



## John Dempsey

October 22, 1936 - August 8, 2022

John was born October 22, 1936 in Brooklyn, New York, and passed away on August 8, 2022.

As a young boy he was taken under wing by several older fisherman who instilled in him a lifelong love of the sea. He seemed to have salt water in his veins. John attended Brooklyn Vocational High School studying boat building. After high school, he worked at Klein's Shipyard in Brooklyn where he met Bob Doxsee of Doxsee Sea Clam, Freeport, NY. They formed a lifelong friendship working together for over 60 years, John being Captain of several ocean-going clam boats. In his later years, he worked as Captain of the Day Star for Sea Watch International.

John had a love for farm animals. From 1989 – 1998, he and his wife, Marie, had a small farm in Granby, MO, near his family. They raised cattle and pigs and made many wonderful friends. John worked one month on the ocean and one month on the farm until they moved to Cordova, MD, to be near her family. They brought to Maryland several Labrador Retrievers who brought great joy and comfort to John throughout the remainder of his life.

John had a lifelong love of helping people and passing on the myriad of skills he gained along the way. Although not formally schooled, he was a master at hydraulics, engine mechanics, welding and woodworking. He lovingly passed

these skills on to anyone who was willing to learn. His adventurous spirit, follies (especially those involving finding and bringing home firewood), and infectious laugh will be sorely missed.

John was predeceased in death by his son John F. Dempsey. He is survived by Marie, his wife of 63 years; daughter Donna Dempsey and grandson Wyatt Bradley; daughter Laurie Keller, son-in-law Mike Keller, and granddaughter Sarah Keller; sister-in-Law Pat Heilman and husband Mike; and Bridgette (Pat's very special yellow Labrador Retriever who spent many hours with him).

John's family would like to extend a special Thank You to the very comforting and helpful Talbot Hospice nurses and aides who spent his last several days with us.

John will be cremated and his ashes spread in the ocean where he clammed.

# Tribute Wall

MC

“ Dear Dempsey family, I just found this page and so only just found out about John. I am so sorry for your loss. I fondly remember growing up with your family. Marie and John were like an Aunt and Uncle to the Millen children and their kids like cousins. On behalf of the Millen Family I want to send Marie, Donna and Laurie all our love on the loss of John. With much love, Marissa Millen Clark

Marisa Millen Clark - March 26, 2024 at 03:11 PM



“ John Dempsey

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ John Dempsey

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ John Dempsey

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM

CM

“ Cindy H Moore lit a candle in memory of John Dempsey



Cindy H Moore - August 23, 2022 at 01:59 PM

CM

*My husband and I had the privilege to buy the house in Cordova from the Dempsey's. There are so many special touches around the house and you can see the love they shared there. Sending peace and prayers to Mrs. Dempsey and Family*

**Cindy H Moore** - August 23, 2022 at 02:12 PM

MD

*Thank You Cindy for your beautiful words. John so loved his home in Cordova. I don't think he considered our St. Michaels home "His" home. He loved the deer, the woods and his workshop. Miss Marie*

**Marie H Dempsey** - September 05, 2022 at 01:03 PM

KS

*“ I was so sorry to hear of Mr. Dempsey's passing. He was a lovely man, and I am glad I had the pleasure of meeting him. I wish you peace and comfort in this time of grief.*

*All my best,  
Katie Jo Sullivan, CRNP  
Miles River Physicians*

**Katie Jo Sullivan** - August 15, 2022 at 02:51 PM

AB

*“ Alex & Nancy Borga lit a candle in memory of John Dempsey*



**Alex & Nancy Borga** - August 14, 2022 at 05:29 PM

MD

*Thank You for your Thoughtfulness. John always looked at our home in Cordova as "His" home. He never quite settled into St. Michaels You were good neighbors. Miss Marie*

**Marie H Dempsey** - September 05, 2022 at 01:07 PM

CM

“ *Caren Messing lit a candle in memory of John Dempsey*



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**Caren Messing** - August 14, 2022 at 02:36 PM

MB

“ *Mary Baker lit a candle in memory of John Dempsey*



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**Mary Baker** - August 12, 2022 at 07:25 PM