



John Stephen Sarik

JUN 22, 1942 - FEB 28, 2026



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John Stephen Sarik

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John Stephen Sarik of Lewes, Delaware, passed away peacefully on February 28, 2026. He was born on June 22, 1942, in Palmerton, Pennsylvania son of the late Michael and Catherine Frank Sarik.

John developed a strong work ethic at an early age by starting at the age of 14, working a medley of after-school and summer jobs, saving diligently to attend college. That determination defined his life from that point on, leading to his graduation from East Stroudsburg University with a double major in mathematics and physics. While at school he was a proud member of Phi Sigma Kappa, a fraternity that he helped to establish at the university. He and his fellow fraternity brothers secured the Phi Sigma Kappa house on Analomink Street, and John took on the responsibility of managing dues to cover mortgage, utilities, and maintenance. During college, he also worked thirty hours a week at the local A&P store.

After graduation, John moved to Delaware to begin his teaching career and where he married Donna Jean Bryan and they had two children, Jonathan and Jennifer. His marriage to Donna ended in divorce.

John dedicated 32 years to teaching in the Cape Henlopen and Indian River School Districts, followed by 20 years at Delaware Technical Community College. Beyond the classroom, he was a passionate and active coach in football, baseball, basketball, track and field, and target shooting, mentoring both boys' and girls' teams. He took great pride in watching his students grow into successful adults.

Equally devoted to his community, John was a lifelong volunteer and leader. He was a member of The Lions Club for 41 years, served 25 years with the Blue-Gold All Star Committee, 30 years with Explorer Scouts, and supported the Delaware Special Olympics. He was a past Commodore of the Lewes Yacht Club and member of its Board of Directors. Many will fondly remember him for organizing and overseeing the annual Lasagna Dinner for 41 years.



Obituary

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A man of deep faith, John was an active member of St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church and served for seven years as the representative to the Most Blessed Sacrament School Board in Berlin, Maryland.

John is survived by his son, Dr. Jonathan Sarik (Danielle) of Milton; his granddaughter, Elise Sarik; his daughter, Jennifer Hubbard (Clark) of Dunedin, Florida; his siblings, Michael A. Sarik of Palmerton, Pennsylvania; Stephanie Hoppas of Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania; Annette Dotter of Palmerton, Pennsylvania; Marie Hollywood of Lehighton, Pennsylvania; and his companion and dear friend, Frances Payne of Pots Net, Delaware.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 11, at St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church, 152 Tulip Drive, Lewes, Delaware, where a viewing for family and friends will begin at 10 AM at the church. A graveside service will follow the next day at 10:00 a.m. at St. Vladimir's Lower Cemetery, 2599 Fireline Road, Palmerton, Pennsylvania 18071.

John will be remembered for his unwavering dedication to education, his steadfast service to his community, and the generosity of spirit that touched countless lives.

Please sign the tribute wall at this site.

FLORIST NOTE - PLEASE DELIVER ALL ARRANGEMENTS TO OUR LEWES LOCATION ON TUESDAY, MARCH 10, BY 3 PM.

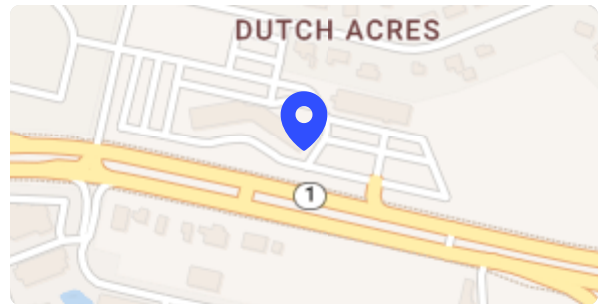


Events

John Stephen Sarik
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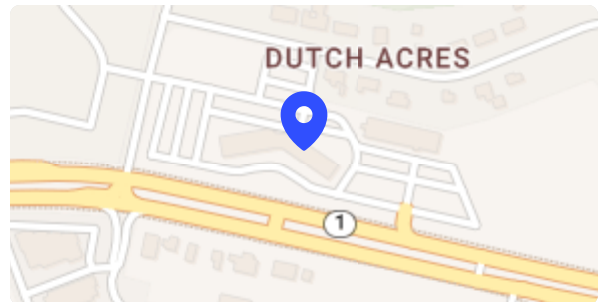
Viewing

