



John Warren Moon

July 21, 1948 - February 24, 2026

John W Moon

Age 77 of St. Paul, MN,

Died peacefully, surrounded by love on
February 24, 2026

Preceded in death by parents Wilford and Veronica Moon and baby sister Donna Marie. Survived and loved by wife Claudine, sisters Marce Jost and Connie (Bill) Mase, and many family members and friends.

John was born in Mankato and lived in Lake Crystal, MN until 1961 when the family moved to Minneapolis. He attended North High and the University of MN where he earned a bachelors degree in Art Education.

He taught art for a short time and then found his career at Frederick Sherry Office Supply, (which later became Boise Cascade). He spent over 30 years designing office spaces and sold commercial furniture to businesses all over Minnesota.

John had so many talents and a multitude of friends from a wide variety of interests.

He loved music! His love of great songwriting brought him to concerts around the country and all over Minnesota. He even got to meet a few of his favorite artists and tour the Martin Guitar factory. John joined a musical group called Peace Den and made many friends through the jam sessions, lessons and performances. We are forever grateful that some of his friends came to visit and played for and with him in his last days.

He loved softball! He played for decades with lifelong friends in several leagues. They told stories of fun and crazy escapades long after the bats cooled off and celebrated the lives of those lost at regular "team meetings". John would often recall games and laughs as we drove past ball parks all over the Metro. Those years and those guys mean the world to him.

John loved golf after softball was no longer an option. He played in 3 countries and many states but Superior National, The Legend, Oak Glen and Mississippi National held a special place in his heart. He played multiple times a week and even worked as a starter for a few summers in retirement. It was never about the score, but rather the fun, friendships made, & the laughs he collected on the course.

John loved traveling and told everyone his favorite trip was to Alaska. His sense of awe and adventure truly came alive there and he always hoped to go back. He spent many years traveling to various parts of Mexico with friends and also loved long road trips all over the US and Canada. His spirit is forever connected to the North Shore of Lake Superior.

John was an amazing artist whose art work provides a special place in the hearts of those who love him. He left us with the most incredible personalized envelopes on our birthdays, funny and irreverent cartoons and poignant drawings of love and struggle alike. He drew annual flyers for a team for Breast Cancer Awareness, sales flyers for his work, made signs of

encouragement for seniors during covid and designed t-shirts for his gym. Just last year he looked into joining an artist group to continue developing his talent.

John fought a long battle with Parkinson's. He worked hard to keep the symptoms at bay through Rock Steady Boxing. He loved his group at Uppercut Boxing Gym and other locations and was one of the first to sign up for the program. He worked so hard at the gym every week so that he could keep moving in life. He loved and appreciated all of the volunteers and coaches who make a huge difference in the boxers lives.

Most of all, John loved his wife Claudine. He loved her completely, unconditionally, gently and fiercely. John was her best friend, love of her life, protector, cheerleader, everything partner, golf buddy, travel companion, humorist, chief ice cream taster, and loved to ride shot-gun on countless adventures in their convertible. His seat in the car and his place in her heart will never be filled.

John was a wonderful husband, son, brother, uncle, friend and mentor to many people and he will be deeply missed. Think of him when you see the full moon because John Moon lived a full life!

A Celebration of John's Life will be held on Thursday, March 5, 2026 at Washburn-McReavy 515 Highway 96 W, Shoreview, MN. Visitation at 1pm, Service at 2pm followed by social hour.

John requested donations to be made to Rock Steady Boxing in lieu of flowers.

Please dedicate your donation in John's name at:

<https://rocksteadyboxing.org/support-us/>

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 5. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Shoreview Chapel
515 Highway 96 West
Shoreview, MN 55126

Celebration of Life

MAR 5. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Shoreview Chapel
515 Highway 96 West
Shoreview, MN 55126

Reception

MAR 5. 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM (CT)

Shoreview Chapel
515 Highway 96 West
Shoreview, MN 55126

Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Memorial Service for John Warren Moon in memory of John Warren Moon



Washburn-McReavy - February 27 at 09:19 AM

CM

“ *From Monika Kuznia, John’s Niece*

John was my uncle, and he was a truly wonderful uncle. He was kind-hearted, warm-spirited, friendly, creative, funny, and thoughtful. He was similar to my grandpa John, and if you knew my grandpa John, you would know that’s quite the compliment.

