



John Michael Brennan

January 26, 1933 - March 2, 2022

John M. Brennan, well known in Toledo athletic circles both as an entrepreneur and as a high school administrator, passed away peacefully at the Kingston Residence of Perrysburg on March 2, 2022. He was born on January 26, 1933, to Sam and Margaret (Sullivan) Brennan, and they preceded him in death.

John married Barbara Grothjan on June 21, 1958, and they were married nearly 64 years. John is survived by Barbara and sons Kevin (Buffy) Brennan, Michael Brennan, John (Laura) Brennan, Tom Brennan; grandchildren Kathleen, Andy, Amy, Liam and Michael; sister Margaret (Richard) Shimman. John grew up in the old South end and attended St. James Catholic School, Central Catholic High School (Class of 1951), Bowling Green State University and the University of Toledo.

He proudly served his country in the United States Army (March 1953-March 1955) and was honorably discharged as a Corporal after serving 19 months in France and Germany.

John served as a member of the Toledo Fire Department from 1957 until his retirement in 1985. He worked for The Athletic Supply Company from 1959 to 1980 working with area elementary school teams, high school teams, the University of Toledo, and Bowling Green State University teams. In 1980 John co-founded Brennan-Eberly Team Sports, Inc. with Bob Eberly where John served as President. Team Sports grew into the area's premier supplier of athletic equipment and uniforms to teams and schools on all levels.

He retired from Team Sports in 1993 to become the assistant athletic director at St. John's Jesuit High School, a position he held until final retirement in 2010.

John was inducted into the Toledo City Athletic League Hall of Fame for distinguished service in 1992 and received the 1998 Distinguished Service Award from the Toledo Chapter of the National Football Foundation. In 2018 he was elected to the St. John's Jesuit High School Hall of Fame for which he was most proud of.

He and Barb were founding members of St. Patrick of Heatherdowns Catholic Church, a lifetime member of the St. Jude Council of the Knights of Columbus, and a member of the Toledo Retired Firefighters Association. He was a proud first-generation Irish American, had friends from all walks of life, and was a 30-year member of Heatherdowns Country Club. He loved golf and cheering on his Notre Dame Fighting Irish, Green Bay Packers, and Cleveland Indians. We are all grateful for the kind and loving care of the Kingston staff in the memory care living and the Hospice of Northwest Ohio

Friends may visit at the Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Rd., on Thursday, March 10th from 2:00pm to 8:00pm. Funeral Mass will take place at St. Patrick of Heatherdowns Church on Friday, March 11th at 10:00am. Interment will be at Resurrection Cemetery. Memorial Contributions may be made to International Samaritan, 803 N. Main St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Please view and sign the online guest registry at www.coylefuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery

5725 Hill Avenue
Toledo, OH 43615

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 10. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home
1770 S. Reynolds Road
Toledo, OH 43614

Mass

MAR 11. 10:00 AM (ET)

St Patrick Of Heatherdowns
4201 Heatherdowns Blvd
Toledo, OH

Tribute Wall

BC

“ My condolences to the Brennan Family. My Dad and John grew up together, went to grade school and high school together and were good friends. I recall buying my first pair of cleats from Mr. Brennan and most of my athletic gear as a kid. God Bless another South Ender in Heaven. A great Irishman.

Bill Cassidy - March 16, 2022 at 08:17 AM

HO

“ Barbara and Family, You are in our thoughts and prayers at this time. We remember many years of friendship with John. We go back many years together and when we heard of John,s passing many sports memories can flooding back. Blessings to all of you. Fred and Marilee Hockenberger

Hockenberger - March 13, 2022 at 05:52 PM

WH

“ My sincere sympathy to the Brannon family. My son attended St. John's over 20 years ago and I got to know John because of my volunteering. He was always one of the nicest people. Occasionally I would see him at Swan Creek when I was walking and even after all those years he remembered me and always had something nice to say. He will be sorely missed.

Wendy Holub - March 11, 2022 at 09:38 AM

CJ

“ My sincere sympathy to the family of John. He was a great person that I had the pleasure of getting to know through the years of Toledo athletics.
Carl Janke

Carl Janke - March 10, 2022 at 11:20 PM

JD

“ I remember John first as the proud father of four sons who were students at St. John's Jesuit High School when I taught there. John also helped me as a coach, first at Athletic Supply and later at Team Sports. When he devoted his "retirement" years to the young men at St. John's Jesuit I was honored to be a colleague. He was truly " A Man for Others." We all benefitted from John's living witness to God and to his Catholic faith.

