



## John "TJ" E. Redefer III

July 28, 1961 - April 7, 2020

FLORIST NOTE: PLEASE DELIVER ALL ARRANGEMENTS BY 3PM FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2020 TO OUR LEWES LOCATION.

John "TJ" E. Redefer III, age 58 of Dewey Beach, DE passed away on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at Beebe Healthcare, in Lewes, after a short but courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. He was born on July 28, 1961 in Lewes, DE, son of the late John E. Jr. and Dolores (Read) Redefer.

TJ was a broker for and owner of Rehoboth Bay Realty, a family owned business founded by his father in 1986. He served as Town Commissioner and Mayor of Dewey Beach since 2017 and was re-elected to a second 2-year term in 2019. TJ was a pioneer in drone photography and found great joy in capturing the beauty of his adored Dewey Beach from above. He loved traveling all over, but none so much as his annual trip to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. TJ was an avid football fan, enthusiastically cheering on Notre Dame and the Philadelphia Eagles every season. He loved the 4th of July and the annual family party at the Redefer Cabana. TJ was a "Glass Half Full" kind of person, exuding positivity and always offering a kind word to everyone he met. His family was everything to him, and nothing made him happier than sitting on the front porch with his beloved wife, watching the world go by in the town he was so proud to call home, Dewey Beach. His favorite saying was, "Welcome Home", words he was undoubtedly met with when he moved on. TJ was a loving and devoted husband, father, brother, uncle, and friend. He was loved by many and will be deeply and genuinely missed by all who had an opportunity to know him.

TJ is survived by his wife of 31 years, Roberta "Bobbie" Redefer of Dewey Beach, DE; his children: Leigh Ann Winslow (Thurman) of Catharpin, VA and Jack Redefer (Kirstin Lockwood) of Dewey Beach, DE; his siblings: Beth Caruso (John) of Bronxville, NY, Chris Redefer (Cindy), Juli Mills (Bob), and Justin Redefer (Vanessa), all of Rehoboth Beach, DE; his brother-in-law, Jimmy Goss of Ft. Washington, MD; his nieces: Carolyn Caruso, Katie Redefer, Grace Mills, Emily Redefer, and Eve Redefer; his nephews: Michael

Caruso, Christopher Redefers, and Ethan Redefers; and his beloved granddog, Stark.

TJ's love for his family and community was unwavering, and no pandemic will keep the community from saying goodbye. The family invites everyone to safely line Route One in Dewey Beach on Saturday, April 11, 2020 at 10:30 AM to "Welcome Home" TJ, as he takes one last ride through town. We respectfully ask that everyone maintain safe social distancing, or remain in their vehicles. TJ will be privately laid to rest next to his parents in Epworth Cemetery in Rehoboth Beach.

A Memorial Mass & Celebration of TJ's Life will be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions in TJ's memory to the Dewey Business Partnership, PO Box 260, Rehoboth Beach, DE, the Dewey Beach Lions Club, 115 McKinley Street, Dewey Beach, DE 19971, or the Beebe Medical Foundation, 902 Savannah Road, Lewes, DE 19958.

Please sign the online guestbook located on the tribute page.

# Previous Events

## Community Farewell

APR 11. 10:30 AM (ET)

Farewell Route  
Rt. 1/Coastal Highway  
Dewey Beach, DE

# Tribute Wall



“ So sad to hear of T.J’s passing. I had the pleasure of taking care of him at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital- He always had a positive attitude and great sense of humor through it all. Even though you (Bobbie) and the rest of the family were not able to visit during this period, I could sense the close, loving bond that you all shared. Thinking of you and your family during this difficult time.

-Rachel Weeks

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**Rachel Leigh** - May 04, 2020 at 05:57 PM

JR

“ Joe Reed lit a candle in memory of John "TJ" E. Redefer III



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**Joe Reed** - April 26, 2020 at 11:49 AM

MM

“ Mary Morsch lit a candle in memory of John "TJ" E. Redefer III



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**mary morsch** - April 24, 2020 at 08:14 PM

BC

“ "TJ", Glad to have had the pleasure to know you. You are truly a nice man. Without a doubt one of the kindest I have ever met. God Bless you and your family.

