



John Kevin Henebery

January 19, 1949 - January 10, 2026

John Kevin Henebery of Manassas, Virginia passed away after a brief illness on January 10, 2026. He is survived by his beloved wife Susan Henebery; his four children and their spouses: Dan Henebery and wife Amelia Schmidt, Ann (Henebery) Phelan and husband Joe Phelan, Meg (Henebery) Wagner and husband Tyler Wagner, and Cat Henebery; and his sister, Mary Ellen Leply. He was the most wonderful and energetic “Pops” and “Bops” to his three grandchildren, Clara Wagner and Cormac and Louis Phelan. To all his other friends and family, he was a loyal friend, ever-reliable caretaker, storyteller, Diet Pepsi connoisseur, lover of history, and dedicated sports fan.

John was born on January 19, 1949 in Kingston, New York to Patricia (McIver) and John J. Henebery. His father was an Army officer who served abroad, which meant John grew up all over the world, including in Paris and Addis Ababa. This may have been exciting, but it wasn't easy or idyllic, as both John's parents struggled to deal with the trauma of World War II even in its aftermath. As a young man of only 22, he lost both his parents within three months of each other. From this place of ultimate loss, he built a remarkable legacy.

John graduated from Villanova University in 1971 with a degree in business. His mother, a lover of Perry Mason, encouraged him to attend law school. He took her advice and attended Suffolk University Law School in Boston. In his third year, he met a cute little brunette named Sue Gingras from Rhode Island, and they were married in 1978.

After graduation, John joined the Navy as part of the Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps. He served for 22 years, earning his Masters of Law from George Washington University along the way. He acted in a number of high-profile roles over the years including head of the trial defense department at the Naval Legal Service Office in Norfolk, Virginia; Special Assistant for Medical Legal Affairs for the Surgeon General of the Navy at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery; Deputy Director of the General Litigation Division for the Office of the Judge Advocate General; Commanding Officer of the Naval Legal Services Office and Director of the General Litigation Division for the Office of the Judge

Advocate General in Washington D.C. He also once worked on the case that inspired the film *A Few Good Men*; he liked to joke that many JAGs claimed they inspired Tom Cruise's character, but only he claimed to inspire Demi Moore's. After retiring as a Captain, John had a 23-year career with the U.S. Department of Justice, where he tried civil cases in the Commercial Litigation Branch and Civil Frauds Section. He loved his job as an attorney and served as a thoughtful mentor to many over the years.

More than his career however, he loved his family. Sue, his dear wife of 47 years, was his best friend, devoted partner, and the love of his life. He loved his children with his whole heart and was always so proud of them, never missing a chance to brag about their latest accomplishments. He will be remembered for his exemplary life—a life marked by unconditional love, joyful duty, a rigorous mind, and deep curiosity—leavened by a famous sense of humor.

Above all, John was a caretaker at heart and devoted his life to caring for everyone around him. He will be missed by all who knew him.

“Grow old along with me!

The best is yet to be,

The last of life, for which the first was made:

Our times are in His hand

Who saith ‘A whole I planned,

Youth shows but half; trust God: see all, nor be afraid!’”

Robert Browning

In lieu of flowers, donations to Disabled American Veterans (DAV) in John's name are welcome.

Service:

Viewing: 6:00pm to 8:00pm, Wednesday, January 21 at Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center St, Manassas, VA 20110

Funeral Mass: 11:00am, Thursday, January 22 at St. Andrews Catholic Church, 6720 Union Mill Rd, Clifton, VA 20124

Burial: 1:30pm, Thursday, January 22 at National Memorial Cemetery at Quantico, 18424 Joplin Rd, Triangle, VA 22172

Cemetery Details

Quantico National Cemetery

18424 Joplin Rd
Triangle, VA 22172-1636
(703) 221-2183

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **21**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Funeral Mass

JAN **22**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Saint Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church
6720 Union Mill Rd
Clifton, VA 20124

Burial w/ Military Honors

JAN **22**. 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Quantico National Cemetery
18424 Joplin Rd
Triangle, VA 22172-1636
(703) 221-2183

Tribute Wall

GA

“ Gene Ahearn lit a candle in memory of John Kevin Henebery



Gene Ahearn - January 24 at 10:36 AM

KV

“ Requiesscat in pace! Our condolences to Susan and family. May Mary wrap you in her mantel of peace and comfort. 🙏🙏🙏

Kathy Vestermark - January 22 at 10:20 AM

GA

God bless you John Kevin Heneberry. My condolences to Susan and the family.

