



# John Edward Roman

JUL 1, 1947 - MAY 8, 2023



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## John Roman, Grateful for it all

I John E. Roman Lewes, Delaware, peacefully succumbed to pancreatic cancer on May 8th, 2023. I was 75.

Born in Westfield, Massachusetts, Lieutenant Colonel Edward J. Rumanowski, and Sophie (Maziarz) Rumanowski, were my mother and father. We blossomed into a family of five, including my sisters Kathleen Loomis Babinski of Westfield, and Karen Cox of York, Maine.

I was privileged to enjoy six years of higher education, four at St. Anselm College, Manchester, New Hampshire, and two at The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC. In 1970, the Draft summoned. I experienced an enlightening and maturing tenure, compliments of the US Army, in West Germany, working as a Congressional Correspondent for an Administration Company. Service completed, I relocated from Massachusetts to Baltimore.

The next thirty years were spent in marketing, writing, public relations, and event management for a roster of corporate and non-profit accounts in the Baltimore/Washington metro area. Highlights included working on the 1996 Olympic Torch Relay in Maryland, assisting the City of Baltimore with its Artscape and Fells Point Festivals, working with Anne Arundel Medical Center's public relations arm in launching several components of its (then) new Route 50 Campus, and cooperating with The Johns Hopkins Oncology Center's Department of Patient and Family Services on its "Designer New Look Project." (Phew!) I enjoyed the scope, diversity, and challenges of those endeavors until opting for an early retirement and moving to Lewes, Delaware, in 1999. There, my partner/husband of 44-years, Bill McGee, and I, launched Circa Home in the Hotel Rodney on Second Street. The store would remain a retail presence in the downtown community for nearly thirteen years.



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Linked to our retirement gig as local shopkeepers, were happy stints as volunteers for the Historic Lewes Farmers Market (HLFM), and the Beebe Medical Foundation. Our assignment at the HLFM earned us the affectionate moniker of The Coffee Guys, a distinction we proudly embraced and enjoyed. Bill pre-deceased me on Thanksgiving Day, November 2021.

I am happy to record that my life played out most satisfyingly with zero regrets and zero "to do's" left on my bucket list. Foremost, thanks to Bill McGee for finding me and dubbing me "a life keeper." We were privy to over four decades of amazing experiences and global adventures, including a dazzling 3-point-something hour flight on the Concorde, New York to London. Bill, a nationally acclaimed interior designer, created extraordinary living environments for us during our tenures in Baltimore, Ruxton, Bethany Beach, and Lewes. All received either regional or national recognition in print publications.

My family in Massachusetts and Maine kept me grounded, always eager to participate in reunions and our many family traditions. Now into a fifth generation begot of Eastern European immigrants, we remain solidly cemented. Thank you to my nieces Natalie, Rebecca and Andrea, and nephew Nathan, for welcoming me into your lives, careers and families so enthusiastically and unconditionally; to brothers-in-law David and Billy, and to Jeff, Daryl, and Dimitar for accepting membership into our family with such generosity of spirit and kindness; to first cousins, especially Adele, Gene and Lauretta for the gifts of laughter and life-long friendships; and, to the remarkable and wonderful McGee clan in Indiana, Illinois, Louisiana, Colorado, and Florida - Janice, Nancy, Cindy, Shirley, Shelley and families. Most importantly, to my sisters Kathy and Karen for their unflinching love, devotion and caring during the decades of good times; and, more recently, during many a challenging moment and bumpy ride. Dziekuje!

My life was immeasurably enriched by a small army of friends, acquaintances, neighbors and working associates. I have always believed that we are no more or less than products of our environment, our experiences, and our particular toss of the dice. Thank you all for welcoming me into your lives with such grace, generosity, wisdom, kindness, willingness to share, and love. May you continue to live, laugh, love, prosper, and carry-on, splendidly. I am truly grateful to you and for it all.

Should you wish, please consider a contribution, in my memory, to: The Historic Lewes Farmers Market, P.O. Box 185, Nassau, DE 19969; Delaware Hospice, 100 Patriots Way, Milford, DE 19963; or, Beebe Medical Foundation, 902 Savannah Road, Lewes, DE 19958.



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Services are private.

Please sign the virtual guestbook located on the tribute page.



## Tribute Wall

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DB

**Dawn Ketterman-Benner** posted:

John and Bill will be forever remembered for their graciousness, kindness, intelligence, and their love for everything beautiful and magnificent ❤️

May 13 at 5:55 PM



**Chris Beakey** posted:

We love you very much, and will miss you. Thank you for all of your kindness and for the amazing stories you've written and told. This is tearing us up but we know you're at peace and grateful for your beautiful life. Chris and Michael.

May 13 at 11:18 AM

RK

**Rick And Jakub Konysz** posted:

John and Bill kindly welcomed us to Lewes and we became fast friends. We will forever remember them both and the role models they served for us. Rest in peace, friends.

May 13 at 6:19 AM

JH

**Jane Cox Heebner** posted:

For 10 years the annual Croquet Party held on the Shipcarpenter Square common on Memorial Day weekend, was graced by two most dapper gentlemen dressed in white linen and Panama hats. John Roman and Bill McGee set the bar pretty high for the proper gentlemen's croquet attire.

May 10 at 9:31 AM

LB

**Liz Boucher** May 10 at 12:49 PM

Darling John was my "first love" when I was 14(!!) and has been a dear dear friend throughout his life. When he introduced us to MCGee, we fell in love with Bill as well. I will never forget both of these wonderful wonderful men and I'm honored to call them and Kathy n Kate my extended family. I do hope that when we've been told in religious classes that we'll see our list loved ones once again that John n Bill will be together again for eternity



# Memories only last if you share them

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



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