*Bill Clem*

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**Bill Clem** - April 12, 2020 at 08:26 PM

MM

“ My husband I purchased our property in 2001. We had the honor to meet Mr. Redefer in the real estate office that day. Even though we had connected with someone else in the office, I felt very comfortable upon meeting him, and kinda wished he was our agent. He was just so nice and comfortable to talk to. Over the years I have seen him around in the distance, always with the same smile. You will be missed, but I guess they need some more smiling and laughter up above. God Bless.  
Marie Michael  
Georgetown, DE



Marie Michael - April 12, 2020 at 04:11 PM

KH

“ Heartfelt condolences to the Redefer family. Love and prayers for you all.

Kristen Hatfield - April 11, 2020 at 04:15 PM

JY

“ Our deepest condolences to Bobbie and the entire Redefer Family at this time of sadness. TJ was a good man committed to his family and community. He made a difference. I felt honored to have known him and hope the wonderful memories and the love of those around you sustain you in this difficult time. John Yore and Family.



John Yore - April 11, 2020 at 12:30 PM

BF

“ Betty Mann-Beebe and family purchased the Precious Moments - Praying Angel” Resin Music Box for the family of John "TJ" E. Redefer III.



Betty Mann-Beebe and family - April 11, 2020 at 11:53 AM

LJ

“ Lori Jupin lit a candle in memory of John "TJ" E. Redefer III



Lori Jupin - April 11, 2020 at 11:19 AM

“As I read over the tributes to TJ, I am struck by how he had the ability to make everyone feel like they were so special to him. My husband and I join the group. When we started looking for a vacation home in Delaware, we googled realtors and called Rehoboth Bay Realty, just because I was drawn to the name. TJ answered and was so incredibly personal and friendly. No kidding, we talked for almost a half hour just about nothing. When we met him a couple weeks later, he stepped out of his car in shorts and a floral print shirt and flashed a smile that I will always remember.

Over the next couple of years, we bought and sold a couple properties and TJ was so key in every transaction. We loved hearing stories about his family and he was always ready to show us photos of his family, vacations or whatever. We spent a long time looking through photos of his daughter's wedding as he told us what happened all throughout the day. He was also so excited about the family trip to Hawaii and was so excited that Jack was going to purpose to his future wife. It was so obvious how he loved his wife and kids.

Our hearts just ache. I keep asking, "How is this possible?" I was so blessed when I read his facebook post about his experience talking with God years ago when a serious health episode landed him in the hospital. I sensed an incredible peace from TJ as he told the story. What a powerful post. I trust that the God of the universe gave TJ a peace when he said "so long" to this earth and sailed into heaven.

Our heartfelt prayers go out to his dear family. May peace fill their aching hearts as they treasure the memories of TJ and may they find hope knowing they will see him again.

With aching hearts,  
Brian and Dawn Waltman

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**Dawn Waltman** - April 10, 2020 at 04:49 PM



“Our hearts and prayers go out to T.J.'s family and friends during this sad time. I first met T.J. when he became our realtor. Over the last twenty years he became not only my realtor and financial advisor but a true friend who was always interested in our family first, then business, jokes and politics. He was always "Johnny on the spot" when issues arose with our properties and I was never stressed knowing he had my back. I won't be able to drive through Angola By The Bay or Dewey Beach without thinking of him. Always smiling, always cracking jokes and always, ALWAYS brightening my day. Rest in peace my friend.

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**Tom Kearney** - April 10, 2020 at 03:56 PM



“ Tom Kearney purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of John "TJ" E. Redefer III.



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**Tom Kearney** - April 10, 2020 at 03:21 PM

MM

“ I was wandering around Rehoboth downtown last Spring and I heard the distinctive sound of a drone...  
Looking up I saw one hanging outside the second story window of the Thrasher's building. Then it took off near the Dolly's sign and landed across the street at the feet of TJ Redefer.  
Now, since I'm a video person and a drone enthusiast myself, I had to meet this guy.  
We talked, exchanged cards and compared lost drone stories...I later talked to the guy at Thrasher's who said "Who had that drone!..I was counting cash at my desk and it FREAKED me out!"  
Anyway, I told him not to worry..It was a responsible flyer who happened to be the mayor of Dewey...He was just spying on his neighboring town...(not).  
That was my only encounter with him, but everything I've read makes me all the more sad that I didn't get to play with him some more...I'll miss him and the miss the opportunity to trade more stories...  
Rest in peace TJ.  
My condolences to his family and all of his friends.  
-Michael Moser

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**Michael Moser** - April 10, 2020 at 03:05 PM



“ TJ has been and always will be part of the fabric of my life in Dewey Beach. Growing up as cousins, TJ was part of the older crowd, so our friendship did not develop until we were both adults. Since then, every time we saw him when we arrived in Dewey, TJ would greet us with “Welcome Home”.

