



## John Sheehy

April 16, 2012

Of Minneapolis Died unexpectedly after a brief illness on April 14, 2012. Preceded in death by his father, Robert Patrick; aunt and godmother Ruth Sheehy Finnell; and many other aunts and uncles. Survived by his wife of 32 years, Kathleen Dunn Sheehy; daughters Madeline, Ellen, Marie; mother Mae Sheehy; brothers Francis (Maureen Dunn) and James (Leah), sisters Sharmaine Wittsack (Lyle); Nythar Sheehy, Colleen Sheehy (Peter Murphy), Michelle Halle (Earl), Theresa Sheehy; father and mother-in-law Warren and Nancy Dunn; sisters-in-law Erin Dunn (Ted Wentink), and Theresa Dunn; many wonderful nieces, nephews, and cousins-"the extended Sheehy Clan." From humble beginnings, John became one of the most accomplished trial lawyers in Minnesota. John was born in Minneapolis on February 21, 1955, the fourth child of eight born to Robert Patrick and Mae Daniels Sheehy. His mother raised the children, who were all under the age of fourteen at the time of his father's premature death at age forty. After graduating from St. Louis Park High School, he earned a B.A. in history from the University of Minnesota in 1981 and a Law Degree from that school in 1984. John was managing partner at Meshbesh and Spence, where for 30 years he practiced civil and criminal law. At the age of 27, within two years of passing the bar exam, John argued a case before the U.S. Supreme Court and was so new to the law profession that the Court required a senior attorney be present when he argued against the U.S. Assistant Solicitor General. Ron Meshbesh served in that role. John loved his clients, took on the toughest

cases, and he never forgot the poor and downtrodden. He was most proud of the free work he did for people in need. Jury awards for his clients achieved unparalleled results, as he never lost a civil trial, and was one of only two lawyers in Minnesota to be twice named Lawyer of the Year by Minnesota's leading law journal. Passionate about his many interests, John enjoyed golf, fishing, antique cars, world travel, photography, books, music, and fine cooking. He loved nothing more than having family and friends gathered in his home for feasts and celebrations. He was proud of the family's roots in International Falls and Duluth, MN. John was known for his large spirit, sharp wit, charming personality, and legendary generosity. His favorite song was "No Surrender" by Bruce Springsteen. John's life was made complete by love for his family, and their love for him. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him. Many thanks to the physicians and nurses at Abbott Northwestern Hospital's Intensive Care Unit who provided such excellent and compassionate care to John, and his family, during his illness. Visitation is at Washburn McReavy Edina Chapel, West 50th St. at Hwy 100. on Tuesday, April 17, 5 - 8 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial at Church of the Incarnation, 3817 Pleasant Ave. S. on Wednesday, April 18 at 11:30 a.m. Interment following at Lakewood Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family prefers donations to Minnesota AIDS Project or Minnesota United for All Families. [www.Washburn-Mcreavy.com](http://www.Washburn-Mcreavy.com) Edina Chapel 952-920-3996

# Tribute Wall

BW

“ Looking for a lawyer, Jimmy and Johnny were the first ones to come to mind. I was surprised to see Johnny's obit announcement. To the Sheehy's, my deepest condolences. It's been many, many years since I've seen any of you, but I've always remembered how kind all of you were. May Johnny rest in peace.

~

*Barb Waller-Keske,*

*Blaine, Minnesota*

*Contact Me*

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**Barb Waller-Keske** - July 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Ran errands early this morning and a vincent catering truck ended up in front of me, I like to think it was a sign from you. Xoxo.*

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June 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *John, you are dearly missed by everyone. You will always be near. And never forgotten. This is from the neiborbood we grew up in.*

---

May 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *I miss you. I wish heaven had a tin can and string so we could talk.*

---

May 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GG

“ *Very sad time, John was a good brother in law .I Have not see him in years but the time we spent together will be always remember .All my condolences to the sheehy family and this family*

~

*Gilles Gein,*

*Spanaway, Washington*

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**Gilles Gein** - May 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ brad, thanks for your message to our family. you have been such a central person to our family history. thanks for being such a good, longstanding friend of john. you and fran should come visit me in fargo.

~

*Colleen Sheehy,*

*Fargo, North Dakota*

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**Colleen Sheehy** - May 04, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ I was very shocked when I found out that John was very ill and very saddened when I heard of his passing. I grew up knowing John and most of his family. John and his brother Francis are like family to me. John was always there for his friends and his family. I will always remember all of the good times being around him growing up. John was and always will be a class act. my deepest condolences go out to the entire Sheehy family

~

*Brad Kocourek,*

*Plymouth, Minnesota*

*Contact Me*

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**Brad Kocourek** - May 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ To John's family: My sincere condolences for your loss of dear John. I had not seen him in years but always recall his first years with Ron and Co. A boyish smile and sort of a mischievous air. John went to Park High with my children, Cathy, Frank and Deena--at least they were with one Sheehy. I recall tutoring a Sheehy or two at Westside, is it? Sweet memories of John and his spirit for life, hopefully, will see you through this most difficult time. My sincere wish is for that.

