



JOHN DEBRONI

Born: Jun 11, 1930

Date of Passing: Jan 02, 2017

JOHN DEBRONI June 11, 1930 - January 2, 2017 Peacefully, surrounded by the love of his family, our strong and loving Husband, Father and Gigi left us to be with the Lord on Monday, January 2, 2017. He will be lovingly remembered and missed by his wife of 55 years, Eleanore, his four children and their spouses, Darrell (Deborah), Bradley (Wendy Myrvold), Lynne Gauthier (Paul) and Janet Paterson (Colin); grandchildren Nicole Brinkman (Brady), Jennifer, Braeden (Melissa), Sean, Bryson, Evan, Noah and great-granddaughter Ella. He is also survived by his sister Elsie Myk (Wes), brother Mike (Betty), and in-laws Frank Dirr, Basil Wilson, Mina Halas, Rick and Patricia Palahniuk, Mick and Lynda Palahniuk, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his beloved granddaughter Hailey Paterson, his parents Mike and Irene Debroni, his eight sisters and their spouses, Mary (Aime), Anne (Butch), Sylvia (Maynard), Helen, Cathy, Rose, Stella and Judy (Mike), and his brother-in-law Bill Page. John was first and foremost a family man. Being born on a small farm in Melville, SK on June 11, 1930, the first son after eight daughters, gave him the foundation to be the most dedicated and loving husband, father and gigi. John met the love of his life, Eleanore, at Billy Mosienko Lanes in 1960, and often referred to it as the best day of his life. They had a whirlwind courtship and were married on April 15, 1961. This led to the other highlights of John's life: his children, their spouses and his grandchildren. He was so proud of his family and nothing made him happier than to spend time with them. One of his favourite things to do with his family was camping. He spent many years pulling the trailer out to Birds Hill Park, Falcon Lake, and Turtle River in North Dakota, as well as all across Canada, before settling into a permanent site at Lilac Resort where he became famous to his grandchildren for his campfire popcorn. This was one of his favourite places to be. John's Ukrainian Catholic faith and church were also very important to him. He belonged to the Ukrainian Catholic Youth from age 18 and in 1955 he joined the Knights of Columbus as a charter member of St. Josaphat Council #4138, the first Ukrainian Catholic Council in the world. He later served as their Grand Knight from 2013 to 2016. In 1965 he was sponsored into the Canon Luhovy Assembly 4th Degree Knights of Columbus. He was active and very supportive of both councils right up to the time of his illness. He was instrumental in starting the St. Andrew's Social Club in 1957 and was responsible for running fundraising bingos there for 46 years. John was also an active and long-time member of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church, was a member of its Men's Club to date and earned the distinction of being Ukrainian Sportsman of the Year in 1999. John was a life-long sports enthusiast. It started with his first job as a pinsetter at Central Bowling Lanes in 1945. He went on to form a UCY bowling league and helped found one for the Knights of Columbus as well. One of John's greatest prides was helping found the Winnipeg Hawkeyes Football Club in 1957 and being instrumental in fundraising for them. He was proud to be known as "Mr. Hawkeye". He was inducted to the Manitoba Football Hall of Fame as a builder in their inaugural year, 2010. He was also a season ticket holder for both the Bombers and Jets for many years. John was a hard worker his whole life and always gave generously of his time. In the late summer of 1946 he started working for Wolch Limited as a stock-boy and soon became a buyer and salesman extraordinaire. He worked there until 1977 when he started Debroni's Distributors with his brother Mike. In 1991,

