



John Gustafson

February 5, 1959 - February 5, 2012

John A. Gustafson, 53, of Crystal Falls, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, February 5, 2012.

John was born August 15, 1958 in Marquette, MI, the son of Burton and Alice (Lundin) Gustafson. He attended Southwest High School in Green Bay prior to moving to Denver, CO and graduating from Arvada High School. John went on to attend the University of New Mexico under a football scholarship. He then played football at Northern Michigan University in Marquette and graduated with a bachelor's degree in accounting. Following graduation, John obtained his certification as a CPA and worked for several different accounting firms around the country. For the past few years, John has owned and operated a commodities brokerage business. He recently moved back to the Upper Peninsula with plans to continue his work and eventually retire in the area. John was an avid fisherman and enjoyed golfing, water skiing and downhill skiing.

He is survived by his parents, Burton and Alice Gustafson of Crystal Falls; a brother, William (Cindy) Gustafson of Superior, WI; three sisters, Alice (Tom) Wilhelm of Laramie, WY, Mary (Joe) Serema of Green Bay and Kathie (Jim) Wittig of Elk River, MN; and four nieces, Kali Collins, Kathi Wilhelm, Abby McNamara, Amanda Wittig.

Visitation will be held on Thursday from 9:00 until 11:00am in the parish hall at St. Cecelia Catholic Church in Caspian. A memorial mass will follow at 11:00am at the church. Fr. Gregory Veneklase will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, a football scholarship at Northern Michigan University will be established in John's memory.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of John A. Gustafson online at www.nashfuneralhome.net.

The family has entrusted the Nash Funeral Home of Crystal Falls with the funeral arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 9. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Cecilia Catholic Church
510 Brady Ave.
Caspian

Funeral Mass

FEB 9. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Cecilia Catholic Church
510 Brady Ave.
Caspian

Tribute Wall

MF

“ I knew John from NMU, he was a good friend with a huge heart. I am saddened to hear of his passing. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

Maria DeAnda - Sylvania, OH - Friend - July 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ Just read of the passing of John in the NMU alumni book. John was a great teammate and was a good soul to Kathy and myself. We will always remember our days together at Northern.

Phil and Kathy Kessel - NMU teammate and friends fellow - July 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ To Johns family,

Very sorry for your and our loss! I lived with John for several years and all I can say is he was one of the best and most genuine people I have ever met. He will be missed by all that had the good fortune to know him!

scott sible - Grand Rapids, MI - roommate/teammate - July 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PT

“ To John's family;
I am very sorry to hear this sad news about "Gus"
What a great friend, teammate and genuine person.
We had so many great moments on/off the football field.
These memories last a lifetime so we will always have "Gus" in our hearts
My prayers go out to the entire Gustafson family
Pat Roche
NMU

Pat Roche - West Des Moines, IA - Friend and NMU teammate - March 03, 2012
at 12:00 AM

LF

“ My sincere condolences to the family for John's passing. I saw him in Denver on this last New Year's eve. We worked together at Ernst & Young, and had a few enjoyable years at Lake Powell waterskiing. We will miss him.

Larryt Neu - Denver, CO - friend - February 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *Mr. & Mrs. G, Kathie, Mary, Alice, Bill,
I was sickened and saddened to hear of John's passing. Wow...
floods of memories among so many good friends in those care-free
days at Chicagoan Lake.*

*Bert, you and Alice were always friends to us kids back then...your
home was always open to us. I still don't know how we didn't get
you kicked permanently off of the lake for some of the stuff we
pulled!*

*There is a special place in my heart stamped by John and all of you
and I want to thank you for letting me be a part of your lives.*

Jimmy (Buzza) & Lori Busakowski - Wausau, WI - Friend and Coconspirator -
February 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ *I was so sorry to hear of John's passing. I remember him as Johnny
during those times in the 60's when the whole family was in
Wyoming. Those were great times, and it was so much fun to share
them with the Gustafson family. We'll always be grateful for their
time in Wyoming.*

Dick Honaker - February 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ *I was saddened to read of John's passing. It has been a lot of years
since I have seen him or his siblings. I still think of him as the little
boy I remember when I last saw him, not the wonderful man he
became. I am so very sorry for your loss.*

*Sincerely,
Matilda*

Matilda Gustafson Beaudrie - Bentonville, AR - Aunt - February 10, 2012 at 12:00
AM

PF

“ Gus always had a smile as warm as the sun. He was one of the nicest and kindest people I have ever known. I feel truly blessed to have known John and to have shared some of the most wonderful summers with him at Chicaguon Lake. We recently had some wonderful conversations. I feel so thankful for our friendship. I know he is in a very special place. He will be dearly missed.