- Wednesday**, March 11, 2026
- 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET
- St. Jude The Apostle Catholic Church**
152 Tulip Drive, Lewes DE 19958



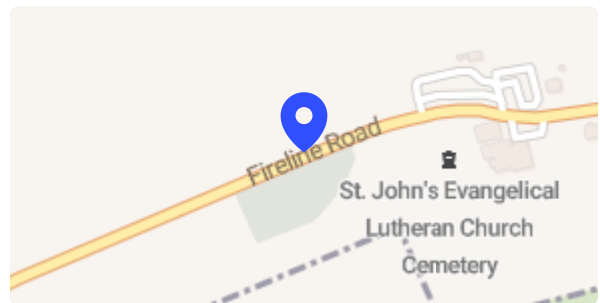
Mass of Christian Burial

- Wednesday**, March 11, 2026
- 11:00 AM ET
- St. Jude The Apostle Catholic Church**
152 Tulip Drive, Lewes DE 19958



Graveside Service

- Thursday**, March 12, 2026
- 10:00 AM ET
- St. Vladimir's Lower Cemetery**
2599 Fireline Rd, Palmerton PA 18071





Tribute Wall

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Carole Woodyard posted:

The Lasagna Dinner

March 11 at 6:54 PM



Carole Woodyard sent a virtual gift in honor of John.

Cooking the lasagna dinner each year. He was so proud!Carole and Jon Woodyard

March 11 at 6:54 PM



Richard Martin posted:

To the family and friends of John Sarik John has been my friend since the early 1980's. I first met John as a member of the Lewes Yacht Club where he participated in all club activities. Over the years, John volunteered and served as Commodore, Chairman of the Marina committee, House committee, Finance committee, Long range planning committee, building committee, and volunteered his time and expertise in the kitchen heading up our twice annual Lasagna dinners that have always been a Sold Out event..John's participation in Lewes Yacht Club events, and his friendship, will be missed by so many. Rest in peace John, you earned it!

March 10 at 9:20 AM



Don Clifton posted:

It brings me much sadness to learn of the passing of John Sarik. As a Cape Henlopen football player in the mid-70's, I can attest to, and deeply appreciate these statements included in the obituary; "...he was a passionate and active coach in football, ..." "He took great pride in watching his students grow into successful adults." "John will be remembered for his unwavering dedication to education, his steadfast service to his community, and the generosity of spirit that touched countless lives." Cape students of the 1975-76 school year may remember Mr. Sarik's classroom ceiling collapsing and his need to find other accommodations to continue teaching. This was in the old Lewes High School building. He seemed to take it in stride. John Sarik was a good man. Wm. Donlad Clifton (guard and middle linebacker)

March 9 at 11:45 AM




Tribute Wall

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Julie Tigie lit a candle in honor of John.

I was sad to hear of John's passing...he was a great teacher and years later a great friend. He was one of my favorite teachers. In 1969 he was my geometry teacher, something I was not very good at, actually my grades were terrible. I promised him if he gave me a passing grade that I would never use geometry again, of course he didn't, I had to take it again, he was determined to make me understand it and I finally did. Thank you "Mr. Sarik" you were one of the good ones... you will be missed , Rest in Peace . Sending my condolences to your family.



March 7 at 1:27 PM



Ricci Wampler posted:

Mr Sarik was my neighbor as a child.i was having trouble with a math/science class and he made it easier for me to understand.When I got to high school I had all of his classes.He was an excellent teacher, the best!Condolences to his family.

March 6 at 1:29 PM



Michelle Setzer posted:

I was failing Physics at Cape. And I was going to drop the class. He encouraged me to stick with it since he was convinced that I could completely turn it around. And, I wasn't convinced. But I was so uplifted by his faith in me I carried on and did turn it around. Thank you Mr. Sarik for producing such a defining moment that I have cherished all of these years. Michelle Setzer '87.

March 5 at 7:38 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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