



John Michael Rutherford

March 27, 1958 - October 4, 2021

John Michael Rutherford, age 63, passed away on October 4, 2021, at his home in Manassas, VA. He was born on March 27, 1958, in Radford, VA to John Rutherford and Patricia Logan.

John Michael (JR) Rutherford was a devoted and loving husband, brother, son, cousin, uncle, and godfather who left this world suddenly and all too soon on October 4th. He is survived by his wife, Dede, and they celebrated their 31st wedding anniversary in August. He leaves behind his brother, Robert Rutherford, niece Amanda Rutherford, and three first cousins: Maggie Clare, Jennifer Haydon, and Mary Burks. He also leaves behind four second cousins: Alex Clare, & Nathan, Lauren, and Ryan Burks, as well as a large, extended family by marriage. He is preceded in death by his parents John Alby and Patricia Logan Rutherford.

JR was a man who was full of life and exuberance and gave his “all” to the things and people he loved. JR enjoyed his career as an Archeologist at the Fairfax County Park Authority. He was a music aficionado and collector, especially of “Stones” memorabilia. JR had a booming laugh and enjoyed large, chaotic, and joyous parties where he served as head “chef”. JR was also passionate about movies, gardening, cats, and the preservation of nature. He was devoted to his wife, family and friends and they will never forget his love, affection, and larger than life personality. Rest in Power JR,

rest in Peace, and rock on.

Family and friends will gather for a Celebration of Life on JR's favorite holiday, Halloween, on Sunday, October 31, 2021 from 1:00-5:00 PM at Cabell's Mill, 5235 Walney Rd. Centreville, VA 20120. All are invited to stop by and share memories of JR and to celebrate his life. In keeping with JR's lifestyle, food and drink will be available accompanied by the music of The Rolling Stones. If you so desire, the wearing of Halloween Costumes or Rolling Stones shirts is encouraged.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Humane Society at www.humanesociety.org or to the Fairfax County Park Foundation at www.Fairfaxcountyparkfoundation.org .

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT **31**. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Cabell's Mill Park
5235 Walney Road
Centreville, VA 20120

Tribute Wall

PK

“ *John Rutherford. Brother. I literally would not have survived my youth without your friendship. Thank you. I love you. I miss you so much. Catch you on the flip side*

Paul Kraye - October 19, 2021 at 03:20 PM

LC

“ *Dede praying for you and your family during this difficult time. Our deepest condolences. Lou and Laura Coletta*

Luigi Coletta - October 17, 2021 at 08:37 PM

ST

“ *Dede, I never met your husband, but he had to be some special kind of guy to be worthy of such a wonderful wife. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Stefan - October 14, 2021 at 04:24 PM

MS

“ *Dede, I am so sorry to hear about your loss. Thinking of you and praying that you find comfort in the days ahead.*

Michelle Saffell - October 14, 2021 at 12:34 PM

JC

“ *JC lit a candle in memory of John Michael Rutherford*



JC - October 14, 2021 at 11:16 AM

MS

“ So sorry to hear of John’s passing. I was a neighborhood teenager and babysitter for John and Robert. Sadly I had lost touch with the family, but have many fond memories with the boys. Marsha Sadler

Marsha Sadler - October 12, 2021 at 09:45 PM

DM

“ JR was a mentor of sorts to me when it came to Rock-N-Roll. I knew a fair amount...he knew way more. We bonded straight away back in Radford in 1987 along these lines. He had nine years on me. He had experienced the 70’s rock era in a way I never could have. I would sit listen and learn as he spun records for me, and tell me the stories behind all of them. He was a historian in this way.

Both of us musicians, I had the pleasure to jam with him on occasion. He was fierce with that harp.

We spent hours on the phone recently discussing the excruciating minutiae of good music :D Unfortunately that will never happen again. Love you JR...RIP

Dean Morgan - October 12, 2021 at 01:31 AM

TO

“ I met JR in the late 80s when we worked together at ES, but we really became friends after I left for grad school and I came back for 'reunions' (holiday partying). He was always up for a beer, a Stones concert, or to talk archaeology (especially stone tools). We stayed in touch over the years but recently we got to talking on the phone every couple weeks. I'm most glad that I got him in touch with an archaeologist friend in Mexico who got him several blocks of Pachuca obsidian earlier this year (including a beautiful replica of an Aztec spear point) - he was gobsmacked and thankful... I'm just thankful that I got to know him all these years. He will be missed greatly, but his legacy lives on... RIP JR!

Tom - October 11, 2021 at 11:15 AM

CL

“ I knew John Most of our lives , we were in Cub Scout s together and we remained friends for 57 years!

carl long - October 10, 2021 at 07:47 AM

CL

I will miss you John , We were friends for 57 years! 🙏❤️

carl long - October 10, 2021 at 07:48 AM

BR

I got to know John working at the Park Authority. One of the best things that could have happened. John was always good for a story and he had many of them. Prayers and hugs to the family and may you rest in peace JR.

Buddy Rose - October 12, 2021 at 03:01 AM

PG

“ JR was a bright comet that passed by and you touched many lives. He was a multi-talented, one of a kind, all around great person. You couldn't ask for a better friend or co-worker. Although no longer with us, JR will continue to shine on brightly in our collective memories.
RIP Brother

Petar Glumac - October 09, 2021 at 08:48 PM

DH

“ John I'm a better person for having known. I will cherish our time spent together in our youth!
Also our daily talks. You will never be forgotten my friend. Prayers for Dede and Rob.

Donnie Harris - October 09, 2021 at 04:00 PM

AF

“ Thinking of you JR. Scott and I are in Renovo Pa right this minute, seems fitting as that was the home base for the Kettle Creek project. I had immense respect for you as an archaeologist and enjoyed the comradery on projects. You always added that devilish spirit to any job whether it was the insane cold and ice of Alexandria courthouse or in Westminster where you tried to convince us to have a seance in your hotel room to bring luck to the site. You made the projects fun and worth it. I doubt Renovo has Guinness draft in a can but at least I hope the Sportsman pub where the crew spent many a night has the stones on the jukebox and we can play it in your memory.

Amy Fanz and Scott Emory

Amy fanz - October 09, 2021 at 03:00 PM