



## John Michael Manna

December 23, 1963 - March 20, 2026

John Michael Manna, of Newark, Delaware, and a proud veteran of the United States Air Force, passed away peacefully on March 20, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. He was 62. John was born in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, on December 23, 1963, and grew up in Tresckow, Pennsylvania. He graduated from West Hazleton High School, class of 1982. He lived a life defined by service, dedication, and quiet strength. He honorably served in the United States Air Force for 24 years, retiring at the rank of Master Sergeant. Throughout his distinguished military service, he exemplified the core values of integrity, excellence, and service before self.

John's service was recognized with numerous honors and commendations, including the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor device, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, and additional ribbons.

He was heavily involved with the Red Cross, where he served as a Disaster Action Team Coordinator. During his assignment in Dover, Delaware, he worked part time in maintenance for Best Western and Holiday Inn.

Following his military career, John continued to share his knowledge and expertise as a Maintenance Instructor for Dassault Falcon aircraft at CAE in Whippany, New Jersey, where he mentored and guided others until his retirement in 2024.

John will be remembered for his steadfast loyalty, his calm and dependable nature, and the deep love he had for his family. He enjoyed dining out and traveling, and was an avid collector of coins and unique aviation and military items. He was the kind of person you could count on to fix just about anything. John was very proud of his Polish heritage, often attending Polish festivals and events. He was also a dedicated member of the Lt. J. Allison O'Daniel VFW Post 475, where he spent much of his time among fellow veterans. He shared a special bond with his beloved dog, Bruce, who was not only a companion but truly his best buddy.

John is survived by his loving mother, Shirley Manna; his sister, Pamela Salata (Jonathan); his brother, James Manna (Jill); and his twin sister, Barbara Malin (Robert). He is also cherished by his four nieces; Courtney Salata, Summer Salata, Sarah Diehm, and Emily Manna, and his nephew, Robert Malin, Jr., all of whom will carry his memory forward. He was preceded in death by his father, Albert Manna, Jr.; his nephew, Jonathan Salata, Jr.; and his cherished dog, Bruce. John's legacy will live on in the hearts of all who knew him. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Family and friends are invited to attend a visitation on Thursday, April 9, 2026 from 9:30 to 11 am at Strano and Feeley Family Funeral Home, 635 Churchmans Rd., Newark DE 19702. A service in celebration of John's life will begin at 11 am. Burial will take place immediately following the service at Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 2465 Chesapeake City Rd., Bear, DE 19701.

John had a huge heart for children struggling with disease and often referred to the kids at St. Jude Children's Research hospital as "his kids." In lieu of flowers, John would have wanted donations to be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in his memory. For directions or to leave an online condolence please visit [www.stranofeeley.com](http://www.stranofeeley.com).

# Previous Events

## Viewing

APR 9. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Strano & Feeley Family Funeral Home  
635 Churchmans Rd  
Newark, DE 19702  
(302) 731-5459  
info@stranofeeley.com

## Celebration of Life

APR 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Strano & Feeley Family Funeral Home  
635 Churchmans Rd  
Newark, DE 19702  
(302) 731-5459  
info@stranofeeley.com

## Burial

APR 9. 1:00 PM (ET)

Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery  
2465 Chesapeake City Road  
Bear, DE 19701

# Tribute Wall

KP

“ I’m sorry for the families loss. I served with John at Dover in the latest 80’s. He was a good friend and mentor. And a pretty funny guy! I haven’t seen him since then but I thought about him often. My condolences. 🌸

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**Kevin Powers** - May 01 at 06:00 PM

DW

“ So many great memories with cousin John at our Grandmother Mam’s farm in Sugarloaf, Pa. Our families gathered there every weekend. Mam always had a pot of soup on the stove for us, sometimes pierogi or potato pancakes that I know John enjoyed so very much. I remember coming to Tresckow with my mom to help out when John and Barbara, the twins, were first born. John was always such a curious kid that we all knew would be destined to accomplish great things in his life someday, which he certainly did, and so humbly at that. My brother Daryl mentioned today that he was always so interested and determined to figure out how things worked. A Jack of all trades. So very proud of him and how much he loved serving our country in the United States Air Force and also served in the American Red Cross, and various other things. A supporter of children’s charities as well. He dedicated his whole life to serving others. Such an amazing person! Rest in peace cousin John. You did so much good for others.

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**Dee Dee Whiteley** - April 09 at 11:00 PM

RH

“ We are very sorry for your family's loss with John's passing. I didn't have the chance to work with him at CAE, but I have talked with many people who did, and they all respected and liked him. Last I spoke with John over the phone he was in good spirits (we were discussing his long term disability from CAE). I heard he was buried in his dress blues, which is very nice. God Bless you and I will say a prayer for your family and him tonight.

Richard Heitzman - April 09 at 06:41 PM

CP

“ Deepest condolences to Barb Malin and her family. Our loving prayers are for you and your family. Rick, Chris and Nick Peckyno

Coach P - April 09 at 08:05 AM

NE

“ Nicole Evans sent a virtual gift in memory of John Manna



Nicole Evans - April 08 at 06:55 PM

WD

“ Having read letters sent between John and his Uncle Emil (my Dad), also an AF veteran, while John was serving our country, made me appreciate him more as a person and as a patriot. In loving memory. Cousin Wayne

Wayne Dubrawsky - April 07 at 11:18 AM

WD

“ Wayne Dubrawsky lit a candle in memory of John Manna



Wayne Dubrawsky - April 07 at 11:04 AM

PM

“ Deepest sympathies to Shirley and her family. Shirley always spoke about John to me even though I never met him. My prayers are with the family. Pat McCaul

Pat McCaul - March 30 at 05:02 PM

JS

“ With our truly heartfelt & deepest sympathy & many loving prayers for Shirley & The Manna Family on their huge loss of John, much too young. John was always such a nice boy & a truly brave & honorable Veteran & man. May God Bless & comfort you all as you grieve John. Your old friends, The Lockwood Family from Tresckow, Marian, Joan, Cheryl, Joseph, Jimmy, & Gloria's Family.



Joan Lockwood Smith - March 27 at 09:13 PM

BJ

“ God bless John, his family and his beloved dog, Bruce.

Betty Jones - March 27 at 03:28 PM

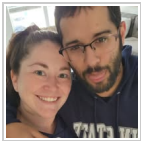
JM

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



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**Joan Mariea** - March 27 at 02:34 PM



“ Sarah Diehm lit a candle in memory of John Manna



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**Sarah Diehm** - March 27 at 01:32 PM

NS

“ Neice - Courtney Salata lit a candle in memory of John Manna



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**Neice - Courtney Salata** - March 26 at 07:08 PM

NS

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



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Neice - Courtney Salata - March 26 at 07:04 PM

NS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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Neice - Courtney Salata - March 26 at 06:55 PM