Patricia (Patti Fedrizzi) Kimmey - Flower Mound, TX - Friend - February 10, 2012
at 12:00 AM

KC

“ I am so glad to have known John, who will always be "Johnny" to me. I remember when we were kids, following him around the house in Green Bay, or at Grandma and Grandpa's cabin on Round Lake, captivated by his boyish enthusiasm, trying to figure him out. I must admit that even with the keen perceptive skills of the introvert that I am...I never succeeded!

It had been decades since I had last seen him... until recently, a week before he left his body, when he came to Marquette and treated my sister and me to dinner. Still the boyish enthusiasm...still unable to figure him out! Who doesn't love a mystery, anyway.

The one thing I do know for sure about Johnny is that he wanted to do good. He loved seeing people happy and helping to make another's day...or their life. I gathered he was now taking care of himself, too. Johnny was actively engaged in doing good. That stands out the most.

His intelligence is the next thing that cannot be denied. The kind of intelligence he has is rare. He never fit into any mold, as far as I can tell. Something his intelligence and level of awareness did not allow for, perhaps, though he seemed to skillfully navigate this three dimensional reality. I only wish my own intelligent son had been able to spend time with him to learn how to navigate. I'm sure he would have learned a lot.

Attending the funeral today I was warmed to see Uncle Burt, AJ, Bill, Mary, Kathie and their families. So many people traveled to be there. Except for Charlie, who left early, (hey, it's okay, he had places to go...and no amount of calling him back was going to change that!) it seemed everyone was glad to be there to honor this man it was clear that we all loved. :)

Special love to Uncle Burt at this time.

Kim Gustafson - Negaunee, MI - cousin - February 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Bert , alice and family, So sorry to hear about John's passing. Many memories we shared - high school football teammate and thank you for all the fond memories at the Lake.. My sympathy to all the family.
Dave Henquinet

Dave Henquinet - Green Bay, WI - friend - February 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ Continued:

Meeting some cheese-heads at Hotel del Coronado one evening (beautiful place). We had a few drinks with them and started talking about how to “speak Wisconsin”. We put together what we called a “Wisconsin-to-English” dictionary.

We asked the cheese heads, if they could teach us to speak Wisconsin. Gus started by saying you could say, “Is this a good drink, or what, eh?” So as we broke down the sentence, we asked what does “or what” mean? Gus translated for us and came up with, “or what” means it is a “very profound statement”. Is this a good drink or what?—very profound.

So then we asked what the “eh” means. Gus translated and said it basically means “are you breathing” or “do you have a pulse” (are you paying attention).

By the time the evening ended, we had 3 pages of Wisconsin-to-English words and phrases. One of the funniest nights ever! Great times with the cheese heads and great memories of being with Gus.

One guy said, “My buddy and me, the boat of us, walking side-by-side, going downtown to get a brat, eh?”

4. I wish we had a video of the routine Gus did at the Bonehead golf tournament a few years ago. He was a stand up comic, first playing a part of a hillbilly from Alabama with very few teeth, then a backwoods Green Bay fan with a Brent Favre jersey. It may have been the funniest thing we heard, in the 25-year history of the Bonehead!

5. Overall, I will always remember Gus as a kind person who never heard say a bad thing about anyone. He was a kind and thoughtful friend who would give you the shirt off his back.

Paul Shockley - Denver, CO - Friend of John's & Mike Mullins - February 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

“ Things I remember about Gus (by Paul Shockley):

1. I remember when Gus lived in Denver and he decided to go out for a bike ride. Next thing he's in Cheyenne, WY over 100 miles away. As I remember he had to spend the night and road his bike back the next day.

2. John was living in Boulder, CO and he took the bus each day to downtown Denver to go to work at Ernst & Whinney. Mullins asked him on the phone later that night how his day was. He said it was not a good day.

He got to a client meeting, and as he sat down, he looked down and noticed he had one brown shoe on and one black shoe. After going thru the whole day with two different colored shoes, he got on the bus to ride back to Boulder. He fell asleep on the bus and woke up with bus driver telling he has to get off the bus, because they are at the end of the line. He missed his stop and had to take a taxi home.

3. Fun memories of being at Super Bowl 32 with Gus, Mike Mullins, Ron Page and Paul Shockley. (as you may remember, this was the Broncos vs. Packers). A few days of golf, including playing Rancho Santa Fe Golf Club—a very exclusive golf club.

