his home on Saturday, June 13, 2020, at the age of 56. He was a Newport News firefighter and paramedic serving on the HAZMAT Team.

Parents, David and Marjorie Zwerner, and twin brother, Stephen E. Zwerner, preceded him in death. John is survived by numerous family members including his wife, Julie Zwerner, and his three children Daniel Zwerner, Abigail Zwerner, and Hannah Zwerner; his brother Thomas L. Zwerner (Joan); cousins Susan Morgan (Troy), Phyllis Fenno, Debbie Bowman, Charles Fenno (Mary); in-laws Sidney Dugas (Ann), Rob Dugas (Lesa), Susan Haselwood (Jimmie), Karen Pierce, Amy Brown (Eric); nephews and nieces Jami Morris, Bonni Hess, Lauryn Bissell, Josh White, Nick White, Kristen Belleville, Chris Dugas, Rachel Pearson, Nathan Talbert, Kenneth Pierce, Stephen Pierce, Hunter Zwerner, Arden Brown, and Benjamin Brown.

John was a graduate of Gloucester High School and Virginia Wesleyan University. He spent 20 years as a recreational therapist, working at Charter Colonial Institute, Bayside of Poquoson, Culpeper Regional Hospital, and UVA Medical Center. In 2006, John began his second career with the Newport News Fire Department.

John was a devoted husband and father who always put his family's needs

before his own. He never took life too seriously, and always knew how to make everyone laugh. Words cannot describe how impactful this loss is to the family, friends, and community he left behind. He leaves behind a legacy of selflessness, generosity, and unconditional love.

A service of remembrance will be held on Friday, June 19 at Whitcomb Lodge at Beaver Dam Park in Gloucester at 11:00 a.m. The family asks that attendees will responsibly wear masks and follow social distancing guidelines. Inurnment will be private. In lieu of flowers and in memory of John, memorial contributions may be made to Shenandoah National Park or West Point Volunteer Fire and Rescue. The family thanks West Point Town Police, West Point Rescue Squad, and Vincent Funeral Home for their compassionate service. The family also asks that you remember to hold your loved ones close each and every day.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JUN **19**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Whitcomb Lodge at Beaver Dam Park  
8687 Roaring Springs Road  
Gloucester, VA 23061

# Tribute Wall

JG

“ Tom, Joan and family, I'm so very sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers go out to you and John's family.

*Jim Garrett*

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**Jim Garrett** - June 19, 2020 at 04:56 PM

SW

“ I was on a different shift than John but he was always pleasant and joyful. He shall be missed. Rest in Peace John.

*Sheila Wanner NNFDRetired*

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**sheila wanner** - June 19, 2020 at 02:23 PM

AD

“ My condolences go out to the family.

*Audrey Dugas*



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**Audrey Dugas** - June 18, 2020 at 12:28 PM

TG

“ Tina Gulley lit a candle in memory of John David Zwerner



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**Tina Gulley** - June 17, 2020 at 08:39 AM

BS

“ *Betty Sears lit a candle in memory of John David Zwerner*



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**Betty Sears** - June 16, 2020 at 10:43 PM

AW

“ *Avie Gerald Williams lit a candle in memory of John David Zwerner*



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**Avie Gerald Williams** - June 16, 2020 at 08:26 PM



“ *We are all sad for the loss of John. He always had a smile and friendly word when seeing him weekly in the Y. He was an inspiration. May God bring you through this tough time and fill your family with wonderful memories. Good bless!*

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**Renaye Dillon** - June 16, 2020 at 07:09 PM

ML

“ *John always had a way to bring a huge smile into the room and brighten the mood with his quick wit and relaxed personality. I will always remember him with fondness and will remember how deeply he loved his family and communities. There are no words to truly explain how deeply heartbroken I am for you Julie and for Daniel, Hannah and Abby. - Melissa Liberatore*

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**Melissa Liberatore** - June 16, 2020 at 03:59 PM

BG

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time. I am glad that I got to know him while in school together.*

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**Brenda Grizzard** - June 16, 2020 at 03:36 PM

BG

“ *John was an amazing man and brother. I'm honored to have known and worked with him at NNFD station 6/A.*



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**Bob Griffith** - June 16, 2020 at 01:53 PM

KK

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**Kip Keziah** - June 16, 2020 at 01:45 PM

RB

“ *My deepest sympathies are with you. I will keep your family in my thoughts and prayers.*

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**Rebekah Bland** - June 16, 2020 at 01:39 PM

 Laura  
Norris

“ *Julie & Family,  
I am so sorry to have learned about your loss. Wishing you peace  
and comfort during this hard time. You are in my thoughts and  
prayers.*  
*Laura Norris*

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**Laura Norris** - June 16, 2020 at 12:22 PM

HL

“ *Our prayers are with you and your entire family, Julie. We love you.*

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**Holly Lohr** - June 16, 2020 at 12:15 PM

SR

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the Zwerner family. I have fond  
memories of John as a very young boy, living in Gloucester with his  
twin brother and older brother, Tommy. May your family find comfort  
and strength in each other in the days ahead and may peace be  
found in the memories you hold in your heart. God bless you.*  
*Sandy Brown Robins*

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**Sandy Robins** - June 16, 2020 at 12:15 PM

RM

“ *Julie, Daniel, Abby, and Hannah, may your memories of John and  
the love of family and friends carry you through these difficult days.  
May you find strength and peace. You are in our thoughts and  
prayers.*  
*Ron and Fran Metzger*

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**Ron Metzger** - June 16, 2020 at 12:14 PM

SK

“ *May your wonderful family have strength, courage and peace as you face the days ahead. Our deepest sympathy and prayers are with each of you.*

*Sue and Robert Kurfees*

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**Sue Kurfees** - June 16, 2020 at 10:42 AM

SJ

“ *Our families have known each other since 1972. Many trials and tribulations throughout the years. John will be remembered as the loving man he was. Our hearts are broken by his loss. Much love to Julie, Daniel, Hannah and Abby. Sandra, Kent and Amanda Jarvis*

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**sandra jarvis** - June 16, 2020 at 10:15 AM