~

*Patty Sachs Meshbeshher,*

*Plymouth, Minnesota*

*Contact Me*

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**Patty Sachs Meshbesh** - April 29, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ *I am saddened by the news of John's death. I went to high school with John, and I remember a time when I was upset and crying in the hallway. He took the time to ask what was wrong and console me; which was very unusual for a high school boy. I never forgot that, and I would embarrass him by reminding him of it when I bumped into him over the years. You know how you have those people in your life that are somehow the most important and memorable? He was one. God bless his family and friends.*

~

*Kitty Billman-Fiorentino,*

*Wilmington, North Carolina*

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**Kitty Billman-Fiorentino** - April 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ I knew John in the late 70's and early '80's, when I worked with him at the U of M and Community Crime Prevention. He welcomed me into his circle of friends but somehow we lost touch over the years. He was so full of enthusiasm for life and had such a generous spirit that I can't believe he is gone so soon. Back then, he expressed a strong desire to be a lawyer so he could defend people's rights. He was equally passionate about his love for Kathleen and his desire to have family be a central part of his life. It's obvious from the many obituaries and comments that he had incredible success in both areas. I always thought our paths would cross again and I am so sorry now that they will not. Rest in peace my old friend. John Baumann

~

*John Baumann,*

*Scandia, Minnesota*

*Contact Me*

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**John Baumann** - April 27, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ *I knew John back in our undergrad days at the University of Minnesota, when a group of us sat at the feet of Professor Samaha. I haven't seen John since but so many memories of him came flooding back when I read of his passing. I only wish I had known him better.*

~

*Jesse Lykken,*

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

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**Jesse Lykken** - April 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

FS

“ *John's Last Waltz* Photo of the church by Kevan Sheehy

~

*Francis Sheehy,*

*Mpls*

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**Francis Sheehy** - April 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *To The Sheehy Family~We were honored to meet John in 2010 due to a very unfortunate incident. He was there for us through the whole thing. He was so kind.I am so sorry for your loss of a such a great man.*

*North Mankato, Minnesota*

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April 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AJ

“ *Colleen, we are so saddened to hear of the sudden loss of your brother. We are thinking and praying for you and your family. Your friends, Andrea Jenson and Russell King*

~

*Andrea Jenson,*

*North Oaks, Minnesota*

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**Andrea Jenson** - April 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ *Shocked and greatly saddened to learn belatedly of this. I knew John (and Kathleen) since the Univ. of Minnesota days and it was always apparent how brilliant he was and what a great man he would be. My deepest sympathies to the family.*

~

*Jon Kerr,*

*Saint Paul, Minnesota*

*Contact Me*

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**Jon Kerr** - April 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ Dear Kathleen, Maddie, Ellen, and Marie, I was so very sorry to hear about your loss. I think about you often and can only imagine how difficult this is for all of you. My prayers are with you...Erin (Wheaton) Shields-Pett

~

*Erin Shields-Pett,*

*Bradford on Avon, UK*

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**Erin Shields-Pett** - April 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ Blessings to Johns family and friends. Rest in Peace John....

~

Susan Rucker,

Fleming Island, Florida

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Susan Rucker - April 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ I am shocked and saddened by John's passing. Because of illness in my own family, I regret I learned the news so late and want to extend my most heart felt condolences to his lovely family. I am honored to have known John for decades. He was a superb litigator and, more important, a caring human being with a deep sense of justice for the underdog. The world is much less for his passing but very much more because he lived. May his life be a blessing for his family, friends and colleagues and his hopes and prayers for his family come true. Sincerely, Harvey Friedenson

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April 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JV

“ Our deepest sympathies to the Sheehy and Dunn families.

~

*Jean & Dave VanDyke,*

*Mpls, Minnesota*

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**Jean & Dave VanDyke** - April 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ *My deep sympathy at this time of loss. I am a first cousin of Ann Sheehy, who died in January. I met John through Ann, and am sad to hear that he is gone. I will pray for him and the family, that our loving God will bless them abundantly. Sister Mary Ann Hanley, CSJ.*

~

*Mary Ann Hanley,*

*St. Paul, Minnesota*

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**Mary Ann Hanley** - April 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ I am privileged to have been included in John's world. My wife, John's sister Colleen, and my daughters Brigid and Annie, have all known John since their early childhoods. I encountered John as an adult. I was impressed with a young man who was energetic, whip-smart, and true blue. He accepted the leadership of his family and kept them all positive with his dashing derring-do and fine example. His first impulse was always to be of help. He took on whatever challenges faced him and conquered them. There was a grace about the way he envisioned a life for himself and then went on to fulfill it. We shared our marriages, home ownership, childbirths. I always felt John had my back. He took such joy in life as expressed in all his enthusiastic pursuits. I knew John in his more relaxed times. He was not one to bring his work home with him, though you could see those struggles weighed on him. I knew he was an excellent lawyer but it is heartening to hear the outpouring of tributes from so many who speak of how he changed their lives. I am very proud that my daughters' blood is mingled with a family that could produce one such as him. I know his spirit will continue to inspire us all to do our best. Peter Murphy