Gene Ahearn - January 24 at 08:40 AM

AS

“ Angela and Chris Smith purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John Kevin Henebery.



Angela and Chris Smith - January 21 at 08:18 AM

JF

“ Jim Wallington and family. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Kevin Henebery.



Jim Wallington and family. - January 20 at 10:18 PM

JF

“ Jim Wallington and family. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Kevin Henebery.

Jim Wallington and family. - January 20 at 10:18 PM

DD

“ My wife, Rosie and I really loved Teams. We really enjoyed spending time with Kevin and Susan.

Don Donoho - January 20 at 08:46 PM

DD

“ Don Donoho purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John Kevin Henebery.



Don Donoho - January 20 at 08:31 PM

JO

“ J. Brian Cudlipp, O.D. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Kevin Henebery.



J. Brian Cudlipp, O.D. - January 20 at 04:33 PM

MF

“ Mary and Bill Schultz and family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of John Kevin Henebery.



Mary and Bill Schultz and family - January 20 at 02:27 PM

LP

“ Love, Rich, Celeste and Mac Phelan purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of John Kevin Henebery.



Love, Rich, Celeste and Mac Phelan - January 20 at 08:35 AM

LP

“ Love, Rich, Celeste and Mac Phelan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Kevin Henebery.

Love, Rich, Celeste and Mac Phelan - January 20 at 08:35 AM

KS

“ Our deepest condolences to the Henebery family. We enjoyed hearing about John's love of attending baseball games, his notable sense of humor, and his support of Cat and her siblings in their choice of careers and colleges. We hope the family is able to find peace and comfort in this trying time, knowing John was a living embodiment of *The Man in Arena*.

Design Develop Architects

Kevin Schafer - January 19 at 01:37 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden* was purchased for the family of John Kevin Henebery.



January 19 at 01:34 PM



“ *Serene Retreat* was purchased for the family of John Kevin Henebery.



January 18 at 09:22 AM

MB

“ It was a privilege to work with John at the Fraud Section of the Department of Justice. I learned a lot from him about being a good attorney, and appreciated his warmth, sense of humor, and stories about his accomplished children. We have missed him since he retired, but were happy for him that he could spend more time with his wife and family -- his first love.

Sincere condolences, and God bless.

Marie Bonkowski

Marie Bonkowski - January 16 at 03:07 PM

DF

“ Donna and Tom Henebery and family. purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of John Kevin Henebery.



Donna and Tom Henebery and family. - January 16 at 11:56 AM

TH

“ Our deepest sympathies for Susan, your beloved children, grandchildren and Mary Elle. It's cliché but Kevin was truly one of a kind. His wit and humor was boundless often not knowing if he was serious or not and then his smile would give it away. I have many good memories with Kevin that I will cherish forever. Until we meet again.

Tom Henebery - January 16 at 09:14 AM

KA

“ Our sincere condolences for the loss of your loved one. May cherished memories and earnest prayer bring comfort for family and friends at this time. Isaiah 41:10

Kathryn - January 15 at 03:19 PM

BS

“ Ben & Tina Schmidt purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John Kevin Henebery.



Ben & Tina Schmidt - January 14 at 10:45 PM

ML

“ Mary, Shannon, and Jaden Lepley purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Kevin Henebery.



Mary, Shannon, and Jaden Lepley - January 14 at 09:52 PM

LC

“ Love, the Carroll Cousins purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of John Kevin Henebery.



Love, the Carroll Cousins - January 14 at 06:48 PM

DA

“ Dave and Darla Anderson purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of John Kevin Henebery.



Dave and Darla Anderson - January 14 at 08:49 AM