



## John A. Breger

March 23, 1945 - August 4, 2025

John A. Breger, age 80, passed away in Annapolis, MD, on August 4, 2025.

John was born in Wilmington, DE, on March 23, 1945, to Catherine and Daniel Breger. He had a wonderful childhood growing up on the family farm, alongside his sister, Kitty, and brothers, Dan, Jim, and Paul. His boyhood was special in that he had the freedom of living on a farm and the opportunity to work from a young age with his siblings in his father's flower business.

John was a young person with tremendous school spirit, attending St. Mary Magdalen, Salesianum ("Sallies"), and Villanova University, where he earned both his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Electrical Engineering.

John worked for several companies over nearly 50 years as an Electrical Engineer. During his long career, he played a key role in the development and leadership of many telecommunications innovations. He also had the opportunity to travel widely in the U.S., Europe, and Asia, both for work and pleasure. He retired from the MITRE Corporation in McLean, VA, in 2014.

John and Joanne married in 1982, and together they enjoyed a wonderful life in Vienna, VA, for nearly 35 years, raising their sons, Jonathan and Michael. The entire family enjoyed many years of active community involvement.

John was a man who lived life to the fullest, with a wide array of accomplishments and interests. In his younger years, he was an active sailor, diver, skier, and photographer, photography being a lifelong passion of his. He also worked tirelessly for Scouting America, often hiking and camping with Troop 673 as his sons advanced through the ranks to both achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. John loved swimming, woodworking, the Chesapeake Bay, and spending time at the Delaware beaches.

In 2015, John and Joanne moved to a beautiful waterfront home on Kent Island on Maryland's Eastern Shore, where John enjoyed nearly 10 years watching ships on the bay and following the changing seasons, always appreciating the area's beautiful flora and fauna.

John is survived by his wife, Joanne, and his sons, Jonathan and his wife, Lauren, and Mike and his fiancée, Bella. He was loved and respected by all who knew him, including his siblings, nieces, nephews, relatives, co-workers, and friends.

A Memorial Funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, August 12, at St. Christopher's Church, located at 1861 Harbor Drive, Chester, MD. Immediately following the service, the family invites you to join them for lunch at Fisherman's Inn, 3116 Main St., Grasonville, MD.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to The Chesapeake Bay Foundation, 6 Herndon Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403, or at [www.cbf.org/memorial](http://www.cbf.org/memorial)

# Previous Events

## Mass

AUG **12**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Christopher's Catholic Church  
1861 Harbor Drive  
Chester, MD 21619

# Tribute Wall

RE

“ I first met John while working at MITRE. His dry wit, warm smile, laughter, and sparkling eyes would light up even the most difficult and dark group projects. Whenever I faced higher-level math beyond my comfort zone, I knew I could count on John to check my work or patiently guide me through what I needed to understand. He was my go-to mathematician.

I had worked alongside him for a couple of years before learning that he had once been a high-level engineering manager, leading a large team of engineers. John never boasted about his achievements— humility being woven into his character.

In personal conversations, he spoke with enthusiasm about Villanova’s men’s basketball team and the water. But the topic that lit him up most was always his family.

One day, when I called just to say hello, Joanne answered to say they were headed out for a medical appointment, but that John would call me back later.

Some hours later, he did. His voice was somber, the familiar droll wit absent. He told me how much he valued our friendship and how much he appreciated getting to know my wife and hearing about my sons. I replied—awkwardly, but sincerely—that I felt the same, and that I had enjoyed getting to know Joanne and hearing so much about Jonathon and Michael. It was warm, but unusual, and at the time I didn’t know quite what to make of it.

A day or two later, Joanne called to tell me that John had been diagnosed with preliminary dementia. I was stunned. Suddenly, that earlier conversation fell into place. Wanting to speak while he was still fully himself—years before his death—John had given me his goodbye.

When he spoke to me, at the moment in time, I didn’t see it for what it was. But then looking back with the full knowledge of what he faced, I saw that moment as one of the most moving of my life. With raw honesty, courageously facing his impending inevitability, John

*spoke with deep compassion for how his plight would, in time, affect those who cared about him.*

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**Randy Ethier** - August 13, 2025 at 10:02 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John A. Breger.*



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August 11, 2025 at 12:48 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John A. Breger.