A few years ago, 2 men who worked for my husband were killed in a freak bicycle accident outside the Starboard. At their memorial service, a letter from the Mayor of Dewey Beach was read. The letter from the Dewey Mayor was so moving and heartfelt. When it was signed “TJ Redefer” my husband was so touched — he had no idea that TJ (my cousin) was the Dewey Mayor. It was so meaningful to everyone who knew these 2 men (vacationers in Dewey celebrating their 1 year anniversary) that the Mayor of the town where they were killed would reach out and express his condolences. That was type of guy TJ was.

TJ, you will be dearly missed — but I am sure the generations who have gone before greeted you the same way you always greet others — “Welcome Home”.

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Laura Dumouchelle - April 10, 2020 at 02:37 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



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Laura Dumouchelle - April 10, 2020 at 02:22 PM

JB

“ TJ was a very special person who holds a place in all of our hearts. He was always positive, had a huge smile and was always one who wanted to work together to get things done. I loved working together to bring our buyers and sellers to a happy settlement because I knew that with TJ, and now Jack too, he knew we could represent our clients well but still come to the table with a win-win for all. TJ and his dad were always patient answering questions and I had a lot when I first got into real estate in 2000. Brian and I are blessed to call TJ our friend. We are grateful for our times together and huge fans of SkyJack Pictures. Our hearts and hugs go out to Bobbie, Leigh Ann, Jack and the whole Redefer family. We wish we could deliver them in person.

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Jenn Barrows - April 10, 2020 at 10:10 AM

JB

“ Jenn Barrows lit a candle in memory of John "TJ" E.  
Redefer III



Jenn Barrows - April 10, 2020 at 09:58 AM

DD

“ David Desmond lit a candle in memory of John "TJ" E.  
Redefer III



David Desmond - April 10, 2020 at 07:38 AM

DD

*Dear Cousin TJ, you are shining star and will be greatly missed. I know the heavens are a better place with your cheerful soul, and my life is a happier one for knowing you. My sincerest condolences to your wife, Bobbie, your children, family and friends. May your soul soar with the angels in heaven, and rest in the peace and grace of God, forever. Amen. Cousin David*

David Desmond - April 10, 2020 at 07:43 AM

SI

“ What a beautiful way to celebrate TJ's life! I will be "present" from 600 miles away on April 11th. Prayers of comfort and peace to his family during this sad time. I have so many wonderful memories in the 70's and 80's of New Orleans Street with TJ, his brothers and sister Beth, cousins and many friends. 🕯️🙏❤️ Love to you all.

Sue Melson Ivey  
Mt. Pleasant, SC

Sue Ivey - April 10, 2020 at 05:41 AM

PS

“ I have known TJ for years when he was younger when his Dad had Rehoboth Bay Realty in Peddler's Village. Between his Dad and TJ they sold me 2 homes. Years later I stopped by their office in Dewey just to say hello. As the years passed I would call TJ and ask for advice and he was the most friendly man you could of ever met. I will always remember his smile. TJ you are in heaven flying with the angels and have met with Jesus. Prayers for his family at this hard time in their life.



Patti Scarpato - April 09, 2020 at 09:29 PM

DC

“ Deborah Crowell lit a candle in memory of John "TJ" E. Redefer III



Deborah Crowell - April 09, 2020 at 09:24 PM

DC

So sorry for your loss. Prayers for you and your family.