~

Peter Murphy,

Minneapolis, Minnesota

*Contact Me*

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**Peter Murphy** - April 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ *Kathleen, Maddie, Ellen and Marie, We are so sad for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Jessica, Vishal and Eva*

~

*Jessica Naithani,*

*Mpls*

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**Jessica Naithani** - April 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ *I am shocked and saddened to hear about John's untimely passing. He was an excellent litigator who passionately sought justice on behalf of his clients. He obtained a multimillion dollar jury verdict in my courtroom on behalf of his client and refused to let him settle for less. I will pray for his mother, wife, children and extended family as you go through this storm. May your faith keep you strong.*

~

*Tanya Bransford,*

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

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**Tanya Bransford** - April 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SE

“ To the Sheehy Family: Our sincere sympathy. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Keith Savaire's aunts & uncle (Suzie, Donise & Earl)

~

*Suzanne Erion,*

*Laporte, Minnesota*

*Contact Me*

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**Suzanne Erion** - April 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ I knew and admired John as one of Minnesotas finest trial lawyers. No one could match his string of multi million dollar awardsfor deserving clients. John was totally focused on justice for people that would never have had a chance against the insurance industry withoiut him. His courage talent ,and tenacity in the courtroom will be greatly missed among the Minnesota Bar.

~

*Jim Schwebel,*

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

*Contact Me*

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**Jim Schwebel** - April 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ He was a great guy who always did his very best.

~

*keith hanratty,*

*excelsior, Minnesota*

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**keith hanratty** - April 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Today we honor John , but everyday someone will be thinking of him because he touched so many people . Love and tears .

~

*Client and friend,*

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

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**Client and friend** - April 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

ET

“ Praying for your family, You will be missed, the Tyson family.

~

*elizabeth tyson,*

*minneapolis, Minnesota*

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**elizabeth tyson** - April 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ Dear Mae, Kathleen, and the entire Sheehy Clan, I remember walking into Mrs. Kloster's Good Shepherd homeroom the first day of seventh grade, seeing John Sheehy, and knowing the year was going to be fun. John was the class coyote: so smart and charming that teachers seemed to take up a personal challenge to harness his prankster spirit for their classroom. Reading about all John's accomplishments so many years later only confirms what a magical person he was. I'll keep John's bright, schoolboy face in my mind as I sit in the principal's office with my own teenage sons and I'll tell them the story of John Sheehy who put his intelligence and fearlessness to work for others in the courtroom. Colleen and Michelle, you were my sisters, Mary and Anne's, Good Shepherd friends. A long time ago—but know that our hearts are with you now as your family mourns the untimely loss of John.

~

*Kathy Milun,*

*Duluth, Minnesota*

*Contact Me*

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**Kathy Milun** - April 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Dear Sheehy family, I'm so shocked and sad to hear this news. I'm really grateful I got a chance years ago to know John. He was nothing but kind and welcoming to me and I have some great memories of being at the house with him and you all. What a huge loss. Love to all of you from me and all the Gordons.

~

*Jon Gordon,*

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

*Contact Me*

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**Jon Gordon** - April 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ *Extending our heartfelt sympathies to members of the Sheehy family-- and friends as well. Clearly, John's loss will be keenly felt by many in this community. We have you in our thoughts. Christine Baeumler and Stephen Carpenter*

~

*Christine Baeumler,*

*Saint Paul, Minnesota*

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**Christine Baeumler** - April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *My deepest sympathies to the Sheehy family. John and I were classmates at Good Shepherd, loved being in the same classroom with him, he always made me laugh, and was always the prankster. I am blessed to have known John like all of us are, he was a special person in all ways. My prayers are with John and all the family, but he is in heaven and I am sure he is smiling and watching over everyone he knew. May He Rest In Peace Marcia Muszynski Hayes*

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April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

WK

“ *Thoughts and prayers from the King Family in St Louis Park*

~

*Wendy King,*

*Eden Prairie, Minnesota*

*Contact Me*

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**Wendy King** - April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *My deepest sympathies to all members of the Sheehy Family, Kathleen, their daughters, and all of John"s sisters, brothers and their great mother Mae. John's dedication to his beliefs , and work ethic is highly admirable. A Hero to be honored. Bruce Johansson Chanhassen Mn.*

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April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Sheehy Family, We are so terribly sad to hear of your untimely loss. We are a Kenny Family and John helped lead the way to save Kenny. Our thoughts are with you and hope you may some comfort in happy memories. Sincerely, The Larche Family*

