



John Donald Wagstaff

NOV 16, 1966 - JAN 14, 2025



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JOHN DONALD WAGSTAFF, age 58, of Frederick, MD, passed away on January 14, at home surrounded by his family. Born on November 16, 1966, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, John lived a full and meaningful life, marked by deep connections with family, friends, and the community.

At the age of two, John returned to the United States in the fall of 1968 with his mother and older siblings following the sudden passing of his father, an executive at General Electric who had been assigned to Puerto Rico. The family settled in Potomac, Maryland, where John grew up on Cold Spring Road with his mother, brother, sister, and his uncle (his mother's brother), who raised the Wagstaff children as his own. John attended Norwood Elementary School, then Christ Episcopal for middle school, and spent his first three years of high school at Good Counsel before graduating from Wootton High School in his senior year. He went on to major in Business at Towson University.

In 2001, newlywed John and his wife decided to leave Montgomery County and begin building their family's roots in Frederick.

John had a distinguished 21-year career in telecommunications, starting with Sprint in its early years, long before it became the brand we know today. He played a key role in launching both Cricket and MetroPCS in Maryland, DC, and Virginia. In his final role before returning to Sprint, John served as Regional Sales Director for MetroPCS's Baltimore/Washington DC region—one of its top five markets. Under his leadership, revenue grew to \$200 million in three years, while expanding 184 exclusive dealerships and 75 multi-carrier locations. John's legacy is one of visionary leadership, dedication, and a lasting impact on all who worked with him.

John had a deep passion for cars and motorcycles, with his dream bike—a Ducati Diavel—sitting proudly in his garage. He was a great mechanic, superbly handy with both cars and home projects, and could fix just about anything—many joked he missed his true calling. He was an exceptional skier, always up for seafood or sushi, and over the years, evolved from a meat-and-



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potatoes guy to a full-fledged foodie. TV was always on (with news channels in heavy rotation), and he loved going to the movies, though the popcorn was usually the main attraction. A true audiophile, John was a fan of high-quality sound systems and gadgets of all kinds. He had a special fondness for Costco, where he could always find something unexpected, and Home Depot, where a new project was never far off. John was a man of diverse passions and an adventurous spirit.

John's first love and top priority was always his wife, his children, and his beloved English Bulldog, Tank. When he was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer in 2017 and given only six months to two years to live, he made a resolute commitment to fight for his health and create more precious memories with his family. His courageous battle gave him nearly eight more years, during which he focused on new experiences, travel, and traditions for his family. He proudly taught his kids how to drive and watched them earn their licenses. He played an active role in Homecoming and Prom preparations and shared the emotional experience of moving his son into college. He embraced his role as a supportive parent to his daughter, a student-athlete and class leader. John also cherished frequent Jeep rides and walks with Tank, where they rarely moved more than five minutes without being stopped by people eager to meet and pet his "fur best friend." Through it all, John's unwavering dedication to his family was his greatest source of strength.

John is survived by his devoted wife of 24 years, Tanya; his children, Brandon Patrick and Andie Grace; his siblings, William Douglas Wagstaff (wife, Elizabeth) and Helen Lee Leroy; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, William Moore Wagstaff and Patricia Hanson, and his beloved uncle, Donald Joseph Hanson.

Friends and family are invited to join in remembering John and celebrating his life. Viewing and visitation will be held on Saturday, January 18, at 11:00 am at Resthaven Funeral Home (Frederick, MD), with a funeral mass to follow on Tuesday, January 21, at 11:00 am at St. Joseph on Carrollton Manor (Frederick, MD).

John will be profoundly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. A kind-hearted, loving, and compassionate soul, he was courage and strength personified. His warmth, humor, and unwavering dedication to his family and friends will forever be remembered. John's legacy will live on in the hearts of all those he touched, leaving an indelible mark that will never fade.




Events

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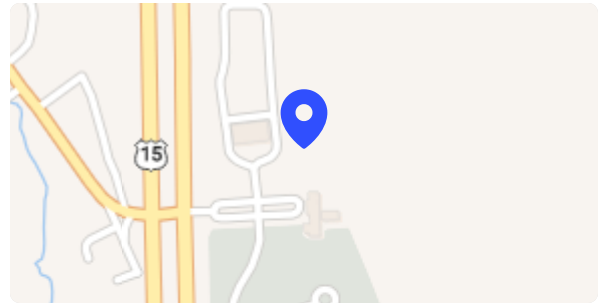
Visitation

