



John Meldrum Horvath

JAN 18, 1938 - MAR 14, 2025



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John Meldrum Horvath

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In Loving Memory of John Meldrum Horvath

John Meldrum Horvath, age 87, of Harsens Island, passed away peacefully on March 14, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. Born on January 18, 1938, to the late Herman and Phyllis Horvath, John lived a life filled with hard work, community service, and deep friendships that spanned generations.

A graduate of Holy Cross High School, John furthered his education at St. Clair County Community College, where he studied fire science—a path that led him to a lifelong commitment to serving and protecting his community. He worked at the fire departments in Algonac and Clay Township, always ready to lend a hand in times of need. He also served as a Clay Township Trustee for 38 years, dedicating himself to the betterment of his community.

John was the patriarch of his family, always bringing loved ones together. Whether it was a holiday, a special occasion, or just an opportunity to gather, John made sure family from near and far had a place to come home to. His presence was the foundation of these gatherings, creating memories that will be cherished for generations.

On May 15, 1981, he married the love of his life, Donna Cullimore, and together they built a life centered around family, faith, and an unshakable work ethic. Those who knew John will remember him as a man of many talents, always willing to teach, guide, and share his wealth of knowledge. He spent years teaching hunter safety courses, ensuring future generations carried on the traditions of responsible sportsmanship.

A proud member of Perch Point Conservation Club, John was a skilled marksman and an even better competitor. He and his son, John David, traveled to shooting tournaments, often leaving with championship titles. His sharpshooting skills led to him being recruited as a U.S. Deputy



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Marshal and serving as a reserve officer for the Algonac Police Department—roles that perfectly suited his unwavering sense of duty.

John had a deep love for the St. Clair Flats, a place he cherished throughout his life. He took pride in building an island and a cottage out of the mud, creating a retreat where family and friends could enjoy the beauty of the water. His appreciation for the outdoors and the island way of life was evident in everything he did.

Never one to sit still, John spent five years as a long-haul truck driver for Boat Transit, hauling boats and yachts across the lower 48 states. He had been to every state in the union, experiencing the vastness of the country, but he loved home the best.

John was a pillar of the Harsens Island community, known not only for his businesses but for the friendships and mentorships he built along the way. He owned and operated several local businesses, including the Algonac Gun Shop, Algonac Fur Company, Island Enterprises (Marine Construction of docks and seawalls), and Silent Acres Farm. Through his butcher shop and other ventures, he formed lifelong connections—many saw him not just as a friend, but as family. To so many, he was “Island Dad,” the one people turned to for advice, wisdom, or a well-timed one-liner that never failed to bring a smile.

John was also a proud member of the Masonic Lodge, an organization that reflected his values of service, integrity, and brotherhood. He embraced the principles of the fraternity, forming lasting bonds with fellow members and further contributing to his community.

John’s relentless work ethic and dedication to his community never faded—he simply never retired. His purpose wasn’t just in what he did but in the relationships he built. His presence, humor, and generous spirit will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Donna Horvath; his children, John David (Tami) Horvath and Jennifer (Larry) VanTiem; his cherished grandchildren, Christina “C.J.” Horvath, Tristin (Jeff Curtis) Coll, Makailey, Landyn, and Coy VanTiem; and his great-granddaughter, Ryleigh Mae Curtis. He also leaves behind his brothers, Richard (Maryann) Horvath and Robert (Alicia) Horvath; his sister-in-law, Nancy Horvath; and many beloved nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends.



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John was preceded in death by his grandson, Blake, his siblings, James Horvath and Nancy (Don) Claphan, and his nephew, Timothy Claphan.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, March 22nd at 11:00 a.m. at Young Funeral Home, 4061 St Clair Hwy, East China, MI. Visitation will be on Friday, March 21st from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., as well as one hour prior to the service on Saturday. Urn interment for John to be in a family plot at Immaculate Conception Cemetery, Fair Haven, MI

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the wishes of the family. To leave a message of comfort, please visit www.youngcolonial.com.

John Horvath leaves behind a legacy of strength, kindness, and an unwavering commitment to family and community. His impact will be felt for generations to come.




Events

John Meldrum Horvath

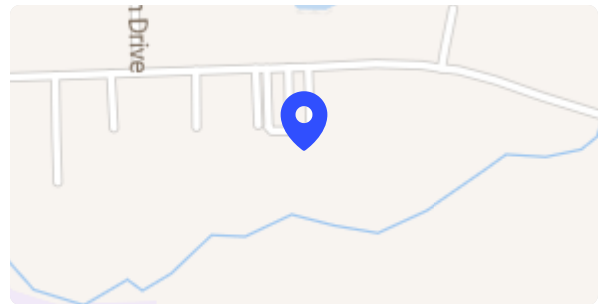
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Visitation

