



John S. Rapole

November 7, 1954 - March 8, 2026

Port Jervis, NY - John Stephen Rapole, age 71 passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 8, 2026 at Bon Secours Community Hospital after a long illness. John was born in Sussex, New Jersey to the late Joseph Thomas Rapole and Virginia (Brown) Rapole on November 7, 1954. John grew up in Franklin, where he attended school and graduated from High Point Regional High School in Wantage. John was loved by many and proudly played goalie on the soccer team; where he guarded the goal with dedication and heart. He certainly played hard while loving every moment of it. After graduating High Point, John attended Susquehanna University, where he studied Chemistry and worked for Tarkett, Diversified Chemicals and then Propellants Co. as a Chemist. During his adult life, John resided in Franklin and Sussex, New Jersey and Greenville and Port Jervis, New York before moving to Matamoras, Pennsylvania. He was a true animal lover and he enjoyed their companionship. His dog Rocky, and later Polar "Bear" brought him great joy. John spent many days with his side kick, "Bear" at the local dog park in Wantage while meeting old friends and making new ones. The dog park was one of his favorite places to be and many of the park's regulars referred to him as the "Mayor of Wantage." John enjoyed collecting antiques, coins, Hess Trucks, and rare treasures, many of which he carefully saved to pass down to his children and grandchildren. He loved to laugh and joke, often sharing stories that brought smiles to those around him, and he maintained many friendships from different chapters of his life.

Besides his parents, John was predeceased by his sister, Nancy Sliker and her husband Thomas Sliker; his grandparents; several nieces and nephews; cousins; and close friends. John was so proud of his sons and daughters-in-law; Joseph John (Rachelle) Rapole of Manchester, CT and Stephen Adam (Rochelle) Rapole of Springfield, MO. He was also very fond of his cherished grandchildren; Colyn (Desario) Rapole, Aiden, Kai, Xavier and Charlie Mae Marie Rapole. He is also survived by his two nieces, Corinne Reppenhagen of Monroe, CT and Rachel (Jason) Cerbone of Canton, CT and his nephew, Thomas (TJ) Sliker of Monroe, CT; his great nieces, Riley and Raegan Reppenhagen of Monroe, CT; and his great-nephew Jason "Jase" Cerbone of Canton, CT. John was anxiously waiting to meet his twin grandson and granddaughter within the next month.

Friends may pay their respects to the family on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m at the Pinkel Funeral Home, 31 Bank Street (Route 23), Sussex. Memorial services will immediately follow at 3:30 p.m. at the funeral home. Online condolences may be offered to the family on www.pinkelfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Private Cremation Services

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 17. 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM (ET)

Pinkel Funeral Home, Inc.
31 Bank Street (Route 23)
Sussex, NJ 07461
(973) 875-3272
alexis@pinkelfuneralhome.com
<https://www.pinkelfuneralhome.com/>

Service

MAR 17. 3:30 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall

FZ

“ I am sorry to see that John is no longer with us. He was a kind man, held the door for me in our apartment building with a smile. He and my son chatted a few times. Always a gentleman. Sad he is not with us but glad he is no longer in pain. Rest in Peace, John.

Florence Zeim - March 17 at 10:30 PM

EK

“ John will be missed by the whole family, especially my Labrador, Noche. John took us under his wing from the first time we visited the park. Noche still dreams of his chicken and sweet potatoes treats. I know, wherever he is, Bear is by his side. All our love, Ellen (& Noche)

Ellen Kessler - March 17 at 01:24 PM

HN

“ John drove my brother and I to highpoint one day, we hit a car coming head on at 50+ mph my brother hurt his back, John got his teeth knocked back in his upper jaw from the steering wheel, I gave him my shirt to stop the bleeding, by God's grace we survived, both cars were totaled, I went back to the neighbor who wouldn't let us use his phone and tore his mailbox out! That's my confession, John was a great friend sorry for the loss

Harley navis - March 16 at 10:17 PM

NB

“ John has lived in the same apartment building as I live in and we became great friends with so many people that I grew up with and talked about them always. Many turned out to be family members of me. He was amazing especially to all the dogs including my Hemi by giving healthy treats such as homemade dehydrated chicken breast and trust me when my Hemi seen hie she just wanted to go to him . I watched him suffer in pain and loneliness every day but was so proud of his family and friends. Debbie and Tom were always in our conversations. I will forever miss and be grateful to him . May he rest in peace with no more pain. May God Bless Your Soul John 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏❤️❤️❤️🥺

Nancy Brown - March 16 at 07:37 PM

BG

“ Bob and JoAnn Grzesik planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John S. Rapole.

Bob and JoAnn Grzesik - March 16 at 07:29 PM

BG

“ Bob and JoAnn Grzesik purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of John S. Rapole.



Bob and JoAnn Grzesik - March 16 at 07:29 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of John S. Rapole.* ”



March 16 at 05:38 PM