



## John Robert Swanson

June 4, 1957 - May 9, 2019

John Robert Swanson, age 61, of Harbeson, DE passed away on Thursday, May 9, 2019, at Beebe Healthcare, in Lewes. He was born on June 4, 1957 in Anchorage, AK, son of Carl and Jean (Merritt) Swanson.

As an Army child, John attended schools in Washington State, Virginia, Georgia, Kansas, and Germany. He graduated from Mt. Vernon High School in Virginia in 1975. He attended Northern Arizona State College where he was active in academic and student affairs. He was president of his SAE Fraternity and also served as president of an Honors Service club. During the Homecoming Celebration, the students voted him as the Homecoming King.

John graduated from college in 1979 with a Science Degree in Chemistry and Microbiology. He worked for Becton-Dickinson, a Bio-Tech Company as a salesman and a sales manager. John was honored as an outstanding salesman for 3 years and was a member of "The Winners Circle". He worked hard for the company and was well liked by his clients and coworkers.

When John retired, he spent time renovating his beach house in Rehoboth Beach. He loved the beach, boating, and entertaining his friends in his lovely home. John will be missed by his family and many friends.

John is survived by his parents, Jean and Carl; two brothers, Steve and David; two sisters in law, Gina and Vivian; two nieces, Christina and Michelle; and one nephew, Scott.

A Celebration of John's Life will be held on Friday, May 17, 2019 at 11:00 AM at the Parsell Funeral Homes and Crematorium, Atkins-Lodge Chapel, 16961 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE 19958, where friends may visit beginning at 10:00 AM. Interment will be private.

Please sign John's online guest book located on this site.

FLORIST NOTE: PLEASE HAVE ALL FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS DELIVERED TO  
PARSELL FUNERAL HOMES, LEWES, DE BY 3 PM, THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2019.

# Events

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**MAY**   **Visitation**                      10:00AM - 11:00AM

**17**  
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Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-Atkins-Lodge Chapel  
16961 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE, US, 19958

**MAY**   **Celebration of Life**    11:00AM

**17**  
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Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-Atkins-Lodge Chapel  
16961 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE, US, 19958

# Comments

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“ I met John at BD and the one thing that always stood out was his calm and reflective approach to things. He was never ruffled--- at least it never showed. He was very polite and treated everyone with dignity and respect. To the FAMILY-- I pray you take comfort in knowing that he touched many lives in his own unique way. His positive outlook in life was refreshing . Gone too soon. He will be missed. REST IN PEACE!

**SUSAN UDOFIA** - May 17 at 01:47 PM

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“ John was just at my house a few weeks ago asking if I would be able to restore some old photos from his trip to Paris in the 80's . They were so bad I told him it would be cheaper to go back and retake the photos. We both laughed and enjoyed spending 3 hours catching up over the last 15 years we lost touch. He was one of the most down to earth and kindest men I have ever known. I spent many days crabbing and catching rays at his beautiful beach house. When my parents visited Delaware he took them out on his pontoon boat. My Mom would always tell him he looked like a movie star. You will be greatly missed John!! XO

**Trish** - May 16 at 08:45 PM

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“ John was my manager at BD. I knew John at BD for 15 years and reported to him for 10 and as my manager we had a weekly call in and While we both retired from BD 4 years ago we still continued our weekly call. Hardly a week went by that we did not chat and the calls became so much more meaningful since we did not have to talk biz forecast, orders etc. but we chatted about life, love and all the things that bring happiness and sadness in our lives. It is not always possible to remember the last words spoken but I do because John for the last 4 years always ended the call with the words  
“ Give my mom my best”  
John never met my mom but he knew me and what is important to a life.



**Irene Carlo** - May 16 at 04:20 PM



“ What a great photo Irene! John had such a great smile!

**Bridget Mandel** - May 17 at 12:03 AM



“ I love this man who taught me so much during my professional formative years. I called him my work dad, my barometer. I look at last text messages and treasure those. I will never forget you John. I wish I could talk to you one last time. Deepest condolences to the Swanson family.



**Kristina Halcomb Barnhart** - May 16 at 09:20 AM

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“ Stephanie Ventullo, Sue Merrill & Gail Mitchell purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of John Robert Swanson.



**Stephanie Ventullo, Sue Merrill & Gail Mitchell** - May 15 at 01:22 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Rick Mazur** - May 15 at 11:04 AM

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“ SGI Global, LLC. purchased the Written in the Stars for the family of John Robert Swanson.





“ Love, Bridget Mandel purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Robert Swanson.



Love, Bridget Mandel - May 14 at 11:06 PM

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“ Please accept my deepest condolences for your loss. John was my manager, my mentor and my friend. He kindly taught the ropes when I took a new position at BD, he went to bat for me when I needed support, and over time truly showed me what a great human being he was. I always looked forward to seeing him at meetings; I loved his sense of humor. John will always have a special place in my heart.

AnaMaria Calvo

AnaMaria Calvo - May 14 at 10:04 PM

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“ Liz & Elias, Elishia & Matt, Dana & Scott, Andre purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of John Robert Swanson.



Liz & Elias, Elishia & Matt, Dana & Scott, Andre - May 14 at 03:19 PM

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“ Jean, Carl and Family,  
I am so sorry for the loss of your son. Although I didn't know John well I felt as though I had some idea about the man he was. Steve talked fondly about his younger brother and I could tell John was loved very much. I pray John is at peace watching over all his family with a smile. Please know I am thinking about you all. May the fond memories of John bring comfort to everyone in this time of sadness.  
Much love,  
Liz Matta



“ To Jean, Carl and Family,  
We are saddened by the loss of John. We remember him as a happy, caring and sweet guy. He had a big heart and truly cared for people. We are so grateful that he was part of our family. One fond memory we have is at Gina and Steves wedding, John and all of the groomsmen's pants were made too short by mistake, and it was realized too late. John just laughed it off and walked around all day with a big smile on his face. His light will shine as bright in Heaven as it did on earth.