John and his son-in-law Paul started Platinum Promotions. It was a true family business where he got to work alongside his wife and his daughter Janet, along with Paul, until his retirement at 81 years young. One of John's other loves was wine and he had a passion for winemaking. He started by making it from almost anything that grew, including chokecherries, beets, bananas, grapefruit and dandelions. When wine kits became available, he started working with those instead, providing his family with an endless supply. He loved to share a glass with his friends and family and did so even this past Boxing Day. When John's diagnosis came, he handled it with courage, strength, dignity, and grace. He saw "clear blue skies" right until the end, and kept his renowned sense of humour. In fact, one of the last times he spoke, he was telling a joke to his doctor. He had the most genuine smile, and seemed to know people everywhere, no matter where he went. He could always find a friend - one he already knew, or one he would make. The family would like to thank the following people for the special care and compassion they provided Dad: Dr. Terry Babick, Dr. Andrea Babick, Dr. Ted St. Godard, the Palliative Care Program and all of the staff on 3E at Riverview Health Centre. Dad, we miss you so much already, but know that your legacy will live on in your children, grandchildren and all of the other lives you've touched. We love you. Prayers will be offered at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 9, 2017 at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church (Bannerman and Arlington). The Knights of Columbus will recite the Rosary at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Funeral Liturgy celebrated by the Basilian Fathers at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 also at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church. A family tribute to John will be delivered in the church hall immediately following the liturgy. Interment will follow in Holy Family Cemetery. Pallbearers will be his nephews Michael Debroni, Paul Halas, Bryan McDougall, Raymond McDougall, Allan Myk, and Jamie Zalitach. Should friends so desire, donations in memory of John may be made to: The Friends of Hailey Foundation in care of The Winnipeg Foundation (www.patersonfamily.ca), or St. Nicholas Parish Preservation/Maintenance Fund, 737 Bannerman Ave., Winnipeg, MB R2X 1J9, or to Immaculate Heart of Mary School in care of the LUBOV SSMI Foundation, 1085 Main St., Winnipeg, MB R2W 3S1. VICHNAYA PAMYAT KORBAN FUNERAL CHAPEL 204-956-2193 www.korbanchapel.com

Publish Date: Jan 7, 2017

JOHN DEBRONI After a brief illness, on January 2, 2017, John Debroni passed away peacefully, surrounded by the love of his family, at the Riverview Health Centre. Prayers will be offered at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 9, 2017 at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church (Bannerman and Arlington). The Knights of Columbus will recite the Rosary at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Funeral Liturgy celebrated by Rev. Fr. Isidore Dziadyk, OSBM at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 also at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church. A family tribute to John will be delivered in the church hall immediately following the liturgy. Interment will follow in Holy Family Cemetery. Should friends so desire, donations in memory of John may be made to: The Friends of Hailey Foundation in care of The Winnipeg Foundation (www.patersonfamily.ca) or St. Nicholas Parish Preservation/Maintenance Fund, 737 Bannerman Ave., Winnipeg, MB R2X 1J9 or to Immaculate Heart of Mary School in care of the LUBOV SSMI Foundation, 1085 Main St., Winnipeg, MB R2W 3S1. A longer obituary will follow in Saturday's edition. Vichnaya Pamyat KORBAN FUNERAL CHAPEL www.korbanchapel.com 204-956-2193

Publish Date: Jan 4, 2017

As published in the Winnipeg Free Press on Jan 07, 2017

Lynne, Eleanor and all your families. My condolences. I am in Phoenix but thinking about you. Gerri McLean

- Posted by: Gerri McLean (Friend) on: Jan 15, 2017

I spent many Wednesday evenings with John (and Eleanore) at the old Empress Lanes while a member of the in the Knights of Columbus bowling league in the mid-90's. He was such a nice man with a smile and joke for everyone. I was deeply saddened when I learned of his illness and subsequent passing. My deepest condolences to the entire family.

- Posted by: Larry Okrainec () on: Jan 10, 2017

When my mother passed very suddenly I was sitting beside her, alone, when I felt an arm on my shoulder. I turned and it was Uncle Johnny. He gave me a gentle squeeze and we didn't have to say anything. It was my mother and his sister so we spent a few moments just being there together. That is when I realized the comfort this good man can bring to others. For my entire life when John's name came up my Dad would say: , " Oh, I always liked John!" And of course Uncle John would search my Dad out at functions, and I'd follow because I knew a litany of jokes were about to be told and I enjoyed so very much watching them laugh so hard. I saw uncle John 3 times last year and each time he asked how I was, how my Dad was and I'd ask the same. Plenty of Noah stories came up and he clearly had a gleam in his eyes when sharing them. It always ended in a nice hug. Uncle John was a gracious, kind man ----and from my Dad and I, circumstances being what they are --We are here, thinking of the Debroni family there. May you all find comfort.