 **Saturday**, January 18, 2025

 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM ET

 **Resthaven Funeral Home & Community Center**


9501 Catoctin Mountain Highway, Frederick MD 21701



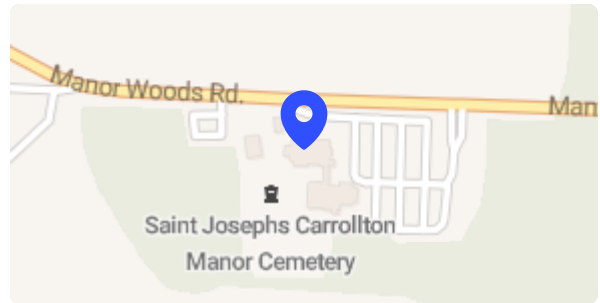
Funeral Mass

 **Tuesday**, January 21, 2025

 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM ET

 **St. Joseph-On-Carrollton Manor**

5843 Manor Woods Rd , Frederick MD 21703





Tribute Wall

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Asif Ahmed posted:

It was an absolute pleasure and privilege to work with John during the launch of Cricket locations. His unwavering support and dedication were instrumental in helping us achieve success beyond our wildest expectations. John's guidance was invaluable; he always had our best interests at heart and never hesitated to point us in the right direction if something didn't make sense. His ability to navigate challenges with wisdom and clarity made a lasting impact on our journey. John had a way of connecting with people that went beyond work. He often spoke with such pride and joy about his family, and it was clear that they were the center of his world. His love and devotion to his family were not just admirable but also deeply inspiring. He exemplified what it meant to be a loving husband and father, and his life was a role model for so many of us. We are profoundly grateful that God allowed us to cross paths with John. His kindness, wisdom, and compassion left an indelible mark on our lives. Though he will be deeply missed, we take comfort in knowing that his spirit will live on in the hearts of everyone he touched. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time. We hope they find solace in the wonderful legacy John leaves behind—a legacy of love, dedication, and unwavering support. It was truly an honor to have known John. He will forever remain in our hearts. With love and deepest sympathy, The Asif and Lana Ahmed Family

January 21 at 1:55 AM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Wagstaff family.



January 19 at 1:39 PM



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PA

Patrick Avon posted:

John was more than a friend; he was a brother on two wheels. As Ducati lovers, John, I, and a group of like-minded motorcycle enthusiasts found solace during the chaos of COVID on the open country roads. Riding together, we left stress behind and embraced the curves, turns, and rolling hills—our Italian warhorses beneath us, smiles on our faces, and maybe a few jealous onlookers in our wake (or so we liked to think). One ride with John stands out above all the rest. We crossed the Bay Bridge, a group of four, and found ourselves sitting by the water. It was there John opened up about his 2017 battle with that relentless enemy: cancer. He told us how he fought like a warrior and ultimately beat it, declaring himself "bitch-free." We sat in awe, moved by his courage and strength. How often do you hear a story like that? John's warrior spirit, hidden behind his genuine schoolboy smile, only made us love and admire him more. In recent years, our rides became fewer as John's priorities shifted to spending more time with his family—just as it should be. Last year, he stopped by my business to catch up, showing off his new haircut that matched mine: clean-shaven! We laughed, reminisced, and made plans for another ride. Sadly, that ride never came, but our mutual friend Asif was fortunate to share the road with him one last time. On behalf of all the Ducati guys, John... we miss you deeply. Your laughter, courage, and genuine soul will never be forgotten. Rest easy, my friend. We will ride again with you in Heaven. Until then, twist your wrist and hang on, brother. With love and respect, Sarge and the Ducati Gang

January 19 at 4:54 AM

PH

Pat H posted:

I had the pleasure of working with John as counterparts at Sprint. When we spoke almost daily and met for meetings on a monthly basis, John always brought a smile to my face with how passionately he spoke of his family and how proud he was of his children. My thoughts and prayers go out to you Tanya, Brandon and Andie. May he rest in Peace knowing he was a great man to all who had the honor to have know him.

January 18 at 4:26 PM

LS

Lynn Skinner posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with your family during this difficult time. We have planted trees in John's honor. May they grow strong and stand as a living reminder of his life and spirit. Love, Craig, Lynn, Jack and Sam Skinner

January 17 at 2:34 PM



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous planted a grove of 3 Memorial Trees in honor of John.



January 17 at 2:26 PM



Crystal Bowens lit a candle in honor of John.

I'm so sorry for your loss. Our heartfelt condolences to your family during this difficult time. It was truly a pleasure having the Wagstaff family as part of the KinderCare community. John always brought a smile with him and was kind to all of the staff. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with your family. Crystal



January 17 at 2:08 PM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Wagstaff family.



January 17 at 1:38 PM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of John.



January 17 at 1:38 PM



Anonymous sent a Magnificent Life Spray to the Wagstaff family.



January 16 at 6:10 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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