I have many fond memories of Uncle John and one of the things I’ll always remember is how he would use his artistic gifting to illustrate my birthday card envelope every year. As someone with negative artistic abilities, I always looked forward to seeing what fun design Uncle John would draw, oftentimes incorporating my favorite things like dogs, soccer, chemistry, and cars. Another thing I’ll remember is how he would almost always tell me a dad joke whenever I saw him. I’m not quite sure when he got into dad jokes, but I did get a kick out of hearing the newest one he learned or came up with - some of them were actually pretty funny! One last thing I’ll remember is how he would answer the question, “How are you Uncle John?” Without fail he would say, “Never better” even if he had, in fact, been better. That was his trademark line and I can still hear him saying it.

I love you Uncle John and I’m so grateful God brought you into our family! You were an incredible guy and I’m so blessed to have known you. And don’t worry, I’ll make sure Claudine is well taken care of.

Claudine Moon - March 10 at 11:25 AM

“ This tribute is from Julie Lichty, John’s sister-in-law.

When I think about John, the first thing that comes to mind is that he truly lived life to the fullest. He always had a smile on his face. And if you asked him how he was doing, you almost always knew the answer. It was either, “Never better,” or “Just happy to be here.” And the thing is — he meant it.

There are a few things about John that I’ll always remember — and they still make me smile.

First of all... never, ever play Pictionary with an Art major. I am seriously challenged when it comes to Art, and I got my butt whooped more than once. In the time it took him to draw this beautifully detailed human figure, I was working hard to present my stick person... with a triangle skirt. That was the best I had & that made him laugh.

Then there were the margaritas. I learned quickly that Margarita’s require quality tequila. I was lovingly reminded not to waste my tastebuds on local liquor store tequila. In his opinion, the only acceptable tequila came straight out of Mexico. I never quite had the right stuff, but he was gracious enough to drink the margaritas I made. I’m still convinced there’s a special bottle of tequila hidden somewhere in the Moon house.

John and I also completely disagreed on music. He loved folk music and I was a Rock & Roll girl. We discussed it, and in the end, we agreed to disagree, knowing the other was nuts!

One thing I truly appreciated about John was his willingness to be a “guinea pig” for my husband’s Big Green Egg experiments. He ate some really good meat & some so-so meat. But at the end of the meal, he would complement the effort. That was just who he was. But more than the games, the tequila, and the music debates — what I’ll remember most is his spirit. You could see the twinkle in his eye that he loved life & wanted to experience all of it. He was kind, generous, and always willing to help. And when he laughed (even at dumb stuff), it came straight from the joy in his soul. His whole body lit up, it was a contagious & heartfelt laugh.

John fought the good fight with Parkinson’s. He showed all of us

that it was not going to get the best of him. Through it all, that joyful spirit never left.

He will be dearly missed.

We love you, John.

Claudine Moon - March 10 at 11:20 AM

CM

“ From Lisa Kuznia, John’s Sister In Law:

I have thought a lot about what I’d like to say about John. When I first met John I couldn’t believe how tall he was! He had a very big heart and a tremendous hug to go with it! Every time I saw John he would welcome me and then give me a big hug! I loved his big smile and his great laugh!

We, my husband and I had so much fun with John and Claudine! We usually played golf because John, Claudine and Brian all loved to play! I did not share that love but I wanted to tag along with them anyway. We laughed and ate good food and hung out. John and Brian shared a birthday and they are both first born. Through the years we had several birthday dinners, lots of laughs and a whole lot of the 3 of them golfing! I became the golf cart driver but only for Brian, I scared John with my driving he said! 😊

I enjoyed watching John play his guitar! He loved playing and was very good! He played with a group called Peace Den. We went to quite a few of their concerts.

In the last few months I enjoyed getting to know John on a whole new level. We could talk about just about anything or nothing at all. Brian and I visited John and Claudine a lot while he was in the hospital and in rehabilitation and when he moved to New Perspectives too. We often played Uno Attack, a game John grew to love. He especially loved it when the cards would spit out on anyone but him!

John, I will always remember all the birthday card envelopes he drew on each year for me! He tried hard to make the envelopes represent what each person liked in life! He had an amazing way to make each person special on their birthday!

John, I am so glad I had the pleasure of getting to know you! You were a man of many talents!

Thank you for sharing your life with me, and Brian too!

Lisa

Claudine Moon - March 10 at 11:20 AM

CM

“ From Hannah O’Leary, NP

My deepest condolences to you and your family. It was a true privilege to witness the love between you and John. It's evident that you have had some amazing, memorable, adventurous times together, and it was a joy to hear about them. You were the best advocate for him, knew him so incredibly well, and were so great to collaborate with in the management of his care. I hope you have a really supportive tribe around you during this horribly difficult time. I hope you have space and time to give yourself what you need as you experience this intense grief and the overwhelm of staying by John's side every single moment (literally and figuratively by his side!) for the past several years of his Parkinsons journey. I will always use your and John's love for each other as the standard for my own marriage.

