



John F. McDonnell III

May 2, 1951 - June 17, 2025

It is with both heavy hearts and joyful memories that we announce the passing of John Francis McDonnell, III, age 74, beloved husband, community leader, and devoted fan of all things Pittsburgh sports, who departed this life on Tuesday, June 17, 2025.

Born on May 2, 1951, in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, John grew up in the Monaca area, where he developed an unwavering passion for the Steelers, Pirates, and Penguins. He graduated from Monaca High School with the class of 1969 and continued on to earn an Associate's Degree from Community College of Beaver County (CCBC). It was there that John met his beloved wife, Diana "Dee Dee" McDonnell, forming a partnership that would thrive for nearly 51 years. He then continued his education by earning a Bachelor's Degree from what was then Clarion State College in Pennsylvania.

In the 1980's, John and Dee made Delmar their home. John quickly became an integral part of the community, dedicating himself to various local organizations. His contributions included serving on the finance committee at St. Stephen's Church, where he was an active member, as well as holding significant positions such as past cabinet secretary to the District Governor of the Delaware Lions Clubs, 7 times the president of the Delmar Lions Club, was currently 3rd Vice President of the Delmar VFW Post 8276 Auxiliary and was a member of the New Century Club of Delmar. He cherished his role as a member of the Delmar Public Library Board and the Greater Delmar Chamber of Commerce. One of John's proudest moments was when he was recognized

as the Delmar Citizen of the Year in 2006.

John had a distinguished career as the Town Manager for the town of Greenwood from which he retired in 2017 and brought his dedication and skill to the position with great pride. Additionally, he served as the Mayor of Delmar from 1990 to 2004, during which time he made lasting impacts on the community he loved.

An enthusiastic supporter of the Delmar High School football team, John found joy in cheering on the young athletes, embodying the spirit of community pride that he valued so dearly. He was also an avid animal lover, always finding joy in the company of his dogs, who he spoiled and adored.

John is survived by his devoted wife, Diana Lynn "Dee Dee" McDonnell; his sister-in-law, Cheryl Gauvey; brother-in-law, John E. Mikita and wife, Karen; nephew Ryan Mikita; and several cousins. His legacy of love, community service, and humor will forever reside in the hearts of all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John Francis McDonnell, Jr. and Edna Mae (Ross) McDonnell; his father and mother in law, John and Grace Mikita; and his best friend of 40 years, Gary Hershberger.

A memorial service will be held to celebrate John's life, honoring the love he shared and the impact he made on his community, on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. at Short Funeral Home in Delmar, where a visitation will be held from 2:00 to 4:00. A reception will follow the service at Camelot Hall located at St. Stephen's Methodist Church.

A celebration of life service will be held in Pennsylvania at the Westminster United Presbyterian Church, 115 N. Mercer Avenue, New Brighton, PA on Sunday, June 29th at 3:00 pm. A reception will follow the service in the Fellowship Hall of Westminster Church.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the Leaderdog for the Blind, c/o Delmar Lions Club, c/o Gary Riley. 3643 May Twilley Road, Delmar, DE 19940, reflecting John's spirit of giving and love for his community.

Arrangements are in the care of Short Funeral Home in Delmar. Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.shortfh.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **24**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Short Funeral Home
13 East Grove Street
Delmar, DE 19940
(302) 846-2525
info@shortfh.com

Celebration of Life

JUN **24**. 4:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Short Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John F. McDonnell III*



Short Funeral Home - June 24, 2025 at 02:34 PM

TK

“ *Sending prayers to the McDonall family Mrs Dee we are sending prayers to you from the Donaway's Tricia and Kelly at the Vfw post 8276*

tricia and kelly - June 21, 2025 at 08:10 PM

JH

“ *I used to call him Uncle John because I've known him since I can remember he was such a good man and Aunt Dee Dee my deepest sympathy to you. You guys have been a very important part in all of my family. You guys have been so special to us. He most definitely will be missed.*

Jen Hershberger - June 20, 2025 at 03:48 PM



Our thoughts and prayers are with Dee and her family during this difficult time. John was a great man and a huge loss for the Delmar community. Cathy & Craig Moorefield

Craig-Cathy Moorefield - June 21, 2025 at 04:12 PM

PW

“ *Deepest sympathy to Dee and to the Delmar community. We lost a good man and a good friend.*

Pat Wood and Family

Pat Wood - June 20, 2025 at 09:04 AM

BG

“ *I met John when I worked for Dee at Seaford Library. He was always a very nice man and a gentleman. He and Dee were a great couple, who did a lot for their community. Barbara Glover*

Barbara Glover - June 19, 2025 at 01:39 PM