



## John Philip Borman

March 21, 1946 - April 7, 2019

John passed away suddenly on Sunday, April 7th due to complications secondary to a traumatic brain injury he sustained in May 2013. John Philip Borman was born on March 21, 1946, in Little Falls, MN, the eldest of nine children born to Myron Francis Borman and Bernadette (Burggraff) Borman. Until the age of 12, John grew up on a farm near Royalton, MN and attended a one-room country school house. Due to his father's health, the family moved to Minneapolis, MN where John grew up on the north side of the city and attended St. Bridget's School and De La Salle High School. After graduation from high school in 1964, John joined the U.S Marine Corps, where he served four years as an armorer, ordnance specialist, and helicopter gunner, including two tours of duty in Viet Nam. After receiving an Honorable Discharge at the rank of Sergeant from the Marine Corps, John returned to Minnesota to attend college. He graduated from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in Political Science in 1973. Then pursuing an interest in public affairs, John joined the staff of Minnesota Public Interest Research Group, where he spent more than two years as a community and student organizer. Realizing that he could best serve the public interest as a lawyer, John applied to and was granted admission to the Notre Dame Law School in South Bend, IN, where he obtained his Juris Doctor Degree in 1979. After graduation from law school, John became a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Glenn E. Kelley in Winona, MN. Upon completion of his judicial clerkship, John joined the firm of Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi where he became a partner and practiced for 16 years, specializing as a trial lawyer in the areas of personal injury, wrongful death, products liability and medical malpractice.

In response to a desire to become a Country lawyer, John resigned from Robins, Kaplan, Miller and Ciresi in 1997 and returned to Winona, MN where he joined the law firm of Streater and Murphy. He continued to specialize his practice as a trial lawyer until his retirement in 2000. John was admitted to practice in the states of MN and WI and was also admitted in numerous federal courts. During his legal career, John was very active in the Minnesota Trial Lawyers Assn, the Wisconsin Academy of Trial Lawyers, the Assn of Trial Lawyers of America and the Academy of Certified Trial Lawyers. He was also a member of the Minnesota and Wisconsin Bar Assn and the American Bar Assn.

John also had a strong interest in human rights and was a long-time member of Amnesty International and the Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, which allowed him to do human rights missions to Tunisia and Israel and the Occupied Territories, and to publish human rights reports following those missions. After his retirement, John took a particular interest in Truth and Reconciliation by working on projects in Peru, Liberia and by his work with the D.O.V.E (Development of Viet Nam Endeavors) Fund and the Winona-Dakota Unity Alliance. John was also commissioned as a Lay Minister in the Catholic Church by the Diocese of Winona in 2006. He was a long-time member of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Winona, an associate member of St. Olaf Catholic Church in Mpls and a member of the Demontreville Jesuit Retreat House. John was also very active in the Boy Scouts of America and long-time member of the Marine Corps League and the Hiawatha Valley Marines.

He is preceded in death by his father Myron Francis Borman and his mother Bernadette Mary Borman. He is survived by his son Mac Arthur Nelson II, his wife Tara and grandchildren Alexis, Claire and Andre. Also surviving him are siblings: Judy (Richard) Fehn, Bob (Nancy), Barbara (Michael) Grimshaw, Kateri (Michael) Seraphine, Butch (Carol), Susan (IJ) Sheehan, Jo Mary (Julie) and Peter (Linda) and 18 nieces and nephews; former wives Theresa and Yvonne. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to De La Salle High School in Minneapolis, MN. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:30am on Saturday, April 13th @ St. Anthony of Padua Chapel at Catholic Eldercare, 813 Main Street NE, Mpls, with visitation starting at 9:30am. Private interment on Tuesday, April 16th at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

# Cemetery

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## Fort Snelling National Cemetery

7601 34th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN, 55450

# Events

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**APR** **Visitation** 09:30AM - 11:30AM

**13**

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St. Anthony of Padua

813 Main Street Northeast, Minneapolis, MN, US,  
55413

**APR** **Church Service** 11:30AM - 12:30PM

**13**

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St. Anthony of Padua

813 Main Street Northeast, Minneapolis, MN, US,  
55413

# Comments

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“ John was a dear friend with whom I spent some treasured and memorable times. My heart goes out to all of his wonderful siblings and to Mac, Tara and the grandbabes, with whom I had the pleasure of spending one of my Christmases. God bless.