~

*Valerie Larche,*

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

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**Valerie Larche** - April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Sue Krause and Simon Werber-Krause

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April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Kathleen, I was saddened to hear of John's untimely passing. Although I have been out of the Twin Cities for many years, just hearing his name and remembering him from our Law School Section brings a smile to my face. What a wonderful, successful nice guy he was. My thoughts and prayers are with youHoward Sigal, Chicago, IL

~

Howard sigal,

Buffalo Grove, Illinois

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Howard sigal - April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Sheehy family, I will miss John and his quick smile and his friendship. Long may you run. God bless you...Old Todd Young (bartender at the Local)

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April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Kathleen, A young girl couldn't ask for a better set of 2nd parents, who were unfailing role models. For 26 years you've been my constant guidance, shoulder to lean on, and another mom I could come to anytime I needed to. John was the reinforcer, he always supported, advised and encouraged me through my education, growing into a young woman, and making sure I remained a positive role model for my beautiful girls. I couldn't be more thankful for you and John and my heart will never be the same, but telling his stories and speaking of his memory will keep me strong. Thank you for always being such an essential couple in my life. Love, Denise

~

Denise Wagner,

Mpls, Minnesota

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Denise Wagner - April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ Oh my gosh, i am so very sorry to hear this. I graduated from SLP in 1981 with Jim and we both went to Hamline. This is a tragic loss. My best thoughts for your whole family are being sent your way.

~

*Pam Stenhjem,*

*Apple Valley, Minnesota*

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**Pam Stenhjem** - April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ So sorry and shocked to hear of John's sudden passing! My heart goes out to entire Sheehy family with deepest condolences. I will always be grateful for the time and passion he devoted to help us save Kenny School. He taught us all that we have a voice and if spoken loudly enough, we will be heard. Bridget Richardson

~

*Bridget Richardson,*

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

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**Bridget Richardson** - April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RD

“Cousin Johnny was the Sheehy family icon. His spirit was a force of fire and his charming smile and glittering eyes mesmerized us all. I pray his memories fill the emptiness that now surrounds his family. He has made the world a better place!

~

*Renee Daniels-Schlotterbeck,*

*St. Louis Park, Minnesota*

*Contact Me*

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**Renee Daniels-Schlotterbeck** - April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AG

“ *Sheehy Family, I am deeply saddened by the loss of your beloved Son, Brother, Husband, and Father. John was an outstanding man and will truly be missed. Back in 89 at the age of 19, I was falsely accused of a crime. My family was going through some financial troubles at the time and couldn't afford a good attorney. Working within our limited budget John took my case because he grew up with my sister in-law Patsy. He didn't have to, but because of Patsy and his belief in my innocence he did. As a young man terrified of what could be, he made sure I was protected. He kind of took me under his wings and taught me about life throughout this horrible ordeal. He fought very hard for my innocence and we rightfully won. I have since taken his teachings and applied them to my own life. He made a huge impact on my life. I am a better man because of going through that, and it's because of John Sheehy. RIP John*

~

*Andy Gannon,*

*Apple Valley, Minnesota*

---

**Andy Gannon** - April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ *John led us all around the law school like a mother duck those first few days of school. He always took the time to help or teach others. I miss him.*

~

*Mark Kalla,*

*Woodbury, Minnesota*

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**Mark Kalla** - April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ John was truly a special and unique person. I haven't seen him for a long time, but he is one of those people who manages to drift into your thoughts on a regular basis. Such great stories he had, and he was so witty and intelligent. I also loved his dedication to his big family. You are all in my thoughts and prayers during this sad time.

~

*Betsy Walsh,*

*Maple Grove, Minnesota*

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**Betsy Walsh** - April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Our Sheehy family thanks all of you for sharing your memories and stories of John. There are a million of them. Please remember our mother, Mae, in your prayers. She will turn 88 in a few weeks and John was her favorite child of our eight siblings. We don't even hold it against her. A great man and brother has passed. May we all continue his bravery and love of life. Colleen Sheehy

[Contact Me](#)

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April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Thank you everyone for thinking of us and expressing kind words. As the youngest of eight children raised by our dear mother, John was not only a brother but a father. He was a fearless warrior and leader. He had nerves of steel and a giant heart. He taught me taught me many, many things. Most importantly, he always encouraged me in whatever I was doing, including pursuing education as an undergraduate and law student. His brilliant intellect kept me awestruck on many occasions. He devoured whatever subject matter or case drew his attention. We had many great times together fishing, golfing, or just carrying on as we loved to do when we could. When such a big heart leave us, it leaves a big void. We will all miss our brother dearly but his guidance and spirit will remain with us forever.

