



John Landon Gilkes

June 26, 1951 - March 17, 2020

Ocala John Landon Gilkes, 68, passed away on March 17, 2020, in Ocala, Florida. He was born on June 26, 1951, in Rockville Centre, New York to Alfred Armstrong and Jean Landon Gilkes. John was a hardworking business manager and a proud Eagle Scout. Throughout his life and into his retirement, he happily volunteered his time and experience to the development of young men through the Boy Scouts of America.

John loved his family and his church. He never left any doubt in peoples minds that he lived his life to help others and would often put their needs before his own. Like his father and siblings, John loved music and could often be heard singing, practicing for shows at his church. John met his wife, Deborah, in November 1973 and married her within the year. He loved and cherished her every day until his last day, and together they set an example of what true love is.

He is preceded by his parents, Alfred and Jean Gilkes; and his grandson Jesse Smith.

He is survived by his loving wife, Deborah Lynn Gilkes; children, Melissa Anne Gilkes-Smith, Justin David Gilkes, and Sarah Jean Gilkes; siblings, Bruce Gilkes, Paul Gilkes, and Susan Gilkes; as well as 6 grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

Due to unprecedented times his service will be scheduled for a later date so all those who were closely held in his heart can be together to celebrate his life.

Tribute Wall

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“ I was so sorry to learn of John's death - we shared many stories and good times in Scouting. John was determined to keep Pack 440 going as well as seeing his grandson advance in Troop 439. He was the only Scouter that I knew who had been awarded the Honor Medal with Crossed Palms-- a rare recognition for saving someone's life at considerable risk to his own. Well done and a life lived-- fellow Eagle Scout! Our condolences to the Gilkes family.

Bob Schlegel - March 26, 2020 at 12:00 AM