



## John Vincent Williford

January 17, 1953 - July 18, 2019

John Vincent Williford age 66, born January 17, 1953 in Detroit Michigan, passed on July 18, 2019 in Detroit Michigan.

John is survived by his loving wife of 35 years Loris Gingras and loving siblings Paul (Linda Rodrick) Williford, Kathy (Dan) Dankert, Patrick (Noreen) Williford, Marie (Eddie) Parks, Mary Ann (Doug) Trelfa, Judy Williford, Stepson Brian (Deb) Beger, Grandchildren Alexandra and Amanda and many loving nieces, nephews, god-children, cousins, sisters-in-laws and brothers-in-laws.

He worked at Merchants Forwarding for over 25 years. He was a proud member of Teamsters Local 299 and Union Steward for over 20 years.

He loved Rock and Roll music and all sports. John will always be remembered for his infectious smile, his ability to make everyone feel comfortable, and his big heart.

John was preceded in death by his parents Ralph Williford and Ann Marie Williford nee Murphy.

# Cemetery Details

## Cremation

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 23. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home, Shelby Township  
49150 Schoenherr Rd.  
Shelby Township, MI 48315  
(586) 532-8600  
shelby@wasikfuneralhome.com

## Rosary

JUL 23. 7:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home, Shelby Township  
49150 Schoenherr Rd.  
Shelby Township, MI 48315  
(586) 532-8600  
shelby@wasikfuneralhome.com

## Instate at Church

JUL 24. 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM (ET)

St. Michael Catholic Community  
40501 Hayes  
Sterling Heights, MI

## Funeral Mass

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JUL **24.** 9:30 AM (ET)

St. Michael Catholic Community  
40501 Hayes  
Sterling Heights, MI

# Tribute Wall

CC

“ 3 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Christina Caponi - July 23, 2019 at 03:36 PM

CC

*John was a very close friend of my parents and our family. Many of my childhood memories involve him and his large group of friends. He was always super kind, extremely funny, and an overall loveable guy. I learned many valuable lessons from John, but most importantly, not to try to leap over bon fires at Houghton Lake! John, thank you for being a part of our lives, and for helping to show us how friendships can truly last a lifetime. You will be missed!*

Christina Caponi - July 23, 2019 at 03:40 PM

BM

“ *I worked with Johnny for many years, first at Wolverine Expediting and later at Merchants Forwarding. He was a good Union Steward, always looked out for the rest of us. He was a kind man, and could be very funny. I guess I can't say we were really close friends, but I always respected John and always knew I could count on him if I got jammed up at work. I didn't know he was sick, and it came as quite a shock to hear he passed away. I wish we could have one more conversation so I could tell him what I just told you. He will be missed by many who knew him, that much I know. Rest in peace my friend. -Bill Miller*

Bill Miller - July 22, 2019 at 05:46 PM

JW

*Thank you for your kind words.*

**Judith Williford** - July 22, 2019 at 10:14 PM



*John loved being a union steward. When it first came up he wasn't sure if he wanted to be the steward being a good wife I encouraged him and told him it's something you should do you would be great at it and he was thank you very much for your kind words.*

*Loris*

**Loris Gingras** - July 25, 2019 at 12:13 AM



“ 84 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Wasik Funeral Home, Inc.** - July 22, 2019 at 02:09 PM

JE

*I came to know John in the early 70's by way of my friend, Margaret Papa. John was a good friend of her older brother, Greg. He was pretty much a fixture at the Papa household which was similar to the Williford household - both had families which comprised of 7 kids so they were both gathering places. I later got to know John better because of my friendship with his youngest sister Judy. In all of those years John always had a perpetual smile on his face and was always super nice to everyone. Everyone. I never saw him angry and as others have stated before, always positive and welcoming, never belittling any with an unkind word or insult. It was an honor to have known such a man. He will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved him. Rest In Peace with our Heavenly Father John-Boy. 🙏🙌💖 Jan Matthews Emerson (Mathias 😭)*

jan emerson - July 22, 2019 at 04:44 PM

JW

*Mathias. He used to call you that. So funny, Jan.*

Judith Williford - July 22, 2019 at 10:20 PM

LD

“*John was a friend of mine. He was a friend to many. I grew up with John along with a group of many friends from the neighborhood. Among that group John along with Bob Hunter stood out. I would look to them for cues. They were both special, they had charisma. It is hard to believe that those guys have gone. It is unacceptable yet we must accept it. John always believed in the best part of people. He never spoke poorly about others. He was an eternal optimist, with John the glass was always half-full. His laid back, positive demeanor would draw you in. I always looked forward to spending time with him because he would make you feel good about yourself and about the world in general. John was one of those people that if you needed anything he would answer the call. He will be sorely missed by all of his friends and by his big beautiful family but his spirit will live on in our hearts and minds.*”

Larry DeCarolis - July 22, 2019 at 08:55 AM



*Larry John cared about you a lot. And you were there when he needed help and he greatly appreciated everything you did.*

*Loris*

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**Loris Gingras** - July 25, 2019 at 12:15 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Vincent Williford.*



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July 21, 2019 at 12:24 PM



“ *We were friends in childhood from the old zip code 48205 Goulburn days. In recent years we'd been Facebook friends and we both had the same birthday, but two years apart. Rest in peace old friend*

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**Bob Lessnau** - July 21, 2019 at 09:01 AM

DS

“ I guess I knew John as well as most folks. We met at the age of 10 and for the next 15 years we were a constant. I can't say I was his best friend. He had many best friends. And he didn't know and befriend dozens but hundreds. But I, I like to think I was part of the family. His brother. Lord knows I spent enough time at his house. The girls treated me as family as well. We were drawn to John. He had an irresistible personality. Always happy, never down.

You ask for memories? But how can I convey memories when every day with John was a memory. An experience. It would take volumes to post all the great times we all had together. It was magical.

As the years passed we went our separate ways. I now lament the fact I did not keep in touch with John as much as I should have.

About a year and a half ago we did reunite a few times since. He was ill. He told me he was attending Sunday mass.

On his Birthday last, I gave John an old Cross and chain I wore as a boy. He asked me to put it over his head as he had trouble doing so. I did.

John was loved by many. And lives still in the hearts of those who were close to him.

And as I put these words to text, I know John sits in the Kingdom of Heaven. Still happy as always.

Don Swisher

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Don Swisher - July 20, 2019 at 03:41 PM

JW

Thank you so much Don, for these beautiful and heartfelt words. We have all missed you through the years. God bless you! Judy

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Judy Williford - July 21, 2019 at 12:11 AM

JW

*By the way Don, he showed me the cross you have him. He showed it proudly. He loved you. And we did too.*

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**Judy Williford** - July 21, 2019 at 06:21 PM

BS

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



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**Bob Slumkoski** - July 20, 2019 at 07:49 AM