Then that evening, we had dinner at a restaurant that served mostly chicken and hearing Gus, as he's looking at the menu, say "I'm not eating any of that yardbird"!

Staying at a hotel, right in downtown San Diego where all the Super Bowl activities were.

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Paul Shockley - Denver, CO - Friend of John's & Mike Mullins - February 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ *I went NMU with John "Gus". My thoughts and prayers are with your family*

Chris Gorence - Traverse City, MI - Friend - February 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ By Greg Thiesen

To the Gustafson Family

My name is Greg Thiesen, John and I started at Ernst and Whinney in the same year. First, I would like to say how sorry I am for your loss and the loss for everyone who knew John. He was a very special person and will be truly missed.

John was a very close friend while I was at Ernst and although we did not see each other as much as I would have liked after he left, we continued to stay friends. He invited me to participate in the bonehead golf tournament and my wife and I continually sent him Chili Powder that was made in Colorado that he really loved.

When looking back at our years at Ernst, I remember how much I admired John. He was one of the smartest people I have ever worked with. We would have great conversations about so many things. He was partially responsible for me passing the CPA exam in the first try because after work we would study until about 11:00 at night betting each other who could get the right answer. I learned so much from John, but the one thing I learned from John was to be myself and not worry what other people thought about me. John was always John and he never varied from who he was, which was very special. John would never turn his back on anyone and would do basically anything to help someone out that he thought needed his help. John would also do things that were so unexpected it was a joy to be his friend. I remember when he decided that he was going to ride his bike to Wisconsin. We all thought he was crazy but he got on his bike and took off, with basically no training. I think he got to Wyoming and decided to come back, but wow, he got to Wyoming.

When I first met John I was not much of a skier. John would say that he was an okay skier. I remember the first time I went skiing with him. He was one of the best skiers I have ever seen. John would spend time with me to teach me how to ski better and I ultimately improved pretty dramatically. I was so grateful that he was willing to work with me. Unfortunately, I could never truly return the favor. I also remember how much his family meant to him, especially his father. He idolized his father and he could never stop talking about

all of the great things his father did. He was so proud to be his son. I could talk about so many stories. I would just like to say that in life you have very few really good friends. John was one of those friends. John definitely helped make the world a better place.

Greg Thiesen

Greg Thiesen submitted by Mike Mullins - Denver, CO - Long Time Friend -
February 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ By Mike Lyons

I vividly remember the 2001 BONEHEAD GOLF Tournament at Vail GC, where Gus and I partnered up in the two man best ball. After day one our team was positioned well in a tie for 1st place. Neither Gus or I played particularly well on day one, but we managed to get around the course.

During the Saturday night Calcutta our team managed to go for a lot of money, thus putting huge pressure on both of us to play well for the Sunday final round. Sunday stated out fairly benign the team getting pars for the first 7 or 8 holes in the best ball format. Then I caught fire for 5 holes in a row. We both knew at that point, that we were in a great position to win if we could keep the momentum going.

WOW, on hole # 14, the pressure got to me and I started to fold like a cheap suit pulling a shot out of play. After that disastrous hole # 14, Gus pulled me to the side and told me not to worry. He told me he was about to catch fire. Well up to that point Gus had been struggling with his chipping and putting, normally his strong suit, so I didn't pay much attention to him. Then the fire started to ROAR.

Gus, being the strong competitor that he was, did catch fire and he managed to par the last four holes, getting stokes on each hole to bring home the bacon for our team. I've never been so proud of anyone under that kind of pressure to do what he said he was going to do. Gus and I ended up the 2001 BONEHEAD overall champions and right there our friendship was solidified forever.

I'll always remember Gus, the true competitor. He will be missed.

Mike Lyons

**Mike Lyons submitted by Mike Mullins - Denver, CO - Friend and Fellow
Bonehead - February 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM**

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Paul Shockley

Paul Shockley submitted by Mike Mullins - Denver, CO - Friend and Fellow Bonehead - February 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ Lots of people call you John, but I call you Gus!

Dear Gus,

First, I hope that you have internet in heaven, because there are soooo many people saying such wonderful things about the man I personally knew as a neighbor and a friend for ten beautiful years, and for a short time, a boss.. I had so many things I wanted to say about you and the impact that you and Jeannie had on my life, that I had to make a list before I could even begin, and I know that I will wake up at 3:00 a..m. and think, OMG I left out so many things. It's hard to think or type when the water just won't stop coming out of my eyes!

