



John Sawaya

November 23, 1952 - November 17, 2021

John Sammia Sawaya III, 68, of Belleview, Florida passed away unexpectedly on November 17, 2021. John was born in Ocala, Florida to John S. and Martha C. Sawaya on November 23, 1952. He graduated from Ocala High School in 1970 and then went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the University of Florida. He began his teaching career at Vanguard High School and transferred to Belleview High School until his retirement, teaching Geometry and Algebra II as well as coaching the girls golf team. John enjoyed fishing, golf, his beloved Notre Dame football team, and most importantly, his dogs.

John is survived by his sister Mary Martha Sawaya Hilley and her children, Jennifer Leigh Hilley, Karen Elaine Hilley-Tittle, and Daniel Jonathan Hilley and their respective spouses as well as close friends, extended family, and children who adored him.

A memorial service will be held at the Roberts Downtown Chapel on Saturday, December 11 at 2 p.m. for visitation with a prayer and remembrance service at 2:30. Roberts of Ocala Funerals and Cremations will be handling the

arrangements.

Memorial donations may be made in his honor to the Humane Society of Marion County at 701 NW 14th Rd, Ocala, Florida 34475. The family wishes to extend their thanks to all who mourn with us for this fine man and his legacy.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC 11. 2:00 PM.

Roberts Downtown Chapel

Remembrance Service

DEC 11. 2:30 PM (ET)

Roberts of Ocala Downtown Chapel
606 SW 2nd Ave
Ocala, FL 34471
(352) 780-1267
<https://www.robertsfunerals.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *John was the best math teacher ever! He had a Hugh Heart! I learned under him at Golden Hills. I will be forever Thankful for what he taught Me!!!*

Georgia Salva - February 18, 2022 at 06:14 PM

TG

“ *Mr. Sawaya was my most favorite teacher! I was good at math because of him. I am now a 52 year old educator myself and I still acknowledge him as the best teacher I've ever had. My sincerest thoughts and prayers go out to the family. God has gained a sweet angel!*

Tracy Gallmon-Terrell - December 09, 2021 at 08:22 AM

EM

“ *John was a great teacher, mentor, coach and friend. You will be missed by many. God's speed my friend.*

mac

Ed McPadden - November 26, 2021 at 08:36 PM

JS

“ *There is an old adage on the golf course that a person's true character comes out in a round of golf. John was honest to a fault, he appreciated and played by the rules, and he suffered disappointment just like the rest of us with frustration! God speed John. You are missed. Jim Southall*

Jim Southall - November 22, 2021 at 09:34 PM

CG

“ *Mr. Sawaya was one of my favorite teachers ever. Prayers for your family for comfort and peace during this time.* ”



Christy G - November 19, 2021 at 08:07 PM

AD

Sending love and light to your family during this difficult time. Me. Sawaya was an amazing teacher with the patience of a saint. May his memory be a blessing.

Aimee Dietz - November 20, 2021 at 03:17 PM

CB

So shocked and saddened to hear of the loss of John, such a kind person gone way too soon. My deepest sympathy to the family and all who knew him. Cassie Benefield

Cassie Benefield - November 21, 2021 at 11:59 AM

HB

John was my mentor as a first year geometry teacher at VHS. His students loved him, and respected him, as I do. Godspeed, John. Plenty of fish to fry now.

Harry Burns - November 26, 2021

Harry Burns - November 25, 2021 at 07:15 PM

CF

Today I have been looking up teachers from my past at Vanguard High School. I had Mr. Sawaya for geometry. Awesome teacher. I believe that I had in my 10th grade 1985(?)

charles flancher - February 09, 2025 at 11:05 AM