



John R. Blaetz

December 22, 1954 - January 6, 2017

John R. Blaetz, age 62, of West Wildwood, passed away peacefully on January 6, 2017 surrounded by his loving family. He was born to Robert and Harriet Blaetz (nee Decker) in Philadelphia, PA. John worked as a computer engineer for 25 years. After moving to the shore, John worked for 13 years at Island Art of Stone Harbor, and it was there that he so enjoyed handing out shells to children and treats to dogs. In fact, when the store is closed, dogs would wait at the door for treats, or would drag their owners in! John touched many lives and always went out of his way to make others smile. He will be remembered as intelligent, funny, and having a devilish sense of humor and sophisticated love for music. John was a published photographer, and saw the details of the world around him in a unique, and beautiful way. He will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

John is predeceased by his father, Robert Blaetz; cat, Storm; and dog, Harry.

He leaves behind to carry on his legacy his beloved wife, Darlene Eldridge-Blaetz; siblings, Robert and Mary Blaetz; mother, Harriet Blaetz; mother in law, Jane Eriskin; brother in law, Brian Eldridge; and his West Wildwood Family Dan, Teresa, Tommy and Joey Golden, June and Tony Wells, Richie Spinetta, Jim and Lori Perloff, Mayor Fox, Chief Jackie, Chris, Scott, Max and all of the officials, staff and neighbors of our great town.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend his memorial gathering on January 21, 2017 from 1pm-2pm at Inglesby & Sons Funeral Home, located at 2426 Cove Rd., Pennsauken, NJ 08109. A memorial service will begin at 2pm at the funeral home. To post photos, share a memory, or send an online condolence, please visit www.inglesbyfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

JAN **21**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Inglesby & Sons Funeral Home
2426 Cove Rd.
Pennsauken, NJ 08109
(856) 662-1271
info@inglesbyfuneralhome.com
<https://www.inglesbyfuneralhome.com>

Memorial Service

JAN **21**. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall

DB

“Hello Honey, As what would have been our 19th wedding anniversary approaches, October 6th, 2001, and our 2nd favorite holiday, Halloween, you are foremost in my mind. You have never left, and I still cry for you everyday, for nearly 4 years now. I am utterly alone, and have been abandoned by everyone I have known. I am truly struggling in every way possible. I remember our wedding day like it was yesterday. You knew how nervous and afraid of commitment I was. The night before I left to travel to my parents home, knowing you may or may NOT see me again until October 6th at the church, you sat me down and said, "Darlene, if those doors open, and I don't see you, and you can't make it down the aisle, it's okay. I understand, and I will still love you forever. We'll go somewhere and stay and order room service!" I laughed. When the time came, and I stood behind those doors, waiting for them to open, I always thought... I'll have the best dress, beautiful shoes... but, truly, in that moment, all I thought of was seeing your beautiful green eyes and smile and that, finally, I wasn't afraid anymore. I would be joined, forever, to the love of my life. I miss you more than words can say. I cannot believe how cold and cruel my life is without you. I am existing, I only look forward to the day when I will see you again. I love you John.



Darlene Eldridge Blaetz - September 18, 2020 at 01:37 PM

SE

What a tragedy when your the one who left me , YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER WHO DID NOTHING TO NOBODY....

Scott eldridge - November 01, 2025 at 08:47 PM

JM

“ John and I were good friends back in School. He was one of the funniest guys I ever knew. Always making light of things we all took way too serious. Once I got so inebriated that he and my friends dragged me to Wawas for coffee. Then Mrs. Blaetz drove me home. John and my brother carried me upstairs to my bed. We all used to load up the old station wagon with Boone's Farm and drive to the lake and back. Once we all went to AC and everyone got blitzed. John and I rounded everyone up and got them home safe.

If I only knew where he lived I would have come down to spend time with him.

My sincere condolences and best wishes to his family and friends.

Jim Merrell-Thomas (Jim Thomas, PHS '73)

James A Merrell-Thomas - January 20, 2017 at 10:50 AM

DE

Hi Jim....Thank you for sharing a John YOU knew, that I didn't. I am John's widow, Darlene. Sounds like John though, up for a good time, but worried about and caring for others. John lived a very happy life. We were married for 16 very happy, wonderful years, but together for nearly 19. We lived "at the shore" for 17 of those years. We enjoyed nature, the beach, MANY crazy adventures...and never fought a single day! He didn't deserve to go so young, but went peacefully. Thanks again. Love, Darlene

Darlene Eldridge - June 12, 2017 at 03:35 PM

SC

“ *Spencer Maureen Allison Aimee and all the crew. purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of John R. Blaetz.*



Spencer Maureen Allison Aimee and all the crew. - January 19, 2017 at 05:47 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John R. Blaetz.*



January 18, 2017 at 05:27 PM

RB

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Robert Blaetz - January 15, 2017 at 12:41 PM



“ *I will miss you John. I loved making you laugh.*

Denise Shepherd - January 15, 2017 at 10:41 AM

DE

Hi Denise, This is John's widow Darlene. Thank you...for making John laughed. He is, and ALWAYS will, be missed by SO many. I count myself blessed that HE chose ME in life.

Darlene Eldridge - June 12, 2017 at 03:37 PM

RT

I knew John's sister Mary, Pennsauken High class of '72, but didn't meet John until we worked together at CIGNA almost 30 years later. For a guy who was not always well, he was one of the funniest guys I ever knew, always making those around him laugh, and me especially. Maybe it was our Pennsauken connection, but for some reason I used to think I REALLY got him and his crazy humor. And he was amazing around kids too. I remember when someone's little boy came to the office one day, and John was clowning around with him in a way that made you think he was a dad himself. For all the joy he gave others, you always felt that John was thankful for everyday on earth, and he made you feel that you should be as well. So many of his friends were overjoyed to see him marry. I personally had many conversations with him around how crazy in love he was with Darlene. To attend their wedding and see him that happy was very heartwarming. "John....for the years shared with the love of you life....you deserved it buddy. I will see you in heaven, where I'm certain we'll again share some laughs!"

Rich Tourigian - May 02, 2019 at 09:32 AM

DE

Oh Rich! How so very happy you just made me. This is Darlene, John's widow. You described him to a t! I loved him SO much and still grieve him every day. He was TRULY that happy, grateful, hysterically funny guy right to the end. I am proud, beyond words, to have cared for him and made him as happy as I possibly could every single moment we were together for the 19 wonderful years we had. It is wonderful to hear that SO many people were happy for him. I would love to hear more John stories! Look me up... Darlene Eldridge on Facebook... thank you so much Rich!

Darlene Eldridge - February 27, 2020 at 09:31 PM