- Posted by: Frank and Corinne (In-law and niece) on: Jan 10, 2017

To John's family, we are very sorry for your loss. Our family connected with John and his grandson Bryson at MBCI's choir recitals, band performances and musicals. I first met John at The Wellness on Saturday mornings. He always spoke very proudly of his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. The Koch Family

- Posted by: The Koch Family (friend) on: Jan 08, 2017

Uncle John was one of the best examples of how a real gentleman could be. He was one of the most caring people I know. Unbeknownst to most, he looked out for his extended family without drawing attention. He was full of humor and always had a funny joke to share, maybe not so much with the younger crowd! In my later years I began to notice this strong religious man who only cared about others over himself, was so outgoing. He was so fun to be around. He is one person I will forever miss greatly.

- Posted by: Carl Pedersen (Nephew) on: Jan 08, 2017

Mr. Debroni made every effort to make you feel that you were important. Quick with a joke that made you wonder how does he do it all. His life's legacy is a role model to all that life is a balance of all you can do with Family as cornerstone of your life. I had many opportunities to be in the presence of Mr. Debroni and his family, at Church, in business and many fundraisers where he ensured that he said hello. Thank you Mr. Debroni for allowing me and so many others that you made feel that we mattered. My heartfelt condolences to the family and Thank you for sharing him with us. Vichnaya Pamyat!
Stephen Sumka

- Posted by: Stephen Sumka (Friend) on: Jan 07, 2017

My sincerest condolences to the Debroni Family. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. May John rest in peace and be re-united with Hailey in paradise. Vichnaya Pam'yat.

- Posted by: Myron Tarasiuk (Friend) on: Jan 06, 2017

My sincere condolences to the Debroni family on the loss of a true gentleman and unique individual. I had the pleasure of knowing John through work and will miss his unique sense of humor. He was the only person I ever knew who would start a phone conversation without saying hello but rather starting it off with a joke that would always brighten a day and make me smile. He will be missed by many.

- Posted by: Jay Chester (Friend) on: Jan 05, 2017

We are deeply saddened by the news of your loss. Our sincere condolences go out to the whole family. Mr. Debroni was a lovely & gracious man. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. May you may be comforted by beautiful memories and strengthened through the love & support of family & friends!

- Posted by: Craig & Susan, Sydney, Caelin Ciastko () on: Jan 05, 2017

John was a joy to have around. A find parishioner of Saint Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church and a dedicated member of Father Fylypow Council of the Knights of Columbus. He will be much missed by all his friends and our parish family. Prayers and support to Eleanor and the family. Вічна пам'ять!

- Posted by: Father Athanasius McVay (former pastor and friend) on: Jan 04, 2017

Soo sorry for your loss, sending Sincere Condolences to the family! He will be missed by family, friends and the community!

- Posted by: Barb and Gord Cooke (Winnipeg Rifles Football Club) on: Jan 04, 2017

I had the profound pleasure of meeting John Debroni and his amazing family while caring for John's little granddaughter Hailey in the NICU. His constant love and support of his family during this very difficult time will always be a cherished memory for me. Although I'm sure he found it difficult to see his tiny granddaughter in the hospital; he never appeared to let on how hard it was on him. He was the rock that everyone leaned on. He seemed to sense when you were having a rough day (in the unit) and would tell as many jokes as he could in order to get you to smile. He was a remarkable story teller and you found yourself drawn in by his presence. He had an innate ability to command a room; no matter what his audience. I can still see Hailey's face with her bright eyes and toothy grin; whenever her Gigi told her a story. One can only imagine the things they are saying to each other now!!! To John's family and many friends; I am so very sorry for your loss. I take comfort in knowing that the memory of this wonderful man lives on in the many happy memories that you all share.

- Posted by: Cathy Penner (family friend) on: Jan 04, 2017