Hannah

Claudine Moon - March 10 at 11:19 AM

CM

“ From Dean Dodson

Even though I wrote a little something on the memorial web page, I was inspired yesterday to share some more thoughts for the tribute. Karen and I were in Melbourne's National Gallery of Victoria art museum surrounded by a world-class collection of paintings and I thought, "this is something John would love. We are living the life he would celebrate." While I had forgotten his art teacher background, I do remember his struggle with Parkinson's and his kick-boxing classes. He was "fighting" for his health as we all should fight for our happiness, particularly in the challenging times we find ourselves. We should use his celebration of life as a catalyst to fight for our art, fight for our music, fight for our band of brothers and sisters, fight for our joy and joyous moments. John intuitively knew that love is not chanced upon like gold nuggets in a river but created through intentional kindness and compassion. We should use this occasion as a reminder to come together and make music, make art, make memories, make the world brighter; let's live the life John would've wanted us to live. Thank you John.

*Love to all,
Dean*

Claudine Moon - March 10 at 11:17 AM

“ From Amanda Swanson

I first started working at Edible Arrangements nine years ago, and very quickly John became a constant in our days, someone we all looked forward to seeing walk through the door.

Every time he came in, I would ask him, “How are you doing today?” And without fail, his answer was always the same: “Never better.” And I can tell you that answer was the same even on my very last visit with him.

We would talk about life, boxing, family, and golf. He’d stop in for his cookie fix, we always baked extra and kept them aside because we knew he’d be coming. But more than the cookies, what I loved most was watching how excited he would get when he had a new joke for us. You could tell just by the look on his face that he had a good one ready.

“Do you know when a joke becomes a dad joke? When it becomes apparent.”

And even when John couldn’t remember his jokes anymore, he didn’t let that stop him. He got joke books. He would come in so excited, flip to the page with the bent corners, and share what he had marked for us. He was determined to keep the laughter going.

“I bet you don’t know how the moon styles his hair... eclipses it.”

That was John. No matter what, he brought joy. He brought lightness. He brought laughter.

John showed us that even on ordinary days, there is always room for a smile. He reminded us that humor is a gift, and that sometimes the simplest words “never better” can be a choice we make about how we face the world.

I will always think of him when I hear a corny joke, when I smell fresh cookies, and when someone answers a hard day with quiet strength and a smile.

Thank you, John, for the laughter, for the consistency, and for the reminder that joy — even in small moments — matters. You will be deeply missed, but your jokes and your spirit will stay with us.

Claudine Moon - March 10 at 11:13 AM

“*In memory of John and with love for Claudine
From Kim, John’s Rock Steady Boxing Coach*

“Never better.”

That’s what John said every time I saw him at the gym and asked how he was doing.

Every. Single. Time.

For five years.

I met John in the spring of 2016, when he turned up at Uppercut Gym in Northeast Minneapolis to inquire about Rock Steady Boxing. Rock Steady is a boxing training program for people who have Parkinson’s disease. Uppercut was home to the first Rock Steady program in the state of Minnesota, and John was one of the first six boxers to join. I remember sitting in the gym office with him and Claudine during the intake session. He had tried a similar program at a different gym, but it hadn’t gone well. He didn’t need to be coached by a drill sergeant, he said. He wanted to work hard and to see if boxing would ease the symptoms of his disease, but he did not need to be man-handled.

Lisa, who owned Uppercut, and I told John that we would treat and train him like we did any other boxer who walked through the door. No yelling, no belittling, no mollycoddling. Just hard work. He signed up.

On the first day of class, he wore a t-shirt that proclaimed “I’m a Parkie.”

John may indeed have been a Parkie, but he also became a boxer. He came to class twice a week and put in the work. He hit the heavy bag. He hit the mitts. He learned defense and offense, how to jab-cross-hook-cross-slip-cross-hook-cross. He practiced his footwork on the agility ladder and worked on his mobility on the obstacle course. He did pushups and planks and squats and lunges. He sweat through that Parkie t-shirt in the heat of summer and the chill of winter.

And he did it all with that smile, that dimple.

John was also crucial to the social dynamics that turned Rock Steady into a family. He brought his big personality, his big voice,

his big heart to the gym with him every day. Walking into a boxing gym for the first time can be intimidating, but John made sure that newcomers felt welcome. He and his fellow Rock Steady Boxers shared an understanding of the challenges of living with Parkinson's, but they also shared a fighting spirit that refused to give in to the disease. Strangers became boxers became friends became family. They enjoyed a camaraderie born of laughter and tears and empathy and frustration and hard work and good, clean sweat. We coaches were part of the family, too, not because we knew what it was like to have Parkinson's, but because at the gym, we were all boxers.