With our deepest sympathy,  
Dolores Mandel and Family



Bridget Mandel - May 14 at 01:20 AM

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“ I am sorry to hear about the passing of John Swanson, my sister's brother-in-law. I never had the good fortune to meet John, but he sounds like such a wonderfully kind person who shared his kindness with others. May God bless him richly!

Mark Mandel - May 14 at 12:06 AM

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“ I was so fortunate to have met John more than 25 years ago, where we both worked for BD. John was one of those very rare people who always put others ahead of themselves, particularly those who worked for him, as well as other colleagues at BD, and his customers. For those who reported to John, he went way above and beyond what his job required, to help them both personally and professionally. So many of us thought of John as a friend - just an all-around really nice guy. Someone you could always call with a question, or a concern, or when you just needed some encouragement.

He was incredibly smart, yet he had the ability to connect with others and explain highly technical and complex ideas in a way they could understand. His dry sense of humor came into play at times when it was most needed - he had the gift of making just about anyone feel at ease, in just about any situation.

John's caring and compassion extended beyond the human world, to his love of dogs.

He touched so very many people in his years on this earth; I am so grateful that I was one of them.

He was taken from us far too soon; my condolences to his family and friends on this huge loss. I hope you'll take some comfort in knowing what a wonderful and lasting impact he had on so many people's lives. Rest in peace, John - thank you for touching my life, and the lives of so many others. You'll be greatly missed  
Sue Hostler

**Sue H** - May 13 at 07:39 PM

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“ My deepest condolences to John’s family and friends. Like so many others here, I also worked at BD and remember John from sales meetings across the (many) years. He was a well-regarded manager and a valued member of our extended sales team/family. I remember his humor and intelligence and kindness. RIP John. You will be missed.

Mary Grahek

**Mary Grahek** - May 13 at 01:18 PM

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“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Robert Swanson.



May 13 at 01:04 PM

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“ I too was at BD with John for many years and although my territory was across the country, I always looked forward to seeing his smiling face and sharing a laugh when the team came together. His kindness and assurance were often a ray of sunshine. My best to John’s family and loved ones. He will be greatly missed.

**Nicole Johnson** - May 12 at 08:51 PM

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“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of John Robert Swanson.



May 12 at 10:47 AM

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“ I worked with John for over 25 years and he was one of the most kind, compassionate friends that one could ever meet. He always had an encouraging word and wonderful smile and a great sense of humor. I am so sorry for your loss- he will be greatly missed! Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with John's family. He will truly be missed.

**Diane Zettel** - May 11 at 07:30 PM

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“ I first met John in the late 80's, when he was my BD sales person in New Orleans. He really encourage me to make the transition to sales with BD. Since we had been there for 100 years, we would often meet up at sales meeting. It had become our thing to see each other and proclaim in unison, "You're still here???". John - I am so sad that you're not here with us anymore. Wishing my deepest condolences to all of the people whose lives you touched.

**Lisa Greig** - May 11 at 06:13 PM



“ I knew John throughout most of my career at BD & have fond memories of working with him. His calm demeanor & knowledge of our products made him a great sales person and great leader. RIP John.

**Steve Ziganti** - May 11 at 06:19 PM



“ John was my reagent rep in the southeast. We worked closely for several years kicking Coulters butt. Our customers loved John. We had some fun, great times together. He was always professional and ready to meet customers needs. I'll never forget how he used to "carry my briefcase ". RIP John. Condolences to you family.

**Bob Feinberg** - May 13 at 07:57 AM



“ John was a quiet but mighty presence in our group at BD. Honest and forthright, his words were respected by all. He was caring as well as giving. He will be missed and his memory will be a blessing for family and friends alike.

**Rick Mazur** - May 13 at 04:03 PM

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“ Like others who have already posted, I knew John at BD. Although he was never my manager, he always set a good example of proper corporate behavior. When he spoke, people listened, because he only spoke when he felt his contributions were warranted and would be valued. His quiet leadership was much appreciated by us all. Bless you, John, and may your family and loved ones receive the grace and peace we are promised at times like this.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Hall

Nancy Hall - May 11 at 12:14 PM

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“ I am sending you my most heartfelt condolences for John's passing. He was a mentor, friend, and kind, caring, compassionate man. He was my manager at BD and more importantly, became a great friend who was always concerned about my well being and life. I had some of the most hilarious times when working with him and cherish so fondly those memories. I hope you find comfort in reading these tributes to know how much he did over so many years at BD and the people and lives he touched along the way.

Selfishly, I am so sad that I cannot pick up the phone and hear his chuckle or get his advice or just blather about everything.

Praying that there is a peace and comfort gleaned from memories for everyone.

You're the best John...you deserve to be taken care of now.

Katherine Fonte - May 11 at 11:53 AM

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“ Please accept my deepest condolences for your loss.

John was my manager at BD for several years. He was always kind and caring. A wonderful person always with a smile on his face.

The world is a sadder place without John.

Andy Oberyszyn - May 11 at 10:34 AM

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“ So saddened to hear of John's passing! Worked with John @ BD Biosciences (BDIS) for almost twenty five years. John was an insightful human who excelled in both business & person to person relationships. We shared a love of our dogs over the years & the ability to laugh at the human condition both in & outside of work. John was s stalwart friend in time of need & though we had not seen much of each other the last several years we could always pick-up where we last left off. May your next journey be a wonderful one John!

Randall Offord - May 10 at 06:58 PM