



John Howard

March 27, 1941 - May 26, 2026

John E. Howard, born on March 27, 1941, in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, passed away on May 26, 2026, in Ocala, Florida, leaving behind a life marked by devotion, hard work, humor, and generosity.

He was born to Hoke Howard and Katie Morris and grew up with the values of family, perseverance, and kindness that would guide him throughout his life. John attended Stranahan High School and carried the lessons of his youth into every season of his journey. He was known by those who loved him as a man who could fix just about anything, tell a good "dad joke", and make people feel welcome in his presence. He never met a stranger, and his easygoing nature allowed him to connect with people from all walks of life.

At the age of 17, John joined the Navy, beginning four years of honorable service to his country. His time in the Navy helped shape his character and strengthened the sense of discipline and responsibility that remained with him throughout his life. After his military service, he went on to work in telecommunications for many years, building a steady and respected career through dedication and reliability. In 1990, he moved to Ocala, Florida, where he founded Justin's Pool Center along with his son Justin. That venture reflected not only his work ethic, but also his desire to build something meaningful alongside his family.

John was a man of many interests and simple pleasures. He loved to fish, and even his socks had fish on them, a small detail that reflected his playful spirit and sense of fun. He also enjoyed collecting and selling comic books, baseball cards, and rare coins, treasures that spoke to his appreciation for memories, history, and the joy of collecting. Gardening was another of his favorite pastimes, and two trees he planted still stand in the yard today as living reminders of his care and presence. He also enjoyed going to the casino, where he found excitement and entertainment in the experience. Those who knew him best will remember that he was funny, handy, and generous, always ready to lend a hand or share a laugh.

Family was central to John's life. He was survived by his beloved spouse of 48 years, Barbara Howard, who described him as her safe place and the love of her life. Their bond was one of deep affection, loyalty, and enduring companionship. John was also a proud father to eight children, Justin Howard and his wife Jennifer, Shannon Hosch and her husband Alvin, Jason Howard and his wife Tania, Jonathan Dismuke and his wife Nikki, Stephen Walters and his wife Daniella, Carrie Howard, Kimberly Davis and her husband Patrick, and Tommy Dismuke. He cherished his 13 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren, each of whom brought him joy and added to the legacy of love he leaves behind. He was also a devoted godfather to Kendal, a role he embraced with care and sincerity.

John's life was one of service, family, and quiet strength. He lived with a generous heart and a willingness to help others, and he will be remembered for the warmth he brought into the lives of those around him. His humor, practical nature, and kind spirit made him unforgettable to his family and friends. Though he is no longer physically present, the memories he created, the lessons he taught, and the love he gave will remain with those who knew him always.

His family and friends will carry forward his memory with gratitude for the many years they shared with him. John E. Howard will be remembered with love, respect, and appreciation for a life well lived. John was deeply loved. May he rest in peace with the Lord.

Upcoming Events

Visitation

MAY 30. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Roberts of Ocala West Chapel
6241 SW State Rd 200
Ocala, FL 34476
(352) 537-8111
<http://www.robertsfunerals.com>

Celebration of Life

MAY 30. 11:00 AM (ET)

Roberts of Ocala West Chapel
6241 SW State Rd 200
Ocala, FL 34476
(352) 537-8111
<http://www.robertsfunerals.com>

Burial Service

MAY 30. 12:00 PM (ET)

Good Shepherd Memorial Gardens
5050 SW 20th Street
Ocala, FL 34474

Tribute Wall



“ *Roberts of Ocala Funerals and Cremations created a Tribute Video in memory of John Howard*



Roberts of Ocala Funerals and Cremations - 1 hour ago



“ *Summer's Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Howard.*



1 minute ago



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Howard.*



48 minutes ago



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Howard.*

48 minutes ago



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of John Howard.*



15 hours ago



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Howard.

15 hours ago



“ *Kimberly D. purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of John Howard.*



Kimberly D. - Yesterday at 08:29 PM



“ *Kimberly D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Howard.*

Kimberly D. - Yesterday at 08:29 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of John Howard.*



Yesterday at 07:54 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Howard.

Yesterday at 07:54 PM



“ Love, Michelle and Ronel Millana purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John Howard.



Love, Michelle and Ronel Millana - Yesterday at 07:11 PM



“ Love, Michelle and Ronel Millana planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Howard.

Love, Michelle and Ronel Millana - Yesterday at 07:11 PM