~

*Jimmy Sheehy,*

*St. Louis Park, Minnesota*

*Contact Me*

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**Jimmy Sheehy** - April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ John was a class mate of mine at Good Shepherd. My memories of him are fond and make me smile, he was such a character. We shared the record for visits with Sister Giovani in 5th and 6th grade, and ultimately spent a week together in her office, desks and all for a lesson in good citizenship. Not surprisingly to those who knew him, it was a blast. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to all those touched by his passing.

~

*Cory Calva Rogers,*

*Plymouth, Minnesota*

*Contact Me*

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Cory Calva Rogers - April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ John represented my son through a terrible accident in July of 2007. He seemed bullet proof to me with his tenacity, courage and kindness. I am so sorry for his family. May you find peace in his memory and life examples. Sincerely, Cindy and Sam Warner

~

Cindy Warner,

Mac- Groveland, Minnesota

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Cindy Warner - April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ *Our hearts and prayers are with the Sheehy family. May you all find John's unending love a constant comfort. John was a brother to so many, for infinite reasons, and I am honored to be one. We will never forget John's incredible generosity, crazy wit, and impetuous passion for his endeavors. Godspeed John, we celebrate you! With our sincere condolences, Keith Savaire and Renee McDaniels*

~

*Keith Savaire,*

*St. Louis Park, Minnesota*

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**Keith Savaire** - April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ *Kathleen, I am very sorry to hear of John's death. My thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time.*

~

*Ken Nickolai,*

*Brattleboro, Vermont*

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**Ken Nickolai** - April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Dear Cousins, Auntie, and extended "Clan"-My heart feels your sorrow and my hope is knowing that John made such an impact on so many and the stories we have to share in the days and years ahead will help with the healing of our loss. Thru our faith, knowing he has entered the best part of his journey and we will see him again is truly a hug from God himself. Take care. Love and God Bless-

~

*Carrie Sheehy,*

*Grand Rapids, Minnesota*

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**Carrie Sheehy** - April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ My deepest sympathy to the Sheehy family. The loss is huge! With the recent tragic passing of my husband, things are still so very fresh and I know so well the pain, loneliness and unanswered questions one has to endure. Your profound love and memories of John will give you the strength and wisdom to “put one foot in front of the other” and somehow carry on. Keep an open door to John's life; and, remember, too, tears are for healing.

~

*Sharon Bachmeier,*

*Prior Lake, Minnesota*

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**Sharon Bachmeier** - April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Francis, my sincerest sympathies for your loss. Sheri Kane

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April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ John was a great and kind man. I will always remember him for his love of Springsteen and his willingness to help. Rest in peace, John and may unending comfort be brought to you your family and friends.

~

*Missi Smith,*

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

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**Missi Smith** - April 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

~

*Angie Lau,*

*moorhead, Minnesota*

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**Angie Lau** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SN

“*Kathleen, My heart breaks for you and your family. I know John was a wonderful husband and father and will be missed by all. Just know that you all will be in my prayers.*”

~

*Sharon Nolan-Clements,*

*Arlington, Texas*

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**Sharon Nolan-Clements** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AT

“ *I loved seeing you behind the wheel of your Polara, smiling. So sorry your ride picked you up sooner than it should have.*

~

*Adam Talle,*

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

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**Adam Talle** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Kathleen, It has been a long time. We were so sorry to hear of Johns passing. Your families loss also touches so many. When John came into our lives, I was a mess, I didn't know up from down. He was so calm, he helped us make hard choices. He worked even harder for us, and everything he said could happen, did. I paid my dues. My family stayed in tact. My kids are now succesful adults making families of their own. I owe all of this to John. I will miss running into him around town. We are pleased that you have your family with you. Hope to see you sometime. Steven & Barbara Sampson

~

Steven Sampson,

Mound, Minnesota

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**Steven Sampson** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

HS

“ I only met John in the last 3 years, but it was over food, and he was such a delight to chat about good food with. So sorry for your loss.

~

*Heidi Schreiber,*

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

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**Heidi Schreiber** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ Dear Theresa & Sheehy family, I am so saddened to hear about your brother John's passing, knowing how beloved he was to all of you. You will be in my thoughts these difficult days. I wish you peace as the emptiness in your hearts heal. And I know that the love & support you share as such a strong family will help get you through. I am just so sorry.

~

*Krista Post,*

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

*Contact Me*

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**Krista Post** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Johnny will be missed very much! I'm thinking of Kathleen, the girls, & the whole family at this difficult time.* Molly Walker & Jayce

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April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ I had the privilege of working with John for 15 years and his passion for those he represented was unmistakable. On one such case during opening statements, I noticed him blinking his eyes quite a bit, and taking many pauses. After he was done opposing counsel asked for a mistrial on the grounds that attorney Sheehy was “crying”. The motion failed but he still laughed the next day when I brought him a box of Kleenex for any future “crying”. There will certainly be a huge void now for those who need a fierce advocate. I will think of him every time I see a yellow legal pad filled with notes from a red sharp marker. Professor Sheehy is now teaching in a much better place and I look forward to “arguing” with him again.