I should begin with I love so many things about you! I love that you shared your wife, Jeannie (one of my best friends), your wonderful dad Burt, your niece Amanda, your sisters and brothers and cousins, (Alex and Michael) with our family. I have not only had the priveledge of knowing you, but have been embraced by everyone that was close to you.

I love that at least 2 times a week, you would come over and ask if I had ice, because you always hated the way yours tasted. (I bought a bag and kept in my freezer everytime I went to the store so that I would always have a bag for you)

I love the weekends you, Jeannie, Jeff, Jana, me and David would spend together cooking out, going out, or just hanging out. Never planned, always just out in our yards on a warm spring or summer day and deciding to have an impromptu " party!

I love that if I cooked and shared then the bowl was never returned empty, always challenging ourselves to out-do the other when it came to culinary expertice, (Uncle!)

I love that my mom who has been through 3 different types of

cancer, end result brain, has always called you her Gus and cried her heart out when she heard the news that you beat her to heaven.

I love that you took two weeks out of your busy life to take my 14 year old son on the "road" trip of a lifetime, Key Lime Cove, Six Flags over Gurnee, the cabin with Burt (Miners pies, the Packer's Sauna, crawfish) and Camp Batawagana. What a life experience for a young, impressionable man to "hang" with the GOOD guys!

I love that you trusted me to help you in your business, get you organized, and help me with a job in a time of need.

*I love that you and my husband where so close. He left home and dear friends a long time ago, when he met you, he made a true friend that shared all of the things that was important to him...
Football!!!*

I love that when my daughter turned 16 and go her license, you were so excited because she could go on the neighborhood ice cream run!

I know that I have written a book, but to me, this is therapy, because I have truly enjoyed thinking about all the things that I loved and I will miss... one last list that only you and a few will understand,

I LOVE...

pickled brussel sprouts

stuffed habeneros

St. Patricks Day

Green Bay Packers

Tacky Christmas Lights

Game night with the kids

Codys Christmas Collar

Airiated yards

the neighborhood "truck" with no gas gage and lots of dog hair

THE GRILL

Your response to me having four cats!

Cigars (I should have never!)
Little League games with Burt
Rosie chasing me through the neighborhood
letters from ARC
Hanging teddy bears
Missing flags
Warm shoes and socks in Green Bay
Bloody Mary's
Parking cars before the game
Your smile
Your laughs
Your friendship
Your heart
Your generosity
YOU!

G - us
U - ndeniably
S - pecial

God speed,
with all of our love,
Kelly, David, Lynlee, JonMichael, Mimi, Chloe, Holly, Piper, Elvis,
Six, & Tye-Dye,

Kelly Brown - Birmingham, AL - Friend first, then neighbor! - February 09, 2012
at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Dear Burt and Alice,
I am so sorry to hear of John's passing. I spent many days skiing with John and the rest of the Brule gang. We always had such fun. I did not see John after high school for many years though I know he, Donny, and Evy remained very close. He turned up one day floating in Donny's boat at the end of my dock. My mom was there that day and we all had a chance to visit with Johnny and catch up. I know you will miss him dearly. Dave and I are thinking of you and will keep you in our prayers. We are very sorry for your loss.
Dave and Mary Arcand

David and Mary Arcand - Crystal Falls, MI - friends - February 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

EF

“ Thank you for contacting me a couple of weeks ago . It was wonderful to hear your voice, so full of life! Now I am saddened by your unexpected death and pray that your family is able to cherish the wonderful memories of you, as am I. Five years ago my husband died so I know how difficult it is for family to recover from an unexpected death of someone so young. God bless you and your family, John Gustafson. RIP

Elizabeth Veker King - Pinetop, AZ - NMU friend - February 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DN

“ Gus,

I am sorry I'm late, but you know me, I had an appointment (lol). I didn't know where to begin or what to say. From the first time we met we had a connection. I don't know if it was football or the Packers, but I realize it was you. You have been a great friend to me and Kelly and our entire family. You are the most generous person I have ever met. Always putting others ahead of yourself. We will miss our weekends with you and Jeannie, getting together and cooking out, watching football and doing our thing. I will miss your green and gold Christmas Lights (which didn't confirm to the subdivision covenants) and flying the Packer flag on Sundays. I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to go Packers playoff game in 2005. Going to Lambeau Field, Fuzzy Thurston's Bar (thanks alot) and experience the atmosphere of the Packers and Pro football was the a one of the best times of my life. It would never have happened without YOU and Jeannie.

