



John Henry Derby

July 11, 1959 - July 14, 2014

John Henry Derby, 55, of Wauchula, originally of Claymont, Delaware, passed away peacefully after a long illness, on July 14, 2014, surrounded by his family. Born in Willmington, Delaware, he was the son of the late Daniel and Virginia Derby of Salisbury, Maryland. He attended Claymont High School, graduating in 1977. John worked for Florida Institute for Neurologic Rehabilitation (FINR) for 23 years and was a member of the First Baptist Church of Wauchula.

John will be remembered as a funny, warm, out-going and friendly man who made his mark on the world by his basic goodness and generosity of character. He had an innate ability to bring laughter to all situations. He had a steadfast love and devotion to his family and friends, loved the beach, fishing, weight-lifting, metal detecting, and helping others. Anyone who had the opportunity to meet John was truly blessed. He will be dearly missed...but never forgotten.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Robert and Richard Derby. He is survived by his loving wife of 24 years, Deborah Garafelo Derby; eight children, Laurie Derby Stewart (Chad) of Ruskin, John (Samantha) of New Port Richey, Anthony (Angela) of Brandon, Ryan of Brandon, Vincent (Jacklyn) of Naples, Ashley (August Wickey) of Wauchula, Hayley (RJ Bellflower) of Wauchula, and Kaylee of Wauchula; 17 grandchildren, two

brothers, Dan (Donna) of Lexington, North Carolina and Charles of Accomac, Virginia; three sisters, Mary (Pei) Ma of Billerica, Massachusetts, Julie Dempsey of Wilmington, Delaware, and Jane (Pat) Crowe of Newark, Delaware; brother-in-law, Vincent (Donna) Garafelo; and numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins too numerous to mention.

A memorial service will be held in his honor at First Baptist Church of Wauchula at 11:00 a.m. Friday, July 18, 2014, with a luncheon immediately following the service. Visitation is prior to the service at 10:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers the family requests contributions be sent to Cornerstone Hospice, 2445 Lone Park Rd., Tavares, FL 32778, or First Baptist Church, 1570 W. Main St., Wauchula, FL 33873.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 18. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Wauchula
1570 West Main Street
Wauchula, FL 33873
(863) 773-4182
<http://www.fbcwauchula.org/>

Memorial Service

JUL 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Wauchula
1570 West Main Street
Wauchula, FL 33873
(863) 773-4182
<http://www.fbcwauchula.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of John Henry Derby.* ”



July 18, 2014 at 08:49 AM



“ *John, good employee, always full of energy, fun to be around, quick to come back, just good people! Miss you Sir!* ”

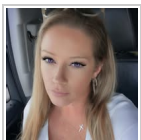
Gene - July 16, 2014 at 07:20 PM



“ *Dorothy Sunday lit a candle in memory of John Henry Derby* ”



Dorothy Sunday - July 16, 2014 at 08:37 AM



“ *I'll never forget your smile dad. It's one that a person could never forget. I'm going to miss you and will always wish I had more time with you. I appreciate you and thank you for giving me life! I'll love you and cherish what we had in my heart and memories for the rest of my life.* ”

Laurie Derby-Stewart - July 15, 2014 at 10:57 PM

BR

“ I considered John and Uncle to me and his lovely wife my Aunt, something I will never forget is that when I would ask him a question he would always say "is that a rhetorical question" I was young and didn't know what that meant so I could never answer him, then one day I looked it up so when he said that too me the very next time I got him with and answer to his "is that a rhetorical question" he is someone I hold close to my heart and he will be dearly missed.

Bobbie Richardson - July 15, 2014 at 09:16 PM

BR

“ *Bobbie Richardson lit a candle in memory of John Henry Derby*



Bobbie Richardson - July 15, 2014 at 09:11 PM

PB

“ *Pearl Blackburn lit a candle in memory of John Henry Derby*




pearl blackburn - July 15, 2014 at 08:24 PM

Hope
Wright

“ *Hope Wright sent a virtual gift in memory of John Henry Derby*



Hope Wright - July 15, 2014 at 08:19 PM

 Hope
Wright

“ *Hope Wright lit a candle in memory of John Henry Derby*



Hope Wright - July 15, 2014 at 08:18 PM

 Hope
Wright

“ *To one of the most infectious people I ever knew....I just loved being around John...he always kept me in stitches...there was never a dull moment with him around. We had some really great times the 9 years we worked together and the day I left FINR I knew he would be one I would miss the most. I know you will continue you do your thing and roll the car windows up and laugh in Heaven!! May you rest in peace my dear sweet friend. You will be greatly missed!*

Hope Wright - July 15, 2014 at 08:18 PM