



John Thomas "Murf" Murphy

August 11, 1953 - January 5, 2023

John Thomas Murphy ("Murf") passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Thursday, January 5th at the age of 69. He is survived by his beloved wife, Sondra (Fiveash), two children; Gary and Allison, and two brothers; Ronnie (Debbie) and Ray (Jill). He was born on August 11th, 1953 in Corinth, MS. He was raised in Memphis, TN by his parents John and Flynn Murphy who preceded him in death along with his sister, Debbie Schoonover. Following graduation from Overton High School, John obtained a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Memphis State University and embarked in a successful engineering career at FedEx. He later moved to Arizona and furthered his engineering career with Kroger Corporation before retiring in 2017. John was known for his stories and jokes that he shared with everyone he encountered. His love for life was infectious. Throughout his life he enjoyed many hobbies including golf, traveling, motorcycles, and hiking.

To honor John's memory, his family is having a celebration of his life on Friday, January 13th from 5-7pm at The Village of Stratham Clubhouse, 3550 Rokeby Farm Ln, Collierville, TN 38017. As per his wishes, his ashes will be scattered in Sedona, AZ at a later date.

Tribute Wall

BB

“ John and I closely worked together over his career at both FedEx. I recruited him to Kroger. His career was so much more than "engineering." For me and many others - John literally saved major projects with a combination of insight, hard work, intelligence and - most importantly - leadership. At Kroger, one project he saved was a huge completely automated warehouse/distribution center. He was so successful in that effort, instead of closing down and writing off the investment, the company committed to several more examples of this design. He "turned around" issues and provided momentum for success.

John's career highlights include even bigger and more important contributions. John helped both FedEx and Kroger grow and stay competitive thus retaining jobs and many other benefits.

John and I talked several times at length during the last few months. In the very last conversation, when discussing the illness of another friend, he told me that he beat cancer. I asked why he didn't tell me sooner, and the response was he didn't want me to worry. I never had to worry about John after we started on an effort together.

And so, John was much more to me than a colleague and long time partner. He as a great tutor/teacher/leader for my team mates. While the typical response to his passing as the news circulated was "On no! - He was great, and "I learned so much from Murf." See, just about everyone called him "Murf."

I called him John - and he was my friend.

brett bonner - January 19, 2023 at 06:32 AM