Deborah Crowell - April 09, 2020 at 09:26 PM

MB

“ TJ you will be missed greatly. Haven known you for 50 years I have some great memories. Growing up in Dewey as kids you were our leader. You were always friendly and caring. It was always a good time being in your company. I am so proud to have had you in my life and to have been a part of yours. God speed my friend ❤️

Martin Bruhl - April 09, 2020 at 08:43 PM

AG

“ I was stunned to learn of T,J.s passing. He was such a genuine person. I came to this area 13 years ago and it was T.J. who helped me. I will always be grateful to the man who helped me.It never felt like I was doing business, but rather it seemed like I was chatting with a old friend. My condolences to his family and the community he served.

ann grella - April 09, 2020 at 08:13 PM

BC

“ TJ was such a breath of fresh air every time I would see him on the beach, at the office or in town. He had nothing but nice things to say about everyone. I loved seeing that million dollar smile! Lots of love and prayers to his entire Family. ❤️🙏  
🙏❤️  
May you Rest In Peace TJ!

Beth Canard - April 09, 2020 at 06:27 PM

ST

“ If I had to name an agent that I could count on for honesty, integrity and fun, it was TJ. His easy way of being friendly, caring and knowledgeable was appreciated when I was a new agent in town. I love Dewey Beach and TJ being the Mayor gave me a sense that all was well in Dewey! Much love to his family -  
Sally Thayer

Sally Thayer - April 09, 2020 at 06:06 PM

DP

“ My husband and I are so sad to hear that TJ has passed...He sold us our home in Rehoboth 20 years ago! He was a great person and made the process very easy. Since then and because of him, I grew to love the business and got my Real Estate Licenses in MD & DE. I will never forget his humor and his professionalism. He was one of the good people. He will be missed. Rest easy, TJ...heaven has opened their arms for you. My mom passed away last week and it was so hard not to have a funeral or hug my siblings. So sorry for your loss...

Darlene Pearce - April 09, 2020 at 05:36 PM

BF

“ TJ was one of the Good Guys. He will be sorely missed.

Bill Ferreri - April 09, 2020 at 04:10 PM

AS

“ The shock and sadness is overwhelming, I cannot imagine what you are going through, Your husband, father, uncle was a great man and beloved member of the community. I wish you all the very best. God bless you Bobbie and your family.  
Allison Stine and Pete Jamieson

Allison Stine - April 09, 2020 at 03:27 PM

BB

*TJ was an awesome guy and fellow Realtor. If you were right he would stand behind you. He will be missed very much. RIP buddy!*

**Bob Barnhardt** - April 09, 2020 at 04:42 PM

CV

“ *Bobbie, Leigh Ann, Jack & family, words cannot express enough, our heartfelt sympathy during this difficult time. TJ was a wonderful guy who will be greatly missed throughout Dewey & with Lions. He was such an asset to the community. Rest peacefully TJ! Hugs...Cindy & Kenny Vincent*

**Cindy Vincent** - April 09, 2020 at 02:46 PM

JB

“ *Our deepest sympathy to Bobbie and family. TJ will be missed. RIP!  
Sincerely,  
The Bohan Family*

**Joyce E Bohan** - April 09, 2020 at 02:32 PM

PC

“ *To the Redefer Family,*

*I am so sorry for the loss of TJ. Many years ago I had the pleasure of meeting the Redefer family in Dewey Beach. My children Deneen and Carmine Capano became good friends to the family and spent many, many summers with TJ and his brother. I also had the pleasure of knowing his mom and Dad, John and Dolores. We sat on the beach together for many years. I extend my deepest sympathy to all of you at most sad time.*

*Sincerely  
Pat Capano-Ettinger  
Milton, DE*

**Pat Capano-Ettinger** - April 09, 2020 at 02:11 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John "TJ" E. Redefer III.*



April 09, 2020 at 01:25 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of John "TJ" E. Redefer III.*



April 09, 2020 at 12:59 PM

GY

“ *TJ was our realtor when we purchased our beach house in Angola by the Bay in 2005. He was so helpful in all aspects in buying the property. His enthusiasm, and great overall spirit will be sorely missed! May God grant his family peace and blessings going forward!!!*  
*Sincerely,*  
*Glenn & Patty Yacono*



