



## John James Radke

September 13, 1947 - October 5, 2024

John James Radke, age 77, formerly of Madison, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully in his sleep on October 5, 2024. Born on September 13, 1947, John was a devoted partner, father, grandfather, and friend whose love and compassion touched the lives of many.

John is survived by his partner, Patti Field, whose love brought him great joy, his two children, daughter Michelle Rothwell (Kevin Rothwell) and son John Radke (Amy Radke), five beloved grandchildren: Austin Rothwell, Jake Rothwell, John Radke, Savana Radke, and Aliyah Radke, Patti's children, Chris Gieck (LeaAnn Gieck) and Jenny Gieck and Patti's grandchildren, Rylin Gieck, Remi Gieck and Ridge Gieck. He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews and close friends. He was preceded in death by his loving parents, John and Louise Radke and his beautiful sister Carole Nahey.

A passionate individual, John enjoyed a wide array of hobbies, including motorcycling, music, swing dancing, playing the guitar, exercising, camping, and spending time with those he loved. He was an avid traveler who embraced new experiences and cultures, always eager to learn and connect with others.

John dedicated over 40 years as a social worker for the Veterans Affairs Department, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to serving those who

served our country. He also devoted his time to mentoring youth through the Big Brothers Big Sisters program and leading local Boy Scout troops, leaving a lasting impact on the community. He leaves behind a legacy of love, dedication, and service.

John, we will miss you, immensely. You were our "go-to" when life got tough, you were the calm in the storm, and our comfort when we needed clarity. You were always someone we could count on, to listen, to be present and truly see us, without judgment. You gave us your time, and always provided us with sound advice. You made sure we made our decisions after thinking things through. You gave 110% and never stopped fighting for what was right. Because of you, we have the heart of a lion, the love of our family, and a passion to make the world a better, kinder place. We thank you for your time, your wise words of advice, the love you gave us, the laughter and joy and the beautiful lives we've lived because of you, your hard work, and your boundless love for us. We are all better people, because of you. We will forever love you and keep you in our hearts.

A Celebration of Life will be held on December 7, 2024 at noon, at The Church at Christ Memorial, located at 2833 Raritan Rd, Fitchburg, WI 53711. A luncheon will follow the ceremony, welcoming all who knew and loved John.

John Radke will be greatly missed, but his spirit will live on in the hearts of those who loved him.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home of Leesburg, Florida.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

DEC 7. 12:00 PM (CT)

The Church at Christ Memorial  
2833 Raritan Rd  
Fitchburg, WI 53711

# Tribute Wall

FJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Frank Johnson** - September 17, 2025 at 12:35 AM

JJ

“ I worked with John at the VA CSP for 10 years. He always was the first person to say “I can do it” if you needed help. He never complained about change...he welcomed it. For someone who worked so many years he approached everyday with the same enthusiasm and energy...it was contagious. John was a mentor and a person so many social workers looked up to. His impact is truly remarkable. Deepest condolences to his family and friends. I will always remember him fondly.

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**Jennifer Johncox** - December 05, 2024 at 07:21 AM

LR

“ Laura R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John James Radke.

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**Laura R.** - December 04, 2024 at 07:29 PM

LT

“ John was a member of Java Chats for almost five years. He always had a ready smile for newcomers. We had many interesting talks about his work with the VA and I found his insights to be spot-on. He shared stories about his Miata group and the fun activities and fund raisers the club hosted. We both shared the travel bug and I especially enjoyed hearing about his trip to Argentina. I was surprised when I heard of his death. John was a vital and caring man and he was taken from us too soon. John, rest in peace my friend. My deepest condolences to his partner and family.

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Laura Rieger Thal - December 04, 2024 at 07:27 PM

LG

“ John was a very special friend who I met through the Madison Meet up groups. He supported me greatly during the most tragic Time of my life when my 29-year-old son went missing in California. He helped keep me busy as I waited for news on my son. I was at a cookout social event with John when I got the phone call that my son had been found in the ICU in California. After my son's death, John even organized a GoFundMe page thru Meetup to help me with my grievous loss. He was a very special person that everyone who knew him loved. He went to many social, Meet up events, riding his bike, almost anywhere and everywhere in Madison. We all miss him greatly when he relocated. It's very hard to believe that he is gone. My heart felt condolences to his family, relatives and closest friends. His light in the world will be greatly missed.



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Leslie Gilbert - November 14, 2024 at 01:26 PM

RD

“ I didn't get to know John too well. When we first met he was a quiet person. Always seemed to be enjoying what was going on though. The last time I saw him, he and his son (I knew his son as John-John) visited me in Branson, MO and we spent much of the night at a bar with dueling pianos and sing along. We had a ball. I will miss John very much but I will always remember his great smile and upbeat nature. Uncle Bobby.

R L Dixon - November 08, 2024 at 02:06 PM

TC

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I worked with John for many years at the VA CSP. He was a fierce advocate for our veterans and a great co worker. His snacks of choice at our meetings were always apples, almonds and diet coke! I'm glad he was able to enjoy his retirement years. He will be greatly missed.

Teri Christen - November 04, 2024 at 10:21 PM

DS

“ The only memory is through John's daughter Michelle. He obviously made a huge impression on her by his actions of helping others. Also to see the depth of how Michelle loves her husband Kevin and her two boys Jake and Austin. Is a direct reflection of how Michelle learned what's important from her Dad. God bless everyone who's grieving and missing such a rock in their lives. 🙏🏻💔🌈😊

Dave Sheney - November 04, 2024 at 09:30 PM