



John Eric Partanen

May 2, 1943 - October 25, 2024

No obituary found for this tribute.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV 15. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PT)

Mission Family Mortuary

531 California Ave

Bakersfield, CA 93304

1 (661) 323-3339

<https://missionfamilymortuary.com/>

Tribute Wall

GE

“ From my high school days I remember hearing John play his bagpipe. We lived 4 blocks away but I sure could hear that bagpipe! I would like to extend my sympathy to John’s family. Sincerely,
Grace Evans

Grace Evans - January 06 at 12:42 AM

DO

“ John and I were classmates at Ravenswood High School, class of 1961. We shared many wonderful memories in the classroom, in center court, even the library. We connected at each class reunion - John never changed, his boyish looks and passion for bagpipes always his signature. Classmates shared a very unique high school experience, thank you John for being a part of those teen years - it was very special. May the family find joy in shared memories. Diana (Fujihara) Ogawa, class of 61

Diana Ogawa - January 05 at 07:09 PM

DG

“ I was sorry to find this obituary for John. John was always a participant in our class reunions! Ravenswood 1961. He attended all reunions as well as gifted us his expertise and love of bagpipes.
Diane Steck Gilderoy, Ravenswood 1961

diane Gilderoy - January 05 at 05:58 PM



“ John was my 2nd piping instructor. Starting in the fall of 1998, I drove from my home in Los Osos to Santa Maria every Wednesday for (3) years to learn light and great music from him.

We traveled to many highland games together,. shared motel rooms, and gave it our best... I took him fishing around Morro Bay a couple of times.. We almost fell out of the boat when he nabbed a ling cod and we BOTH rushed to the stern to bring it in...!

Later, he judged me at comps at the Monterey Games (where I tuned on the platform to his great slow aire "Lochan Ora," and later at the Pleasanton Games where I crashed and burned bc I was way outta tune.

He helped me greatly on some of my own compositions, adding flavor to some of my stale jigs.

One of my fondest memories was the time where I took a prize (2nd?) at the Queen Mary Games where he was tuning me up as a nervous Grade 4 piper and he said my pipes were "ringing like a bell" and to go out there before the judge and "play well."

God bless you, Pipey. I'll see you up there in the Great Sky Pipe Band.

*Paul Dunn
Templeton, CA*

P.S. Many times I asked John as to what would happen to his pipes if he passed before me. Those Lawrie's are a thing to behold --)

P.P.S. I am still loving his "Great Stuff" CD from 1999

Paul Dunn - June 10, 2025 at 02:14 AM

MT

“ I knew John fairly well via the piping community/WUSPBA. John was an engaging friend and a challenging adversary, all wrapped into one. Just today I referenced John in explaining to one of my piping students how different expression choices can be made in presenting tunes. I will not forget him in solo competition, leaning so heavily on his left foot during a March, or John parading proudly at highland games wearing a pirate hat. We shared a few glasses of wine, and spared in many an argument. Through it all he was one of a kind, and always a friend.

Mike Terry - February 18, 2025 at 05:47 PM

ML

“ Sincere condolences to John’s family. I met John many years ago and enjoyed seeing him at the various games, he always had great stories and good suggestions to improve my piping. RIP John!

Marc L LARUE - February 16, 2025 at 12:44 AM

IM

“ So sad to hear this. I was honored to have been a steward for him at the Las Vegas Highland Games a few years ago for the solo competitions. Such a sweet man, had great stories to share! Many condolences to his loved ones. RIP, sir.

Ingrid Marroquin - February 15, 2025 at 01:30 PM

CH

“ My condolences to the Partanen family. I have known John since sometime in the 1960's when we competed against each other in solo piping. He was a good man and a fine piper. He will be missed. Charlie Rosenberger, San Diego Cameron Highlanders.

Charles Rosenberger Cameron Highlanders - February 15, 2025 at 01:12 PM

NH

“ Albeit never getting to know Mr. John Partanen in person, it is a profound to have been on the receiving end of his huge heart. Following the wildfire devastation on the island of Maui in 2023, John sent a letter and a piece of music he composed titled, "The Ashes of Lahaina," to Hawaii in good faith (both attached). Extraordinarily, I ended up entrusted with this beautiful letter and piece of music while at the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii office. I was overwhelmed by his humanity, kindness, strength, wisdom, creativity, class, and genuine regard. Another way to put it would be his pure aloha, which struck a particular chord during a very difficult time.

