



John Louis Belanger

April 12, 1936 - May 26, 2026

John Louis Belanger passed away peacefully on May 26, 2026, at the age of 90. Beloved husband of Kathleen (née O'Dell) for 57 wonderful years. Proud and loving father of Craig (Brenda), Dave (Joy), Debbie (Manuel) Velasquez, Kevin (Mike), and Steven (Sarah). Cherished grandfather of Kayleigh (Roberto), Angela, Micah, Sequoia, Magnolia, Willow, Andrew, Alex, Tiernan, and Claire. Survived by two siblings and predeceased by seven.

John lived a life defined by dedication to his family, service to his country and community, commitment to justice, and unwavering love for the people closest to him. He was deeply proud of working his way through college, earning his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan in 1958 before continuing on to receive his Juris Doctor from the University of Detroit Mercy in 1961.

After completing his education, John was drafted into the United States Army. During his active duty service, he learned that he had passed the bar exam — a moment that marked the beginning of a distinguished legal career. Following his military service, he went on to become an accomplished defense attorney, fiercely supporting his clients and serving his community as a strong advocate for justice during critical moments in their lives.

While building his law career, John met the love of his life, Kathleen. Oh, how

he cherished Kathleen. They married in 1969 and together built a beautiful life centered around love, faith, hard work, and family. John was immensely proud of the family they created together and found great joy in every chapter of their lives.

Early in their marriage, John fulfilled another lifelong dream by learning to fly. He loved piloting flights to the family's cherished getaway in Hubbard Lake, Michigan — a place that became a source of treasured memories for generations. Alongside his brother, John helped develop the family cottage into a beloved oasis. Whether tackling routine repairs or completing a full remodel, John was so happy working with his hands and caring for the place he loved so deeply.

Summers in Hubbard Lake were filled with bonfires, the sound of waves rolling onto the shore, and sunsets watched alongside family, including his wife and five children, and friends. Deer season each November also held a special place in John's heart. Though he always dreamed of spotting a 10-point buck, his greatest joy came from the time spent alongside his brother and sons, creating traditions and memories that will endure for generations.

In addition to his legal career and the cherished hours he devoted to supporting and loving his family, John dedicated himself to serving others through the Kiwanis and the Knights of Columbus. He believed deeply in giving back to his community, helping those in need, and quietly supporting causes and people who could benefit from a helping hand. His generosity, kindness, and steady presence touched many lives over the years.

John will be remembered for his devotion to family, quiet strength, commitment to doing good, philanthropic spirit, and the example he set through a life well lived.

A Memorial Gathering will be held at 10:30am on Monday, June 8th, until the time of the Memorial Mass at 11:00am at St. Ephrem Catholic Church, 38900 Dodge Park Rd., Sterling Heights, MI 48312. Please share memories with the family at their online guestbook at WujekCalcaterra.com

Upcoming Events

Memorial Gathering

JUN 8. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Ephrem Church
38900 Dodge Park
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Memorial Mass

JUN 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Ephrem Church
38900 Dodge Park
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Tribute Wall



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Louis Belanger.



3 hours ago



“ Your Hoover Family purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of John Louis Belanger.



Your Hoover Family - 4 hours ago



“ Sandy Hamilton purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of John Louis Belanger.



Sandy Hamilton - 6 hours ago