God called, John faithfully answered, and we are grateful! Jack and Paulette Dewey

Jack Dewey - March 10, 2022 at 10:14 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Michael Brennan.



March 10, 2022 at 12:31 PM

CV

“ 2 files added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS - March 09, 2022 at 03:48 PM

AN

“ I would like to share my sympathies to Mrs. Brennan and the entire family. Mr. Brennan took a special interest in me while I was at St. John's. I used to visit his office for daily talks about golf, football, the Indians, and everything else. I have many stories and memories of the profound impact he made on my life. He was a great, great man who will forever be missed.

All the best,

Andy Tracy '02

andy - March 09, 2022 at 09:09 AM

RF

“ Reece Family purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of John Michael Brennan.



Reece Family - March 09, 2022 at 08:31 AM

SM

“ Mrs. Brennan, Kevin, and the rest of the family -

I am so sorry for your loss. I enjoyed working with John at Athletic Supply and was proud to open the very first Team Sports with him and Bob Eberly (and Nancy Nichols) so many years ago. He was a good man and one of the hardest working people I knew.

Deepest sympathies to all of you... Susie (Hollister) Muller

Susan T Muller - March 08, 2022 at 01:25 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of John Michael Brennan.*



March 07, 2022 at 07:21 PM



“ *Burton Rogers and Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Michael Brennan.*



Burton Rogers and Family - March 07, 2022 at 08:27 AM



“ *Barb,*

My deepest sympathy for your lose. Of all my professional relationships John stood out as the exemplary person to do business with. Our relationship went back as far as Athletic Supply when he sold me first Kangaroo Skin catchers glove. The relationship continued and strengthened as the head football coach at Bowsher where every piece of cloth ware or equipment we needed John would find a way to secure and deliver.

I appreciated our friendship and business relationship.

Burt Rogers

Burton Rogers - March 07, 2022 at 08:18 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Michael Brennan.*



March 06, 2022 at 04:52 PM



“ *Deepest sympathy to the Brennan family. John did enjoy his walks at Swan Creek Park. A good man in all he did.*
Cindy Kusz

Cindy Kusz - March 06, 2022 at 08:14 AM



“ *We want to express our sympathy to Barb and the entire Brennan family. John was a wonderful gentleman. We had many conversations with him while our sons were growing up and playing sports. Sincerely, Sharon and Tony DiSalle*

Sharon DiSalle - March 05, 2022 at 11:12 AM



“ *Barb and Family, Just wanted to send condolences from the Darnell Family. My late husband ,Chuck Darnell, had a personnel and a business relationship with John. Chuck enjoyed playing golf with John and bought athletic supplies for Bowsher High School from him. He was a special friend . These are difficult days and I wanted you to know I am thinking about you. Always, Connie Darnell*

Connie Darnell - March 04, 2022 at 12:03 PM

J'

“ *The Brennan Family,*

A great guy and a wonderful family. May our Lord hold you close...Hugs to all of you from Columbus.

Jeff

Jeff Arman '81 - March 04, 2022 at 09:46 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Michael Brennan.*



March 04, 2022 at 09:24 AM

NR

“ *Dear Barb and Boys,*
I loved John. Working with him all the years at Team Sports was such a pleasure. He was a great boss and a good friend. I really enjoyed our lunches once in awhile after he retired. I'm so sorry for your loss. He was a great man.

You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Love

Nina Reinbolt

Nina Reinbolt - March 03, 2022 at 08:33 PM

MR

“ Dear Mrs. Brennan and Families,
Brent and I were very sorry to hear of Mr. Brennan's passing.
I have wonderful memories of our neighborhood on Heatherdowns.
Tom use to come down to our house and hang out with my brothers.
We are good friends with the Eberly families and when our son was
getting his Varsity jacket for SFS we went thru Team Sports and
Brent is the President of Varsity T at UT and just worked with Bob.
We wish you peace and enjoy all your wonderful memories it helps
when there are sad days.

Peace,
Brent and Maggie (Bosch) Reed

Maggie Bosch Reed - March 03, 2022 at 07:59 PM

KF

“ K&K Leisure Family purchased the Garden Bench - "Gone yet not forgotten..." for the family of John Michael Brennan.



K&K Leisure Family - March 03, 2022 at 04:44 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Michael Brennan.



March 03, 2022 at 03:58 PM