Thank you, for taking Jon Michael to camp last summer. He still talks about it. What a great experinec for a 14 yearo old. (O wha ta goose si am). He loves you, as do Kelly and I, and will remember his time with you for a life time. THANKS!! . You will be missed by so many peope .

Thank you so much for sharing the last 10 years of your life with me, Kelly, Jon, Lynlee and Mimi. We love you and miss you!

God's speed, love you man!

Pee Wee aka Downtown David Brown

David Brown - Birmingham, AL - Friend and Neighbor - February 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ *To the Gustafson family, my deepest condolences on your loss. I had the pleasure of working with John in Chicago in the late 90's at First American Discount Corporation. He was a gentleman's gentleman. Although I did not have direct contact with him for many years, I have fond memories of his help and kindness. May he rest in peace.*

Chuck Bohm-Chicago, Illinois

Chuck Bohm - Chicago, IL - Friend - February 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *Burt & Alice*
We are sorry for your loss and will remember all the family members in our prayers.

Jim & Charlotte Brainerd Mansfield - Spokane, WA - Friend - February 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Gus you are going to be dearly missed by all us that lived around you, especially The Lowery family. What wonderful memories we have of you from when we first moved in and you were hanging those green and gold Christmas lights in the front yard. I remember asking you "Why are your lights green and gold (when of course all the neighbors were white)? And with a quick matter of fact response as you always gave you said "I'm a Packer guy!" I knew then with my family's love of USM and Brett Favre we were going to be instant friends. Then there was the time that you attempted to make Southern Gumbo...oh attempted beng the word...and those of us Southerners around you reminded you that "Damn Yankees aren't supposed to make Gumbo! " Hence Jeff taught you how to really make Gumbo and you were converted to a Southerner whether you liked it or not. We had some great times I mean great times there on Hlghland Park Drive and I could go on and on and on of the wonderful memories we have had with you and Jeannie.

Gus you will be truly missed, especially by our two boys Brandtley (13) and Braxton (6) who treated you as one of their own. There were times that I thought they both might just move in with you and Jeannie mainly because of the snacks in your refrigerator. Braxton is going to miss his football stat buddy tremendously and Brandtley will always cherish the wonderful memories of your two week trip together up north last summer. What a wonderful experience for you both...I think you thought you were 13 again. As Brandtley cried when I told him of your passing, I reminded him of a special bible verse Jeremiah 29:11.

"For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." My family is surely better off having known you Gus and it is a brighter day in heaven for sure!

Roll Tide Gus and of course Go Pack Go!!!

Janna and Jeff Lowery, Brandtley and Braxton - Birmingham,, AL - Neighbor and Friend - February 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Gus, you will be dearly missed. Every Halloween the first thing Wes mentions is going to Mr. Gus' house to get his candy. You guys were always so sweet to make him a special treat, and you were the best next door neighbors we have ever had. You brought joy and friendship to us and were always so generous to share your culinary talents. I will always remember when Oliver died of your caring and thoughtfulness in wanting to surprise us with another dog to comfort us. Now I pray for the comfort of your family and friends, and God's peace and love to guide them through this difficult time.

Christy Sanders - Birmingham, AL - Friend - February 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ I am so sorry to hear about the loss of John. I think of the fun times we had in high school and the great memories we shared. I am truly, truly sorry for his loss. Please know you all are in my prayers.
Connie

Connie Wellens Madden - Cincinnati, OH - Friend of Cathy - February 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MN

“ *The world is a little lonelier place with John's passing.*

I knew John from his days at NMU. He actually worked for my parents @ The Cabaret for a while. He was a man of great integrity and inner strength. John was not afraid to march to his own drum, to always stand by what he believed in. He was independent, not in an overpowering way, but in a way that made people want to emulate him. Just a truly good soul. All topped off with a fabulous dry wit. What a wonderful combination!

As I look at the bright, beautiful full moon tonight, I know it shines a little brighter with the light of John Gustafson's soul having joined the heavens.

May the Gustafson family find peace in knowing what a wonderful man they shared with this world. You are all in my prayers.