**Glenn L Yacono** - April 09, 2020 at 12:01 PM

BM

“ *Working side by side in the R E office for over 15 years i will surely miss the private personal talks about our lives at the time. the sometimes lively politically debates we were polar opposites on conservative views and moderate points of view. they never changed our opinions of each other which made the relationship that much stronger. life continues but a good man has left us RIP TJ ! fly that drone from way above Dewey so we can share your talent .*

**Brian P McMahon** - April 09, 2020 at 11:54 AM

F&

“ *Fred Tana &Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John "TJ" E. Redefer III.*



**Fred Tana &Family** - April 09, 2020 at 11:52 AM

SW

“ *Stephanie Wilson lit a candle in memory of John "TJ" E. Redefer III*



**Stephanie Wilson** - April 09, 2020 at 11:48 AM

MS

“ Michele Stouffer lit a candle in memory of John "TJ" E. Redefer III



Michele Stouffer - April 09, 2020 at 11:44 AM

SD

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Sarah Dougherty - April 09, 2020 at 10:11 AM

RM

“ Regina Moore lit a candle in memory of John "TJ" E. Redefer III



Regina Moore - April 09, 2020 at 09:16 AM

RM

*My condolences to the family of TJ. I am so happy to have reconnected with my first Dewey Beach friend a few years ago. I am so proud to have said I knew you when. Those were the days back in the 60's when the Redefer, Noonan, Moore, Walsh, Lindsay and other families covered the beach between New Orleans and Salisbury street. Much love to your family*

Regina Moore - April 09, 2020 at 09:24 AM

PH

“ We are so saddened by the news about TJ. Another chapter in the “life is not fair” book. We know he was your everything & you had such fun together as a couple and a family. Hold onto those wonderful memories and each other to get you through. Sending hugs...Patti

Patti Hocker - April 09, 2020 at 08:13 AM

RC

“ Bobby, Leigh Ann, and Jack I am so sorry to hear about TJ. Our prayers are with you. - Rich Carpenter and Family.

Richard Carpenter - April 09, 2020 at 07:20 AM

DH

“ Our sincere and heartfelt condolences to the entire Redefer family. TJ was an icon of the community, well respected and admired by all. We pray for his soul to find eternal rest and for his loved ones to take comfort as they remember he will always remain with them in their hearts.  
Doctor and Mrs. Zouhair Harb

Desiree Harb - April 09, 2020 at 12:26 AM

MM

“ Bobby, JoAnn and I can feel your loss. We just met you last fall hanging out at Raw, which was a pleasure! I grew up with your husband spending every summer together on New Orleans beach. My parents owned a Redefer cottage and I was welcomed into The Redefer family. We enjoyed the best childhood a kid could ever want.

TJ was gentleman and a friend.

Love to your family,

Murph

Murph Merhige - April 08, 2020 at 11:49 PM

KM

“ Bobbie, Leigh Ann and Jack, I'm so sorry to learn of TJs passing. He always had a smile and his love for all of you was obviously deep and unwavering. Condolences don't seem adequate. Kim McPike

Kim McPike - April 08, 2020 at 10:51 PM

GR

“ As a FedEx courier for 33 years in Rehoboth and Dewey one of my high points of my day would always be the day I had deliveries for TJ , Bryan or Judy. I counted him a friend and watched many of his drones footage in his office. TJ always had a smile and he will be missed tremendously. Prayers for his wife and family. A forever friend.

Greg - April 08, 2020 at 10:46 PM

DP

“ Dr. Doris Person lit a candle in memory of John "TJ" E. Redefer III



Dr. Doris Person - April 08, 2020 at 10:30 PM

LF

“ Love Melissa Barron and family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John "TJ" E. Redefer III.



Love Melissa Barron and family - April 08, 2020 at 09:59 PM

DR

“ Rest in peace TJ! You have made your mark!

Dallas Reynolds - April 08, 2020 at 09:27 PM

CW

“ Bobby, I am so sorry to hear about TJ, although we havent seen each other in years, ill always remember him as a little bigger and brighter heart in this world. You always seemed to be not only a married couple but also best friends. You and your family are in my prayers.  
Colleen and Chris wareing

Colleen Wareing - April 08, 2020 at 08:19 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of John "TJ" E. Redefer III.



April 08, 2020 at 07:03 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John "TJ" E. Redefer III.*



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April 08, 2020 at 06:23 PM