~

*Melissa Becker,*

*Blaine, Minnesota*

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**Melissa Becker** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Kathleen, Our thoughts and love are with you and your children at this sad time over the devastating loss of John. Our deepest sympathy to all of John's family.* Rosie & Hank Westerman

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April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ I knew John from our Good Shepherd Days grades 5-8 and Park High. wow is all I can say. I remeber Mrs Donahues son and John were great friends at Good Shepherd. The nuns all wanted him to become a priest...we all laughed....MY prayers to Johns family May God Bless you and help carry this heavy burden...If this entry is twice is because I did not see it publish earlier.....Blessings in God to youSusan Rucker (Piekarczyk)

~

*Susan Rucker(Piekarczyk),*

*Fleming Island, Florida*

*Contact Me*

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Susan Rucker(Piekarczyk) - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Dear Mae, Kathleen, Girls and Family, Shawn and I are so very heartbroken over the loss of your son and loving brother. We met Johnny last year in Boston for a wonderful evening out on the town and had so much fun with him. That was the last time we had the honor of seeing him. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you we will miss him deeply. In Love and Sympathy, Cousin Shawn, Caroline and Sheehy Children Cohasset, Massachusetts

~

Caroline Sheehy,

Cohasset, Massachusetts

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Caroline Sheehy - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ *Our Dear Cousins, Our hearts are broken, but our faith is strong. We lift our family in prayer. May God give us the courage to walk through this trial together, and share in his peace. Love, Tim and Terri (Gabriel, Grace, & Graydin)*

~

*Tim Maxwell,*

*Isanti, Minnesota*

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**Tim Maxwell** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ I'm so sorry for your tragic loss. May God bless you in this time of Sorrow.

~

*Julie and Emily Green,*

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

---

**Julie and Emily Green** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ *My condolences to Francis and James and your families for the loss of John.*

~

*Bobby Metzger @ Ruth's Chris,*

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

---

**Bobby Metzger @ Ruth's Chris** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ I went to school with John at Good Shepherd and Park High...I remember the nuns wanted him to be a priest...John was such a prankster...He was so nice I do not think anyone did not like him. It has been many years I am so sorry to hear of this sudden passing. My prayers to his family.....May the Good Lord and our Savior lift and help carry this heavy burden of sadness....God Bless.Susan Rucker (Piekarczyk)

~

Susan Rucker(Piekarczyk),

Fleming Island, Florida

Contact Me

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Susan Rucker(Piekarczyk) - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LK

“ Kathleen and all of John's family and friends, My deepest condolences on your sudden loss. Courage for the time ahead. John and his firm handled a case that brought much fame to John and his firm. A worker was seriously injured by a machine that made cardboard boxes. The result John obtained was stunning. But, that's only part of the story. I knew someone who worked in the cardboard box industry. He told me that shortly after the verdict, every company in the United States and many throughout the world installed safeguards to prevent similar injuries. John made the world a safer place for many. God bless all in this sad time.

~

Lee Keller,

Minneapolis, Minnesota

---

Lee Keller - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PG

“ *My heartfelt condolences goes out to the Sheehy family. Growing up in St. Louis Park, and going to Good Shephard Church, John and his family are just wonderful people. We are thinking and praying for you all.*

~

*Patsy, TIm, Sean Gannon,*

*NYC, New York*

*Contact Me*

---

**Patsy, TIm, Sean Gannon** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TG

“ Kathleen, Marie, Ellen , Maddie and to the extended Sheehy Family:I am so saddend by the passing of a person who was my mentor and assummed the role of my big brother for the last 15 years. John and his family always warmly welcomed me when I was in Minneapolis. He was also the president and fearless leader of the trail lawyers club.John has always been there for me during times of celebration, my marriage and birth of my three sons, one of which carries his name, and in the times of sorrow. For that and many other things too numerous to mention I am forever grateful to John and the Sheehy family.I wish that I had the words to somehow comfort everybody in light of this sudden and tremendous loss, but I do not. I can only tell you what an impact John had on me not only as an attorney but as a person. Thank you for sharing John. I am better person.You will be in the Gott family thoughts and prayers. Please let me know if there is anything that I can do.