 **Friday**, March 21, 2025


 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET

 **Young Colonial Chapel Funeral Home**
4061 Saint Clair Hwy, East China MI

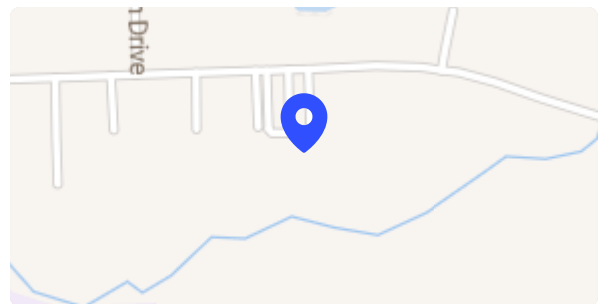


Visitation

 **Saturday**, March 22, 2025


 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET


 **Young Colonial Chapel Funeral Home**
4061 Saint Clair Hwy, East China MI

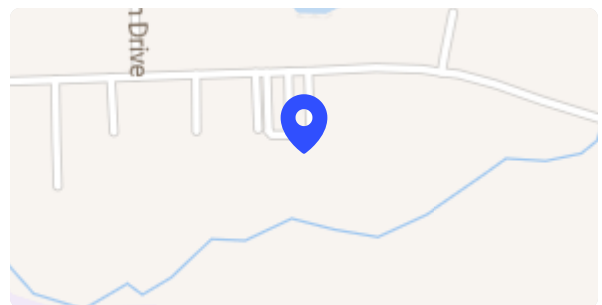


Service

 **Saturday**, March 22, 2025

 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM ET

 **Young Colonial Chapel Funeral Home**
4061 Saint Clair Hwy, East China MI



Cemetery Details

 Cremation



Tribute Wall

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Eric Quint posted:

John was a serious firecracker! Lots of fond memories! Lots of good advice! Lots of loud negotiations and fist pounding! His uniqueness, smile and insane drive will truly be missed. I stopped at the compound two times and was too scared to ever go back. I'm a sucker for good whiskey and he had knob creek. His idea of a shot was a freaking tumbler glass. Wowsers! But I lived and it was really fun (next day, not so much) See you soon enough. We'll have a Strohs. And thanks to Donna for handling John's wildness so well (why she loved him too) and taking such good care of our buddy. You were an angel. From Eric Your friend from Adair Salvage.

March 21 at 1:53 PM



Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Horvath family.



March 20 at 8:20 AM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of John.



March 20 at 8:20 AM



Anonymous sent an Arrive in Style to the Horvath family.



March 20 at 7:37 AM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of John.



March 20 at 7:37 AM



Tribute Wall

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Christina "C.J.", Carter, Connor And Lauren planted a Memorial Tree in honor of John.

March 20 at 6:57 AM



Sandy, Danielle And Steven Suisse planted a Memorial Tree in honor of John.

March 20 at 6:24 AM



Sandy, Danielle And Steven Suisse sent a Florist Choice Bouquet to the Horvath family.

March 20 at 6:24 AM



Roger Williamson planted a Memorial Tree in honor of John.

March 19 at 4:58 PM



Roger Williamson sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the Horvath family.

March 19 at 4:58 PM



Kathy And Doug Andrews sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the Horvath family.

March 19 at 1:51 PM





Tribute Wall

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SF

Sue Venditti And Family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of John.

March 19 at 12:31 PM



SF

Sue Venditti And Family sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Horvath family.

March 19 at 12:31 PM



JM

Jeff, Brandy, Blake, And Mckenna planted a Memorial Tree in honor of John.

March 19 at 2:44 AM



JM

Jeff, Brandy, Blake, And Mckenna sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Horvath family.

March 19 at 2:44 AM



JS

Jack Steinmetz posted:

In fond memory of a wonderful "older brother," back in our younger days in Marine City. Jack Steinmetz

March 17 at 1:32 PM

PH

Patricia Heath posted:

I got to know and love John through his brother Bob and sister-in-law Alicia. I always felt like family when we visited him. His obituary says it all and more! May John rest now in peace with our god who loves him. Peace and courage be to Donna and John's family, friends and loved ones. (Sister) Pat Heath

March 17 at 7:21 AM



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Michael posted:

I only knew John a few years. But, it seemed like a lifetime. He was such an impressive man with so many interests and world of knowledge. He most certainly has left his legacy on his community. John - thank you for your friendship I will miss our "butcher shop talks." Rest in Peace my friend.

March 17 at 6:41 AM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Horvath family.



March 17 at 4:00 AM



Doug Lorf posted:

So very sorry for your loss. John was always a nice man

March 17 at 3:40 AM



Mary Ann Ruemenapp posted:

A life well lived. John, you will be missed RIP.

March 16 at 4:55 PM



Ghekiere Family sent a Forever Our Angel Bouquet to the Horvath family.



March 16 at 8:49 AM



Anonymous sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Horvath family.



March 16 at 8:43 AM



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Beth Janjanin posted:

It's a shame that I've been part of the family for almost 45 years and didn't know a lot of impressive things about uncle John, but i knew enough to know how strong he was, how involved he was, how smart he was, and how much he loved his friends and family! Sorry for the loss of a wonderful man. Love you uncle John RIP ❤️

March 16 at 6:22 AM



Dean Zimmerman posted:

Always enjoyed a chat with John when he would venture out to Marine City and stop by the meat market. RIP.

March 15 at 3:50 PM



Gay posted:

John truly believed in family. He always treated us so well whenever we came to visit. He was such a tease! But he could also be very serious. I'm so glad we visited when we did. It had been too long since we had been in Michigan. We love you all so much! Hoping to see you again soon.... ❤️

March 15 at 3:26 PM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of John.



March 15 at 3:16 PM



Anonymous sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Horvath family.



March 15 at 3:16 PM



Patti Kernohan posted:

John was a good friend he always checked on me after I loss terry will be missed RIP my friend

March 15 at 12:51 PM



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The Hodges Family sent a Tender Tribute to the Horvath family.



March 15 at 12:30 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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