Maggie Mahoney - Marquette, MI - Friends from NMU - February 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ *Mr & Mrs Gustafson, Mary, AJ, Kathy and Bill - I am deeply saddened to hear of John's passing and offer you my sincerest condolences. Thank you for being such great neighbors and the times I spent with John and you all are filled with great memories. From water skiing to campfires, building treehouses to hiking, swimming across the lake or running from Miller, Johnny was that best friend who was always by your side. It's been quite a few years since our 5 AM water skiing escapades when I last saw John, but that day as everyday with John was always filled with adventure, laughter, and wonderful camaraderie. I will miss you my friend.....George*

George Tuhowski III - Hoffman Estates, IL - Friend - February 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ *My heart is broken. My love goes out to all of the Gustafson Family and all the wonderful friends who were blessed to be able to call John a friend. We met when we were 12. I fell madly in love after he threw me a football. We have had a 40 year friendship that has passed the test of time. He will always be my Gus to me, I can't believe I won't be hearing his voice on the phone. He was there for me all thru the years and I just always knew we would see each other at the Lake one day. I will never forget, I will never stop appreciating the amazing person who I will love for the rest of my days. God Bless all, I spent the best Summers of my life with all of you. ...Kel*

Kelly Gallagher West - Denton, TX - Friend - February 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ To all of John's loved ones I extend my condolences with a heavy heart.

As some of you know, John and I had recently reconnected and we just had a wonderful lunch and conversation about 10 days ago. We made a commitment to one another to become part of each other's lives again and work on becoming close friends. We were excited about that.

But what most of you do not know is John was always a part of my life and had always been a friend to me. I always knew I could call John no matter what and he would offer some solicited advice or a shoulder or an ear when I needed it. This went on for years, 30 to be exact. I will miss that.

I will miss seeing the new journey that his life was taking, I will miss seeing the new house he was so excited about building. I will miss the date we were making this Friday to meet with another old friend passing through Marquette this weekend. But what I will miss more than anything is the sound of his laughter and the beautiful smile on his face.

John, I miss you already.

Love, Leslie

Leslie E. Cory - Marquette, MI - Ex-Wife & Friend - February 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ I can't begin to imagine what you all are going through with the loss of John. I first met John a few years ago and although I may not have known him extremely well, he always made me feel like part of the family whenever I got the chance to be around him. Amanda always talked about "Uncle John" and what an awesome guy he was and I'm glad I had the chance to know him because she was absolutely right. Even without knowing John as well as others did, I could tell that he had a big heart and truly cared about those around him. I wish all of John's family and friends the very best during this difficult time.

Trey Velleggia - Tuscaloosa, AL - Friend - February 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Dear Burt, Alice, Cathy and Mary we will always remember John from the days we all lived together in Green Bay. We remember racing John around the inside of Lambeau in the golf carts like it was yesterday.
Our prayers are with the Gustafson family and a great family they are.

The Hanner Family - Safety Harbor, FL - Friends - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I only knew John (Gus) for a few weeks but he was a lot of fun. He had a great smile. I am sorry I did not get to know him longer I think he would have been a great friend.

LYNN ROBERTS - ISHPEMING, MI - FRIEND - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ I was fortunate to have met John about 20 years ago when we worked together at First American Discount Corporation in Chicago. With my partner, Scott Kebby, I've continued my professional association with John.

I've always considered John the consummate professional - the paradigm of integrity, diligence and skill. Definitely the person you would want handling your business. On a personal level, I've been blessed to enjoy the gifts of such a valued friend - loyalty, kindness, generosity, intelligence and, not least, that wonderfully wry wit. I will miss laughing with him. I shall miss him enormously. My thoughts are with his family.

Steve

Steven B. Harvey - Chicago, IL - Friend - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ I was SO SADDENED to hear about your loss!! Burt, Alice, Cathy and Mary words can not even begin to tell you how sorry I am for your incredible loss!! You are ALL in my thoughts and prayers!!! I will ALWAYS remember the good old days when we were neighbors and John, Cathy, Bart, Jr. and I would occasionally get together and have a GREAT time!! Seems like not too long ago, but the time flies and we all go our separate ways. I will never forget John and his family and all the good times we shared together. Love to you all!! Cathy Carpenter

Cathy Carpenter - New Braunfels, TX - Family friends - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Dear Burt and Alice: Mike and I were so sorry to hear about the loss of your son. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this very difficult time.

Mike and Denice Loia - Iron River, MI - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ My wife, Bonnie, and I always enjoyed telephone calls from John to discuss cooking, politics, or football. He was not shy with his opinions and our vigorous discussions, even arguments at times, will be missed. He had promised to attend Bonnie's fiftieth birthday celebration this year in Colorado and always invited us to visit him at his home in Alabama. He was generous, loved sports, committed to his principles, and a devoted son. Our prayers are with all of his loved ones.

Kirk D. Relford - Greeley, CO - brother-in-law - February 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM