



John T. Walsh "Jate"

AUG 10, 1949 - DEC 24, 2025



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 4



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John Toner "Jate" Walsh, 76, of Milton, Delaware, passed away at home on December 24, 2025. Born on August 10, 1949, in Lewes, Delaware, Jate was the son of William E. Walsh Jr. and Florence T. Walsh. A lifelong Sussex County resident, Jate graduated from Lewes High School before going on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Delaware in 1976. His love for history, community, and the Delaware coast shaped a lifetime of service and connection.

Jate entered the U.S. Army in 1973 as a second lieutenant, serving for two years as an Air Defense Artillery officer. He later transferred to the U.S. Army Reserves, where he served honorably until 1986 and was discharged with the rank of Captain. A dedicated educator, Jate spent 33 years teaching social studies at Milton Junior High School and Cape Henlopen High School, retiring in 2011. His passion for history extended far beyond the classroom, as he delighted in sharing stories, insights, and artifacts with students, friends, and anyone willing to listen.

Jate was also deeply connected to the Delaware shoreline. He served as a Rehoboth Beach Patrol lifeguard for 28 years, including 13 years as Captain, earning the respect of generations of guards and beachgoers alike. A lover of music, Jate sang and played guitar at Jerry's Seafood/Oyster House in the historic Walsh building, bringing people together through song and fellowship. He will be remembered as a genuine, kind man who loved people and cherished the community.

Jate was predeceased by his parents, William E. Walsh Jr. and Florence T. Walsh, and his brother, William E. Walsh III.

Funeral arrangements are pending and will be announced at a later date.

Please sign Jate's Tribute wall at this site.



Tribute Wall

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CB

Cherry Barranco lit a candle in honor of John.



January 30 at 9:12 AM

CB

Cherry Barranco posted:

Jate was a very private person, but always had a smile. He ran the RBP with respect and honor. He is now with Tommy Coveleski in heaven trading lifeguard stories. God be with you Jate.

January 30 at 9:12 AM

G

Gary Nennstiehl posted:

As a fellow RBP lifeguard from 1969 - 1974, I spent many hours on the stand with Jate. He was always vigilant as a guard, and also an interesting stand partner. With all of his stories, there was never a dull moment. I enjoyed occasionally running into Jate at the Lewes Oyster House, which is located in the Walsh Building, so Jate was a natural guest there. Gary Nennstiehl

January 21 at 1:06 PM

CS

Charlene Sasso posted:

Jate and I met at happy hour in Gilligans and immediately became friends. He was a true Lewes local. He had interests in so many subjects that he could always generate a good conversation. I learned later about his interest in music and was delighted with his guitar music and vocals. He had a vast knowledge of history, in particular the Civil War. He enjoyed gemstones and we often compared notes on our findings! A true gentleman who is greatly missed in Lewes!

January 18 at 6:09 PM

S

Scot Dapp posted:

As an alum of the Rehoboth Beach Patrol, I feel there is always a bond among fellow lifeguards. Jate was a very proud member of the RBP and he was honored to serve as its Captain. I don't remember Jate ever having anything negative to say about anyone. RIP Jate Scot Dapp

January 15 at 4:14 PM



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Turbo Dave lit a candle in honor of John.

I WAS SHOCKED TO HEAR OF JATE'S PASSING, HE AND I BECAME FRIENDS IN THE '1980'S WHEN HE WAS CAPITAN OF THE REHOBOTH BEACH, PATROL, JATE AND I WOULD WALK THE BOARDWALK TOGETHER AND TALK ABOUT ALL KIND OF SUBJECT'S BUT MOSTLY GIRLS!! I WILL MISS HIM DEARLY AS WE WERE BORN THE SAME YEAR ,1949, GOD SPEED MR. JOHN T WALSH !!



January 15 at 10:13 AM



Deborah Sharp posted:

Mr.Walsh was my favorite history teacher and a great mentor in teaching. I was his baseball mgr. As I enjoyed being around him as well as had much respect. He was a great teacher, friend, lifeguard and person. RIP Sir. You will be missed.

January 15 at 8:36 AM



Heather Foley posted:

Jate a wonderful man and a great influence and friend to my entire family. He was a wealth of knowledge. Whether it was American history or the history of our little town, he had so many fascinating stories. We will miss him very much and are so grateful that we got the time with him that we did.

January 14 at 4:25 PM



Ray Quillen posted:

Jate and I lifeguarded together at CHSP before he went to Rehoboth to guard. We graduated together at LHS in 67 and then roomed together at Wesley College before he went on to UD. He was in the All State Band in high school and played in several bands over the years. He was liked by everyone and will be missed.

January 14 at 1:26 PM



William Walls posted:

Jate and I were hall neighbors at Cape Henlopen High School for many years. The stories and memories are too numerous to mention. Just let it be said Jate was a beloved teacher and colleague who will be dearly missed.

January 14 at 12:58 PM



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Angela M Waple posted:

Jate was a great man that molded many young men's lives with the RBP!A coin collector and a man with many stories of Sussex County! Fair seas and chill waves! Rest easy our friend Jamie and Angela W.

January 14 at 12:52 PM



Joy Ruffing lit a candle in honor of John.

We met Jate years ago at Kindle. We enjoyed hearing his stories and appreciated his kindness. It isn't the same without him. He will truly be missed by many.

January 14 at 12:40 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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