**Elizabeth Andalis** - April 22 at 07:12 PM

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“ Just read the Winona Post obituary of our long-time friend John. My husband Alan and I knew John from sailboat adventures on the Mississippi in Lake City, MN. Alan and John talked about these "small word" events when both discovered they both graduated from DeLaSalle; both in the Marines and lived in Winona, MN for years. Alan passed away 4/30/18 from dementia and I do remember meeting Mac in Lake City long before he was married. We continued to send Christmas cards to John for years after retiring in 2000 to Palm Desert, CA and John always sent us back newsy letters in return. So sorry to read about John's death since he was such a remarkable human being and will surely be missed. Sincerely, Carole Nelson

**Carole Nelson** - April 20 at 12:05 PM

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“ What a force of nature John was! I knew him back in the 1970s when he was an organizer for MPIRG and I was a student involved in the organization. He had a zest for life that was contagious. A marine, public interest work, a lawyer. I admired his decision to give up big law firm life and go his own way. I had not heard of his injury and am sorry about it. I'm sure that was hard for John's family. Peace to the family. I'll never forget John.

**Karen** - April 17 at 06:30 PM

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“ I knew John as a fellow warrior, sailor, veterans justice advocate, Dove volunteer, and friend. Farewell my friend, and peace to you.

Jim Bambenek

**Jim Bambenek** - April 15 at 11:00 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Laura Lynn - April 13 at 08:44 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Philip Borman.



April 12 at 02:58 PM

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“ Theresa Bailey purchased the A New Sunrise Spray for the family of John Philip Borman.



Theresa Bailey - April 12 at 02:01 AM

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“ To the family of Mr. John Philip Borman, please accep my sincere heartfelt condolences. The hope of life for those we love gives us strength to bare our sorrow. The Creator, who gave life assures us of life even when we close our eyes. He says “ Do not be amazed, for the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tomb will hear His voice and come out.....” (John5:28,29)

Teresa - April 11 at 07:56 AM



“ I met John in the early 70's. He was always on my heros list. One of a kind. Will be missed by all.

RIP John  
PJ Connors

PJ Connors - April 11 at 08:38 PM



“ I've known John since primary school at St Bridget's, North Minneapolis. We caught up again when we were both at St Cloud State and stayed in touch from then on. When i moved to Australia, he came to visit often and we spent some great times together in Sydney and Central Tilba on the south coast of NSW. He loved spending time at my place Tilba Heights! He was a very good man with a heart of gold. John was always so industrious - everywhere he went, he was fixing this and fixing that and making life easier for whoever he came across. We had many things in common and both felt passionate about social justice and human rights. I will miss seeing and hanging out with him. I'm very sorry I can't be there in person. My thoughts though are with all of John's family.

Vale my friend!

Pat Fiske



Pat Fiske - April 10 at 11:07 PM



“ I'll never forget that time in my childhood that John decided to adopt one of my best friends, Mac. My family had already made Mac a part of our family in many ways, but John ultimately (and officially)made Mac his son and I couldn't have felt better about the family my friend was joining, as it was clear that John could offer Mac the love and leadership he deserved. John clearly lived his best life and was able to share his many adventures as he raised my dear friend, and I'll forever be grateful for that. Love to you Mac and family.

Michael Sonrode - April 10 at 02:35 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mr. John Philip Borman.



April 10 at 10:34 AM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. John Philip Borman.



April 10 at 08:53 AM