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August 11, 2025 at 12:48 PM

LG

“ I wanted to comment that I only have quality memories of John as a wonderful person. We worked together on several projects over quite a few years where it was so clear not only how talented he was as an engineer, but how much of a special person he was. He had broad and in-depth levels of expertise in communications and computing: in the technology, its engineering and management including executive management. He readily shared his exceptional knowledge whenever it was needed. It was not only his generous sharing, but he also was a sensitive support person to those around him, modestly giving helpful insights and perspectives going beyond what would be expected to give help to others. It was so commendable how he showed his friendship and support to others in many ways and did it in a cheerful manner and often with a touch of humor. This is a part of the John we will miss. May loving memories bring Joanne and the family peace and comfort. With Warmist Regards, Lee G

*Lee Goldschmidt - Yesterday at 05:59 PM*

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**Lee Goldschmidt** - August 11, 2025 at 12:16 PM

PM

“ Patricia McGill purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of John A. Breger.



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**Patricia McGill** - August 10, 2025 at 11:26 AM

PM

“ Patricia McGill planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John A. Breger.

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**Patricia McGill** - August 10, 2025 at 11:26 AM

RF

“ Our hearts are breaking for Joanne, Jonathan, and Michael and extended family for the loss of such a wonderful husband and father. My memories of John include his strong work ethic, his quirky jokes but most importantly his deep love for Joanne and his love and devotion to his family. You will be missed! Carole & Bob

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**Robert & Carole Flounders** - August 10, 2025 at 09:57 AM

R&

“ Robert &. purchased the [Ginkgo Gift Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4633) for the family of John A. Breger.

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**Robert &.** - August 10, 2025 at 09:51 AM

SB

“ I've known John for over 50 years. We first met at work as engineers in a telecom start up long before that term was even popular. And we were together over many years working some long and very hard hours for several different companies where John made significant contributions to their success. We came to spend a lot of time together in personal pursuits as well, often sharing many magical days with our friends sailing on the Chesapeake Bay. Oh, what adventures we had and what wonderful memories we made. He was a great work and play mate, an extremely effective and technically innovative engineering manager, as well as an inspiring and supportive mentor to a countless number of us. But most of all he was a true, loyal and caring friend to both me and my family. I admired him greatly both on a professional and personal level as did many others; he will be sorely missed. Our hearts go out to Joanne, Jonathan and Michael as we wish them our deepest sympathy. May John rest in peace.  
With Love, Steve and Jackie Brown and family

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**Steve Brown** - August 07, 2025 at 02:00 PM

HS

“ *Fond memories of a kind, witty neighbour with interesting conversations about his travels and hobbies.*

*One example of his thoughtfulness was when, after a tornado struck our Vienna neighbourhood, knocking out power, John set up his bbq/camp stove and made coffee for all those clearing up the debris, and anyone else that needed a hot drink.*

*He and Joanne were also very supportive to me and my sons after we lost my husband suddenly. We will never forget their kindness.*

*Our love and thoughts go out to Joanne, Jonathan, Mike and family as you farewell John.*

*With deepest sympathy, Helen and the Swinburne family.*



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**helen swinburne** - August 06, 2025 at 06:41 PM

TT

*Our condolences to John's family upon the loss of a family member and friend. I remember John from our days in the Villanova Photography Department. Good memories. May he rest in peace...*  
*Tom Thomas*

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**Tom Thomas** - August 07, 2025 at 01:23 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of John A. Breger.*



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August 06, 2025 at 03:08 PM

AJ

“ Comfort to family and friends. My wife and I are happy to have had John in our lives. He will be thought of and prayed for often. May he Rest In Peace and receive a heavenly reward. 🙏🕊️✝️



Anthony & Jay - August 06, 2025 at 02:40 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of John A. Breger.



August 06, 2025 at 02:19 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John A. Breger.

August 06, 2025 at 02:19 PM