



John Gola

June 18, 1935 - October 17, 2025

GOLA, JOHN was born in Hamtramck, Michigan, on June 18, 1935, to John Gola Sr. and Lucille Lukasiewicz.

He was the beloved husband of the late Josephine Gola, with whom he shared 58 joyful years of marriage - a partnership filled with laughter, love, and adventure.

John was a devoted father to Debra Fagan (Dan), John Gola (Renia), Steve Gola, and Mike Gola (Susan). He was also a proud and doting grandfather to nine grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren, each of whom brought him endless joy.

A proud U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant, John carried his sense of loyalty, strength, and service throughout his life. He loved spending time with family and friends, traveling, building and collecting trainsets, taking photos, and enjoying a good cigar.

Those who knew John will remember his infectious laugh, his larger-than-life personality, and the way he made everyone feel like family. Ninety beautiful years were made brighter because he was here - and his love, laughter, and stories will live on in all who were blessed to know him.

Visitation Tuesday 3-8pm. Funeral Wednesday 10:30am at Wujek - Calcaterra & Sons 54880 Van Dyke at 25 Mile Road (SHELBY TOWNSHIP). Interment Resurrection Cemetery. Please share memories with the family at their online guestbook @ WujekCalcaterra.com

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery

18201 Clinton River Road
Clinton Township, MI 48038

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **28**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons Inc, Shelby Township
54880 Van Dyke
Shelby Township, MI 48316

Funeral Service

OCT **29**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons Inc, Shelby Township
54880 Van Dyke
Shelby Township, MI 48316

Tribute Wall

DP

“ My wife and I had the privilege of meeting John through Steve about 8 years ago. Steve and I bowl together and it was always fun when John would come down to the lanes with Steve and hang out while we bowled. We also had the pleasure of having John accompany Steve and our team, to a few of our National Tournaments and those always afforded John the opportunity to throw down a few bucks at the tables (he usually came back with more than he started with)! John was one heckofa guy, loved his kids, loved life, always had something nice to say (well, maybe not "always", at least when it came to Steve's bowling), and his sense of humor was on display often! He touched a lot of people over the years and Dena and I will miss him and his spirit. As always, here's my high 5!

David & Dena Pope - November 02, 2025 at 08:14 PM

JG

“ Mr. Gola was a sweet man and an extremely dedicated family man. I first met Steve Gola in the early nineties, he was a customer of the company I was working for at the time. We soon became friends and come to find out, John was friends with my girlfriend's Dad whom had passed a couple years prior. Fast forward, that girlfriend of mine has been my wife for 28 years and my Children know the Gola's too. Rest in peace Mr. Gola you are loved by many.

Jeff Gandini - October 28, 2025 at 11:00 PM

DF

Thank you for the kind words Jeff

Debra Fagan - November 06, 2025 at 07:17 AM

RS

“ I am honored to have known John for over 30 years.. He was like my second dad. I met him through his sons Steve and Mike and we all immediately became very close and didn't miss a year without seeing each other. We traveled the country together, the greatest card games together, casinos together,, his personality and his generosity made him special!! will forever miss you John.. your friend Bob Swanson

robert swanson - October 28, 2025 at 10:48 PM

MB

“ Mary and Jerry Brimberry planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Gola.

Mary and Jerry Brimberry - October 27, 2025 at 07:33 PM

MB

“ Mary and Jerry Brimberry purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of John Gola.



Mary and Jerry Brimberry - October 27, 2025 at 07:33 PM

MB

“ John I will truly miss you and our visits in Steve's backyard. I'm so glad that I've gotten to know you in the past couple of years more than I've known you in my whole life. Now because of you and all of the stories you told me I have a new insight on the family and know so much more about our history than I ever would have known had you not told me. I will always be grateful that I got the chance to really get to know you. All my love goes with you. Rest in peace.