~

Troy Gott,

Wichita, Kansas

*Contact Me*

---

**Troy Gott** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

D(

“ *My most sincere sympathy for this terrible loss of John. He will no doubt live on in spirit and guide his family. He is now in total peace and joy.*

~

*Diane Kasunic. (Murphy),*

*Troy, Michigan*

*Contact Me*

---

**Diane Kasunic. (Murphy)** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ Dear Auntie Mae, Kathleen, Madeline, Ellen, Marie, and all the Sheehy Clan, I send you my love and sympathy for the loss of Johnny. I am remembering the laughs and fun times we shared. He was truly one of my favorite people, one I was proud to call my cousin. My prayers are for all of you at this terrible time of sorrow. Love and Hugs,

~

*Dawn Wilkins,*

*White Rock, British Columbia*

---

**Dawn Wilkins** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JU

“ *John, you are not forgotten loved one nor will you ever be as long as life and memory last we will remember thee*

~

*Julia,*

*Minnesota*

---

**Julia** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Words cannot express how saddened I am to hear of John's passing. I was honored to be his paralegal for many years. His passion and spirit were contagious, but unmatched. He truly was "one of a kind." His generosity and compassion for his clients and his friends was completely genuine. He spoke so often of his family and would beam while talking about his three beautiful daughters. He was a very special person and holds a special place in my heart for helping my family through a very difficult time. He will be missed by so many. My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Sheehy family.

~

*Christine Friendt,*

*Woodbury, Minnesota*

*Contact Me*

---

**Christine Friendt** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *I'm so sorry to hear about John's passing! Such a wonderfully, kind, generous, & giving person! He will certainly be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his family during this incredibly difficult time.*

~

*Joanne Francoual,*

*St Louis Park, Minnesota*

---

**Joanne Francoual** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TG

“ *My most sincere condolences for your loss. He lived the life he preached. We oftentimes feel indebted to him. And Franny, Patsy just last night was the expressing the love and affection she felt for you and your family. Really. My prayers go to you and Mo. Tim Gannon*

~

*Timothy Gannon,*

*Brooklyn, New York*

---

**Timothy Gannon** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TK

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I knew John through the Kocourek family. Just a great guy. My deepest sympathies for your tragic loss. You are in my prayers.*

~

*Teresa Kocourek,*

*Hopkins, Minnesota*

---

**Teresa Kocourek** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TA

“ I am very sorry for your loss. John was a very dear friend and a very knowledgable classic car guy. The guys and I will miss him dearly at the garage. You & your family will be in our prayers.

~

*Tim Wuensch Wuensch Automotive,*

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

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**Tim Wuensch Wuensch Automotive** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KL

“ Dear Aunt Mae, Kathleen and the girls, and all the Sheehy cousins, My heart and prayers go out to all of you at this tragic and sudden loss. John was the best. His humor, his delight in his family, his willingness to always listen and help where he could, brought him unending respect and love from us all. May you find strength in the light of God's love and solace in the legend John left behind. He will be greatly missed.

~

*Kathy Loeffler,*

*Big Lake, Minnesota*

*Contact Me*

---

Kathy Loeffler - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ To John's family and friends: I went to the U of M law school with John and Kathleen and have fond memories of our short time together there. One of my fondest is John sharing his love of old maps, and his birthday gift of one to me. Although I am sorry that we lost touch after graduation, I have always treasured that map, not so much for itself as for its reminder of what a fine man gave it to me. May he rest in peace and may all his family and friends find comfort in this time of sorrow. Ron Wheeler U of M Law School Class of 1984

~

Ron Wheeler,

Los Angeles, California

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Ron Wheeler - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CM

“*Kathleen, Maddie, Ellen and Marie: We are so very sorry for your loss. Our hearts break for you. We have spent much time these last few days talking about memories of John and the wonderful place your home has always been for Katie. I will always be grateful to John for teaching me how to have a voice on a local, city and state level and how to make that voice heard in an impactful way. His passion and drive motivated all of us and showed us we could make a difference. Please know you are all in our hearts and prayers and we are here for you. The McCreary Family (Cindy, John, Katie, Dylan and Ellie)*

~

*Cindy McCreary,*

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

*Contact Me*

---

**Cindy McCreary** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *I'm so sorry.*

~

*Julie Swenson,*

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

*Contact Me*

---

**Julie Swenson** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ My heart goes out to the entire Sheehy family on the loss of this fine man and grand lawyer. I had been practicing for many years when John came on the scene and started achieving incredible results. I called him, on more than one occasion, and asked if he would share a transcript of a closing argument or two and other advice with this older lawyer. John was uniformly gracious in teaching me and others. His closing arguments were poetic. His great strength was that he was motivated from the heart. May he be greeted at the gate by St. Peter with the degree of love he shared with so many before he was taken from us.

~

Terry Wade,

Minneapolis, Minnesota

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Terry Wade - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ My heartfelt condolences go out to our dear neighbors, The Sheehy family, on John's sudden and tragic passing. We are thinking about and praying for you Kathleen, Maddie, Ellen, and Marie as we mourn his loss. May God bless all of you and continue to hold John in the palm of his hand. -The Fischer Family (Colleen, Molly, and Bryan)

~

*Bryan Fischer,*

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

*Contact Me*

---

**Bryan Fischer** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ So sorry to hear about Cousin Johnny. Our hearts go out to the family. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Love Aunt Hariette and Cousin Denise.

