



## John Lancaster Jr.

August 10, 2020

It is with great sadness that the family of John M. Lancaster, Jr. announces his passing on Monday, August 10, 2020 at the age of 71. A native of Portsmouth, VA, he was born to John and Marian Lancaster. He travelled extensively in his youth before settling back in Virginia, where he graduated from Woodbridge High School. John was a sergeant in the US Army from 1969-1971 and served in the Vietnam War. Following his military career, he served for 10 years in the Fairfax County fire department.

John returned to Portsmouth after leaving the fire department to help grow Bennett's Creek Nursery under the mentorship of his uncle, Arthur "Junie" Lancaster and his aunt, Millie Lancaster. He became COO in 1994 and remained there until his retirement. John had an incredibly strong work ethic that carried beyond his career supporting many associations and charitable organizations. He did extensive work with the Virginia Nursery and Landscapes Association, the Mid Atlantic Nursery Trade Show, and the Virginia Horticulture Foundation. He also did work with the Holiday House in Portsmouth, VA., continuing a tradition started by his father and uncle.

John was preceded in death by his parents, as well as two sisters, Joy Sanderson and Juliana Danaka. He is survived by his wife, Debbie Lancaster; sister Bess Beard; his children with previous spouse, Nadine Lancaster: John Lancaster and wife Darcy, Joseph Lancaster and wife Andrea, and Alissia

Lancaster and fiancé Matt Smith; his children by marriage: Salina Kodmon, Sarah Burr and husband Shawn, and Brian Kodmon, as well as eight grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

Services will be private due to current COVID-19 restrictions. In lieu of flowers, John's family suggests donations be made to the Holiday House of Portsmouth in his memory.

# Tribute Wall

RJ

“ *Debbie, I'm so sorry I did not know John had passed this summer. I'll Always have fond memories of our time working and travelling together for many years while at Bennett's Creek Nursery.*  
*GODSPEED JOHN - Rich Johnson*

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**RICH JOHNSON** - January 29, 2021 at 11:13 PM

MS

“ *I will never forget John in mechanical drawing class. He was a quiet giant in shop. So very talented and always a friend. My heart goes out to his family. A hugh loss.*  
*Peace.*  
*Mark Smith*

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**mark smith** - November 28, 2020 at 04:07 PM

SW

“ *We send our condolences to the Lancaster family, especially to Nadine, John, Andy and Alissa who were our neighbors for twenty-five years. Love, The Walski Family*

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**Sarah Walski** - August 27, 2020 at 09:00 PM

BK

“ *John was the step-father to my children. I couldn't have asked for someone any better than John to help care for them. He was kind and considerate and caring towards them and I will always be grateful for that.*


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**Brian Kodmon** - August 21, 2020 at 08:15 AM

WC

“ I was so saddened to hear about the passing of my friend, John.....I have been out of town and was totally shocked to hear about it, and I'm so so sorry... He was a good man and I was blessed to have known him.... He will be missed... my sincere thoughts and prayers are with the family... Billy Chorey

William L. Chorey - August 19, 2020 at 02:03 PM

 Penelope Jones

“ So sad to see his passing. We shared raising our children when they were young. He was an awesome father

Penelope Jones - August 18, 2020 at 09:53 PM

JS

“ My condolences to all his family and friends. I moved away from the Tidewater area years ago, and I will miss his smile and hug when I saw him at the Baltimore Trade Show. Kind, gentle, honest. Rest in peace dear John.

Jill Townsend Sliker

Jill Sliker - August 17, 2020 at 12:56 PM

SM

“ I served on the Holiday House Board with John. No more noble man has ever lived.

Sharon Moses - August 17, 2020 at 11:01 AM

SF

“ He was always quick with a smile and a real gentleman..

Sean Fahey - August 17, 2020 at 08:53 AM

TW

“ I will miss this smiling friend. Godspeed.  
TJ White

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**TJ White** - August 17, 2020 at 06:54 AM

SK

“ Our deepest condolences. Such devastating news. Uncle Johnny was a beautiful man with a kind heart and soul. We will miss him tremendously. We are sending so much love and many prayers. Love, Susie & Jen ❤️🙏

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**Susie Kappas** - August 16, 2020 at 08:16 PM

MH

“ So sorry to of the passing of John. Dad and I have done business with him for over 40 years and John was always the same , friendly and helpful . I know all that knew him will miss him dearly. Our thoughts and prayers are with Debbie , his entire family and all his Bennett's Creek family. May Gods grace give you all comfort in this difficult time .  
Mike Hudgins.

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**Mike Hudgins** - August 14, 2020 at 08:46 PM

GL

“ My sympathy for his wife and children. John was a kind soul that I always enjoyed doing business with. He will be missed. Rest In Peace.

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**Greg Lonergan** - August 14, 2020 at 11:12 AM

BK

“ For many years I worked with John and always looked for a fair deal and the sharing of his large personal information base to work on my small problems with plants and landscaping. He was an outstanding fellow and the world of gardening is poorer with his death.

*My sympathy to his family and many friends who are grieving his loss.*

*May he rest in peace.*

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**Bernie Kirsch** - August 14, 2020 at 11:05 AM



“ Thoughts & Prayers was purchased for the family of John Lancaster Jr..



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August 13, 2020 at 04:07 PM

SF

“ My memories are of the best protector, best guy I could fight with but then it all started when I was 12 yrs old!!

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**Stephanie Fowler** - August 13, 2020 at 01:35 PM