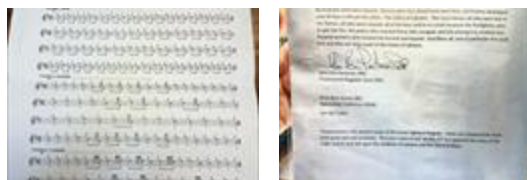
I wish I had prioritized trying the number provided on the letter sooner to affirm receipt and to express my gratitude to John directly. I was about to, when I did a quick search and came across this page. Thanks to him, I am inspired to be a better person and citizen of man. John made an impact in my life and will always have a special place in my heart.

I look forward to sharing his composition with the Bagpipe Association in Hawaii and others. I do wonder if it's yet to be recorded.

Truly a privilege. My deepest condolences to John's family and loved ones as they navigate the loss of this beautiful soul.

Sincerely,

Nadia Holt
Honolulu



WE

“ *WES lit a candle in memory of John Eric Partanen*



WES - November 15, 2024 at 05:35 PM

JS

“ *Jennifer Sage-Bundy lit a candle in memory of John Eric Partanen*



Jennifer Sage-Bundy - November 15, 2024 at 01:34 PM

SC

“ *San Joaquin Refining Co. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Eric Partanen.*

San Joaquin Refining Co. - November 15, 2024 at 12:27 PM

SC

“ *San Joaquin Refining Co. purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of John Eric Partanen.*



San Joaquin Refining Co. - November 15, 2024 at 12:27 PM

AE

“ Alice E. purchased a sympathy card for the family of John Eric Partanen.



Alice E. - November 14, 2024 at 05:33 PM

AP

“ Alice E. Partanen planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Eric Partanen.

Alice E. Partanen - November 14, 2024 at 05:00 PM

AP

“ Alice E. Partanen purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John Eric Partanen.



Alice E. Partanen - November 14, 2024 at 05:00 PM

RF

“ Robert Partanen, Diana Miller and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Eric Partanen.

Robert Partanen, Diana Miller and family - November 14, 2024 at 02:19 PM

RF

“ *Robert Partanen, Diana Miller and family purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of John Eric Partanen.*



Robert Partanen, Diana Miller and family - November 14, 2024
at 02:19 PM

AP

“ *Alice E Partanen lit a candle in memory of John Eric Partanen*



Alice E Partanen - November 14, 2024 at 11:22 AM

“ *In remembrance of my brother, John Eric Partanen, during happier times we shared growing up....*

My earliest memories are on the freighter ship we took from Seattle to Chile, South America when we were barely past being toddlers, along with the times and adventures we had living in one of the driest places on earth while Dad worked for Anaconda Copper. Then, the flights over the Andes to Syracuse, New York where we lived with Aunt Beth in that enormous white farmhouse out in the country. We feasted on fresh berries and veggies – and hunted owls in the barn. Our younger brother Robert was born during this time.

When Dad came home from Chile, he reenlisted in the Airforce and we moved to Washington, D.C, then Virginia and then Maryland. There were many weekends spent at the Smithsonian and other memorials and historical sites, where our minds were stuffed with the amazing history of our great country. There are many memories with John and little Robert at beaches on the Eastern shoreline, weekend camping trips, fishing and hunting for crawdads.

Then to fast forward – we lived in Missouri for a bit and eventually Southern California where we subsequently moved to La Habra, California, which would be pivotal in my brother’s life. The school we attended was known as La Habra High School, and their mascot was the La Habra Highlanders. It was there that my brother found a passion for and took up the Scottish bagpipes. He went on to become a performer, band leader, teacher and mentor of the pipes. Our family loved his special concerts whenever he would visit.

We did have many happy times – too many to share here. Memories of my brother John will forever be entwined in my heart when I hear the great Scottish pipes.

Rest in peace in the arms of our Lord and Savior brother John.

Alice Elizabeth Partanen

Alice E Partanen - November 14, 2024 at 11:21 AM

RP

“ Robert Partanen lit a candle in memory of John Eric Partanen



Robert Partanen - November 13, 2024 at 10:51 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of John Eric Partanen.



November 12, 2024 at 03:22 PM

RP

“ My best memory of my brother is the snake bite kit he gave me because of the "Partanen curse" where if 2 of us were on a boat, no one caught any fish. The term snake bite was used for this, and the kit was given to remedy the curse. Thing is, it works.

Robert Partanen - November 12, 2024 at 02:04 PM