It wasn't always easy for John, I know. There were setbacks. Changes in symptoms and medications. Injuries. Falls. The progression of the disease. It wasn't easy for him – for any of us – when Uppercut closed in 2019 and we had to relocate the program to another gym, in a new place, with new people.

But still, he came.

He kept coming after I left the program in 2021.

For as long as I was with Rock Steady, and probably long after I left, his answer to the question, "How ya' doing, John?" was "Never better."

I'm not sure that any of us could respond in kind if asked how we are today, as we gather in memory of John. My life was certainly better with him in it. And yet his legacy remains. It reminds us that we are more than the illnesses that may seem to diminish us -- more, even, than the successes that we hope will define us. It reminds us that sometimes it is in our greatest hardships that we find our best, truest selves.

May we all try to live a "never better" life in honor of John.

Claudine Moon - March 10 at 11:12 AM

KG

“ John was a member of Rock Steady Boxing (RSB) for several years, first at Uppercut and then at Element Gym. I was honored to meet "big John" (we had several boxers named John in the group so everyone knew who which one was "big John ") when I started the RSB Program at Element Gym. He was a beloved member and made sure to greet each new member. He was kind, engaging and just plain fun to have in class. Later he started indoor cycling in another facility but he stopped by the gym to say hi, he missed the other founding members of RSB in Minneapolis. Member always wanted to know - has anyone heard from "big John"? Hard work, dedication, Rock Steady Boxing John. RSB will miss you but you are not forgotten

Katie A. Grove - March 03 at 06:29 PM

EG

“ My husband Chris met John at Rock Steady boxing when it met at Uppercut. He immediately made him feel welcome, and Chris kept going back until it became too difficult. People like John and the program gave him a reason to keep fighting. I got to know John as well when I started accompanying Chris. He was a shining light!

Eileen Moran Griggs - March 01 at 08:54 PM

KM

“ I will always hold John in my heart. The memories we made together will always give me comfort and joy. He's gone too soon and will be missed by so many. Love you John.

Kathy Moon - March 01 at 03:40 PM

TT

“ I just finished reading the beautiful tribute and summation of John’s life, his loves and the impact he has had on others he shared that life with. Truly, a life well lived. Everything I read was a reminder to me of the gentle and talented young man I knew while we were in high school together. Nothing but good memories of him and the brief time we shared so long ago. Terry Tompkins, North High Class of 1966.

Terry Tompkins - February 28 at 12:40 PM

EB

“ John was a member of our Parkinson's Cycle class at the YMCA in Shoreview. I had the privilege of guiding the class and many times was able to spend time talking with John after class. He was a great conversationalist about art, music, and the highs and low of life. We believe we solved many of the world's problems if only we could get people to do things our way! John was also very adept at rolling his eyes at me when I reminded him to have a snack and drink water before he left the Y. He was a treasured member of our Y and I will miss him deeply.

Elen Bahr - February 28 at 11:11 AM

DD

“ I met John in Peace Den and we had a bunch of music jams together. We played sometimes as a duo or trio or with the whole group with my favorite memories being when we played songs I wrote; his kind and generous (and no doubt tactful) support was so encouraging and appreciated. Claudine and John hosted music get togethers at their home that are sweet, lifelong memories for me. Karen and I are currently cruising the Tasman Sea on our way to Australia and can’t make the celebration of life but are thinking of all John’s friends and family. It’s fair to say that John had a worldwide impact!

Dean Dodson - February 27 at 04:29 PM

HD

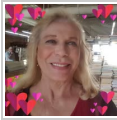
I had the privilege of teaching the Parkinson's cycle class for a little while at the Shoreview YMCA. Every time he came in someone would say, "How you doing John?" and he would reply, "Never been better!" He always tried to stay positive despite his health struggles. We will sorely miss him. Heather DeFrance

Heather DeFrance - February 28 at 04:19 PM

JM

John's kindness and big smile always made one feel welcome! His gentle presence was a gift.

jen moberg - March 01 at 05:49 PM



Oh, I have so many fond memories of fun times with you two, especially when we got together in your backyard to play music. John and I were pretty much guitar beginners when we started with the Peace Den group. I am grateful for this time and the wonderful remembrance. Smiles and Thank You.

Constance Gabriel - March 07 at 04:16 PM

KH

I just heard of John's passing. My heart breaks! I have known John since North High. He could put a smile on your face even on your worst of days. The memories are many and there are and will be miles and miles of smiles when I think of John. My prayers and thoughts are with his family.

Kathy (Pemberton) Heikke Class of 66

Kathy (Pemberton) Heikke - March 09 at 09:42 PM