



John William O'Brien

MAY 14, 1944 - DEC 23, 2015



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John William O'Brien

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John William O'Brien, Jr. May 14, 1944 – December 23, 2015 John William O'Brien, Jr. passed away peacefully on December 23, 2015 surrounded by his family. John was born on May 14, 1944 in Rockville Centre, New York, the only son of John and Grace O'Brien. He moved to Fort Myers, Florida in 1972. John proudly served in the U.S. Army. While on tour in Vietnam he received the Bronze Star. He joined the City of Fort Myers Police Department in 1972. Captain O'Brien retired in 2002 after 30 years of service. Upon retirement John pursued his love of sports as the Physical Education teaching assistant, Athletic Director and Basketball coach at Fort Myers Christian School. John is survived by his loving family, wife of 47 years, Marilyn and his daughter Christine Marie. He is also survived by his sisters Jane Gil de Leon (Bill), Laurie Albright, 7 nieces and nephews, 9 great nieces and nephews and 1 great great nephew. John was a man of few words but lived his life as an example for others to follow. He was faithful to God and his church, totally dedicated to his wife and daughter and a mentor to so many young boys and girls as he not only coached them in athletic skills, but taught them how to live with Godly attitudes and behaviors. His legacy lives on in them. Visitation will be held on Monday, January 4, 2016 at Memorial Gardens Funeral Home, 1589 Colonial Blvd, Fort Myers from 5:00pm-8:00pm. Funeral Service will be held on Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at 11:00am at First Assembly of God, 4701 Summerlin Road, Fort Myers. In lieu of flowers the family has requested that John's memory is honored by memorial donations to the Golisano Children's Hospital, Attn.: Foundation, P.O. Box 2218, Fort Myers, FL 33902



Tribute Wall

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WH

Warner M. Houth posted:

I knew John as both as teacher and coach at Walt Whitman High School in Huntington Station, New York. John was a solid student of mathematics and he was the finest high school athlete I have ever been associated with during my many years in education. As a senior, John was all-league in three sports—football (QB), baseball (shortstop) and basketball (point guard). I believe that in John's senior year WWHS won the championship in the top Suffolk Country (NY) league. He was the brains behind every championship. In basketball, two of the starters went on to play Division One. I loved John as a student of mathematics. He would keep plugging until he got it right. His smile would light up a classroom, but on the court or field, he wore his "game face" and led by example and effort. Yesterday I spoke to one of his football coaches, Merle Stilwell, and he said that with John at the helm, WWHS was never out of a game. I'm certain his baseball coach, the late Ralph Lewis, and his basketball coach, the late Frank Gugliotta, would echo those sentiments. I often made efforts to get John interested in taking his skills to the next level, but he seemed to be happy to find a job in the Huntington area and play on local teams. In fact, John and I ended up playing softball and basketball on the same team. There was ten years difference in our age, but he said that the was "carrying me". Seeing that he did some coaching in the Fort Myers area pleased me, as I know he had a great deal to offer young athletes. My condolences go out to John and his family. We all lost a terrific person.

January 4 at 9:54 AM

JW

Jo Weber posted:

John was such an incredible man and such a great mentor to Joseph in his time of need. He will be truly missed here on earth but what a blessing to know that he is with the Lord. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and yours during this time. We are so sorry for your loss. Peace be with you. Much love, Jo and Cassandra Carefoot Weber

January 4 at 8:51 AM

CS

Christine Swiersz posted:

Coach O'Brien, You have always been and will always be a role model to our children. Through the many years you have taught them to love playing sports and to believe in their abilities. You have always been a witness of a Love for God, respect for others, and for doing their very best whether in a sport or in life. Your family's love for one another has been and will always be an example for each family who love you, Marilyn and Christine. The Swiersz Family

December 30 at 12:28 PM



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LO

Lourdes posted:

It is an honor to know this wonderful family for so many years. John O'Brien impacted so many lives and must to my nephew Ralph Sprandel, my niece Ashley, personally our own lives as well, Annika will miss you so much and we will keep all the wonderful memories in our hearts! Thank you Mr. O'Brien for all that you did for this country and specially to our town when you were with the Fort Myers Police Department. Joshua and all of the officers will always remember "You" as a Role Model. You left a Legacy in the FMPD and in FMCS as well as in my own personal life! Thank you in so many ways. You are our Angel and we love you so much! Joshua, Lourdes and Annika

December 30 at 9:29 AM

TS

Tom Sinex posted:

I will never forget the league championship game for Coach O'Brien and his basketball team in 2007. As the boys capped off an undefeated season and the championship, Coach walked straight across the floor for a hug and kiss for his number one fan, Marilyn. We were all so happy for both of them because the O'Briens did basketball as a family, including Christine! Thank you, Coach O'Brien, and your family for all you have done for the basketball program at FMCS, and for me personally, and my family. Tom Sinex

December 29 at 7:51 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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