Mary Brimberry - October 27, 2025 at 07:26 PM

DF

Thank you Mary for sharing. Love you

Debra Fagan - October 27, 2025 at 11:14 PM

MH

“ *Where do I start, I have so many memories. I remember coming to visit you and grandma , swimming in the pool, and having to wait 30 min to get back in after we ate , think you just needed a break from us screaming and yelling lol , home made Shirley temples and you asking if we were polish or ticklish. Most recent memories are drinking coffee with you as you smoked your cigar and talking to you. Your laugh was contagious and unforgettable. You was a great role model to us all. Love you grandpa , till we see each other again.*

Missy Harter - October 26, 2025 at 09:41 PM

DF

So beautifully said Missy

Debra Fagan - October 27, 2025 at 03:50 PM

EF

“ One of the best memories I have of John is our failed road trip to Atlantic City. I believe it was 1988 or 1989 we had finished bowling in our Friday night league and John and I decided to take a ride to Belle Isle which is something we did quite often. We got in John's van and proceeded to pick up Steve, Mike and some "supplies" for the ride. After driving around Belle Isle for a while we all decided it would be a good idea to take a road trip to Atlantic City. We only had a few hundred dollars between us but the plan was to get there in the morning, turn the few hundred into a couple thousand, spend the day and come home that night. We got to the toll booth for the Ohio Turnpike about midnight. After two hours of driving I realized everyone was crashed and the only noise was a bunch of snoring! I decided to make a U turn in the median and head back. Two hours later we were back at the same toll booth and the guy gave me a strange look and said this was a first for him --- we had been on the Turn Pike for 4 hours and were back where we started and didn't owe any money!! We pulled into the driveway at the house on Remer Street about 5:00 am and slept in the van. About 8:00am everybody woke up to the sun shining in. John looked over at me and said "are we there?"--- then he realized where he was, looked at me with a big smile and said "well Eddie it's probably for the best". I looked back at him and said "ya John, I think you're right". So much for Atlantic City!!

Rest in Peace, John. You were a great man who lived a long and fulfilling life!

Ed

Ed Fagan - October 26, 2025 at 12:03 PM

DF

Thank you for sharing that story. I love this

Debra Fagan - October 27, 2025 at 03:53 PM



“ *America the Beautiful* was purchased for the family of John Gola.



October 26, 2025 at 09:19 AM



“ *John Earl and Family* purchased the *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* for the family of John Gola.



John Earl and Family - October 25, 2025 at 08:59 PM



“ *Jerry Jr. and Jared Gola* planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Gola.

Jerry Jr. and Jared Gola - October 25, 2025 at 03:10 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of John Gola.



October 25, 2025 at 03:10 PM

GG

“ Uncle John and aunt Josie were always so good to me. Growing up as a child I spent a lot of time with them even when I was very young hanging out in the hobby shop Uncle John sparked an interest in model railroading that has never left me which I share with my son now. I remember helping him build those television kits and even when computers started coming out in the early 80s he gave me my first Commodore Vic 20. I will forever miss him. Heartfelt condolences to the rest of the family.

Gerald Gola - October 25, 2025 at 03:06 PM

DZ

“ To Debbie and Family...we will NEVER forget all the great memories Dan has had with you wonderful dad for many many years that he will treasure. It is impossible to express the sadness and love we had for John. He is one of a kind and breaks our hearts Love and sincere sympathy❤️ Dan and Loretta

Daniel CrisanLoretta Zeeb - October 24, 2025 at 05:57 PM

DF

Thank you Loretta and Dan❤️

Debra Fagan - October 25, 2025 at 09:55 AM

CR

“ *In Loving Memory of John Sr.*

*Stepping into the Gola home for our many family traditions,
John Sr. was most often among the first to greet us —
and if not, I'd find myself seeking him out,
just to share a hello with a smile and laugh that carried his familiar
cheer.*

*There was always a story waiting —
an adventure freshly returned from,
or one soon to be begun.*

*His love and thoughtfulness were constant,
quietly woven into the moments he captured —
the man behind the camera,
preserving laughter and togetherness in reels of memory.
For us he lovingly marked “Christmas with Renia’s Family,”*

*Hand on heart, with deepest love and respect —
John Sr. will be missed,
but never forgotten.*

Crystal R

Crystal Reidhead - October 24, 2025 at 03:52 PM

DF

Thank you Crystal for the beautiful tribute to my Dad ❤️

Debra Fagan - October 25, 2025 at 09:54 AM



*This is beautiful sister ❤️ I'm so glad you guys came across that video
he took. ❤️*

Renia Gola - October 26, 2025 at 01:22 PM

NP

“ Nancy Parmer planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Gola.

Nancy Parmer - October 23, 2025 at 08:20 PM

NP

“ Nancy Parmer purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of John Gola.



Nancy Parmer - October 23, 2025 at 08:20 PM