



## John Henry Sands

July 9, 1924 - March 20, 2020

John Henry Sands of Seabrook Village in Tinton Falls, N.J. has passed away after 95 wonderful years of life, having been born July 9, 1924 to John Sands and Sarah (Cooper) Sands in Belfast, Northern Ireland. It was there that he met the love of his life who survives him, Catherine (Decker) Sands, his "Cath", whom he married during wartime 76 years ago this January.

Together with their three young children, John and Cathy immigrated to the U.S. in 1950, ultimately settling in Kearny, N.J., where John pursued his passion and skill for soccer on a semi-professional basis. He also continued his kinship with those from the "Old Country" through his membership at the Ulster Club of Kearny and trips back to visit family and friends.

His family was the pride and joy of this most gentle of patriarchs. For nearly 40 years, well into his 80s, John worked at A. Santini Moving & Storage which is owned by his sons, serving as Controller as well as office golf putting champion. That's if, in the later years, he and Cathy weren't enjoying winters in Florida with some of their dearest friends.

John was happiest when surrounded with family, including his seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren who adored their "Poppi". The many memories his family and others will carry in their hearts are of his gentle nature, his loving words, watching and playing soccer games, a glass of

Scotch raised, his faith, laughter and so much more.

John is survived by his wife Catherine; his children Charlie (Valerie), Catherine Hiler (John), and John (Adrianna); his grandchildren Marcus Sands (Rose Ann), Heather Sands, Carey Michaels (Andrew), John Sands (Nora), Alison Isaacson (Nathan), Caitlin Schott (Jake), and Morgan Hiler; and his great-grandchildren George and Amber Sands, Amanda and Mateo Jimenez, Landon and John Sands, and Reagan Schott.

He was preceded in death by his siblings Richard, Sarah O'Rourke, George, and Charlotte Kempson.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date. Donations in John's memory may be made to Butterfly Wishes 67 Walnut Ave, Suite 205, Clark, NJ 07066 or to Seabrook Benevolent Care Fund 3000 Essex Road, Tinton Falls, NJ 07753. For online condolences, please visit John's memorial page at [www.bongarzonefuneralhome.com](http://www.bongarzonefuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall

ML

“ We started our as co-workers and became good friends. Always enjoyed being in John's company. Good laughs and good stories. It is an honor to have been able to call him a Friend. He will be missed but always remembered with a smile.  
Marge Lejda

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**Marjorie Lejda** - April 20, 2020 at 12:33 PM

EM

“ So sorry to have heard of the passing of your loved one. Our family goes way back with Cathy and John. Back to the Christmas parties at the Ulster club and up through our Dad's 95th birthday party at Seabrook. John was a wonderful person and a very good friend. I hope you all find comfort in remembering the good times. My father, Jim Mcilroy, will truly miss his good friend.  
Love to all of you,  
Tom and Eileen McKeon

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**eileen mckeon** - April 09, 2020 at 06:14 PM

TM

“ What an amazing and wonderful journey Uncle John had. He leaves behind such loving memories for each of us. I will never forget our family visits when I was a child or the times we spent together sharing a toast on the shores of Pompano Beach each winter in his later years. I will never forget his laughter and humor. We are all the better having known him.

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**Tommy B. Mills** - April 04, 2020 at 05:59 PM

JB

“ *Cathy and the Sands family,  
Please accept our most sincere condolences on the loss of this dear man.*

*As a Seabrook friend and acquaintance, we have enjoyed John's company and wonderful sense of humor....what a guy! He could be depended upon to let us know the latest news in the world of soccer. And it was our joy to hoist a glass of Chivas Regal with him. Dinner was an especially pleasant experience with him and Cathy! Both of them always offered a pleasant word and bright smile to everyone at the dinner table. You may be certain that John will not be soon forgotten. His presence is indeed indelible, and we thank God for having the opportunity to know this fine man.*

*Yours,  
Judy and Sal Busacca*

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**Judy & Sal Busacca** - April 01, 2020 at 02:18 PM

AN

“ *1st, I offer my deepest condolences to my Aunt Cath and her beautiful family. I loved my Uncle John dearly. My fondest memories as a child were our Sunday visits for family, football games and great food!*

*He was always so loving; one of the kindest people in this world. He was truly a great man of whom this world was not worthy. I will forever remember him fondly.*

*My love and prayers for God's comfort go out to my Aunt Cath and family.*

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**Angie** - March 26, 2020 at 11:50 AM

DM

“ I am happy to have known John for most of my life. He and Cathy were lifelong friends of my parents, Jim and Doris McIlroy. Their friendship began in Belfast, and continued to Tinton Falls, NJ. John was a lovely man and he and Cathy raised a fine and loving family. I know that you have many memories to sustain you during this difficult time. My condolences to your family.  
*Debbie McIlroy and Blake Rubin*

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**Debbie McIlroy** - March 24, 2020 at 01:08 PM

BH

“ *Bongarzone Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of John Henry Sands*



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**Bongarzone Funeral Home** - March 23, 2020 at 10:01 PM