~

*Denise Creighton,*

*Edgewater, Maryland*

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**Denise Creighton** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ It is such a shock to hear of the passing of cousin John. Far too young. May all the family know that our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this most difficult time. Sincerely, Dori (Wilkins) and Doug Beaushene and family (Balmertown, ON Canada)

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April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Francis and Jim my thought and prayers go out to you and your family. Freind from school day's i SLPGod Bless

~

*Mark Meyer,*

*Eden Praire, Minnesota*

---

**Mark Meyer** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ So sorry to hear the news of John's passing. Love to my dear friends Theresa, Colleen, Jimmy, and all. You're in my thoughts and prayers. A big Irish cheers to John and all the rockin' Sheehys...

~

*Jim Walsh,*

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

---

**Jim Walsh** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ To my dear sister-in-law Colleen, It is so very hard to lose a sibling...something Peter & all the Murphys unfortunately know too well. Please know we have you, Brigid, Annie and of course the entire Sheehy family in our thoughts & prayers during your time of healing. John was truly one of a kind. Joanne & Christopher Murphy-Schneider

---

April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ *Rest in peace, John.*

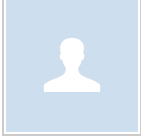
~

*Susan Gibbons,*

*Stillwater, Minnesota*

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**Susan Gibbons** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *John you were one of a kind. I learned a lot from you. You walked into hostile courtrooms and spoke for those who could not speak for themselves. I will miss you very much.*

~

*Dave*

---

April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ He loved to leave traces, In soft white snow, In warm dry sand, On foggy window panes, But especially in the hearts of others. Thank you for leaving traces in our hearts.

~

*Michael Snyder,*

*St. Paul, Minnesota*

*Contact Me*

---

**Michael Snyder** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ Kathleen, Maddie, Ellen and Marie, we are so sorry for your loss. John was a huge presence in your lives and in the lives of so many, and he will be truly missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you all. Raquel, Kevin, Abby & Ella Counihan

~

*Raquel Counihan,*

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

*Contact Me*

---

**Raquel Counihan** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TK

“ *We're still reeling from the shock. Please know that our love, prayers and Irish Blessings are here to carry you through.*

~

*The Overmans - Mike, Kathy, Sean and Quinn*

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**The Overmans - Mike, Kathy** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RE

“ John you and Ron were their when we needed your help after Hannah died. My family is deeply saddened buy your passing. God bless your family in this time of sorrow and may you rest in peace. "You will be in our hearts and minds forever"

~

*Ron Edlund,*

*Lakeville, Minnesota*

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**Ron Edlund** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BV

“ *May God bless you and your entire family and friends during this time. I am sorry to hear of his passing. I never met anyone else like John and will miss him. I had the great pleasure and honor of working with him at the law firm. My heart goes out his family and anyone who loves him and knows him. Lots of hugs to all!!*

~

*Bonnie Vetsch,*

*Hastings, Minnesota*

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**Bonnie Vetsch** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BV

“ *I pray that God will be with your entire family and friends during this time. I have never met anyone like John and it was my great pleasure and honor to have worked with him at the law firm. My heart goes out to all who love and know him. Lots of hugs!!*

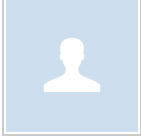
~

*Bonnie Vetsch,*

*hastings, Minnesota*

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**Bonnie Vetsch** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ To the Family & Friends of John, I have had the privilege of working for and with John in what would have been 10 years this coming July. John was really a cool beans kinda of guy. His paella was simply deelyish. He seen him as a down to earth kind of guy. I loved his love for his fine automobiles. I knew John cared for me when I was going through my own personal dilemmas. He pulled me aside and get it together lady. What and how he told me, is what I needed. Thank you for that John. Thank you. His generosity was endless. From the little things to the big things. We all know John is going to missed by many. By his family especially, as well by his legal family and countless friends. We will always have John in our hearts. My deepest condolences to Kathleen and the girls and all that were touched by John. Love you John. I now know my mother has great Democratic friend in "The DFL in the Sky". Lisa ReinBlaine, MN

---

April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ Kathleen, Marie, Ellen and Maddie Our hearts go out to you. How can this be? Our thoughts, prayers and love are with you.

~

*The Carolans,*

*Minneapolis, Minnesota*

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**The Carolans** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ Kathleen, I am so sorry to hear of John's passing. I have such fond memories of our college days together....and John's wonderful sense of humor and view on life. I am in Orlando on April 17/18 attending my brother-in-laws memorial service or I would come to the visitation/memorial service for John and give you a big hug. My sincere condolences to you and the entire extended Sheehy family. Love, Kristi

~

*Kristi Lines McNamara,*

*Minnetonka, Minnesota*

---

**Kristi Lines McNamara** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ *May God bless you and your family in this time of sorrow.*

~

*Dorothy Helgeson,*

*sauk centre, Minnesota*

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**Dorothy Helgeson** - April 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM