



John Walter Ray Jr

January 20, 1953 - January 16, 2026

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John Walter Ray, Jr. was born on January 20, 1953, in Lynn, Massachusetts. He passed away peacefully on January 16, 2026, in Salt Lake City, surrounded by family, after a long battle with chronic illness. He was 72 years old, just four days shy of his 73rd birthday.

John was a very strong man, fearless, resilient, and determined to live life on his own terms. He had a natural way of making everyone laugh, often without even trying. His usually inappropriate jokes, unmistakable Boston accent, endless funny YouTube clips, fart videos, and his completely unapologetic way of being himself are how we will always remember him.

He leaves behind the love of his life, his ex wife Mary Ray, his children Shannon (Clair), Danielle (David), Jason, and John (Erin), his grandchildren Kylie (Masen), Hunter, John John, Isaiah (Kira), Jaxson (Destinie), Jayda, Tyler (Justin), Analycia (Mario), Andreus (Ally), Kimmy, Richie, Benny, and Willy, and his great grandchildren Nevaeh, Mateo, and Ezra.

John is also survived by his favorite fur baby, his cat Greyzie, whom he lovingly renamed Stinky.

He is further survived by his siblings Lisa, Kathy, Lori, and Michael, along with many nieces and nephews who loved him dearly.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Margaret Ray, his son Rico Velarde, and many other cherished friends and family members who went before him.

A private service will be held with immediate family. A celebration of life will follow, with details to come.

Losing him hurts more than words can say, but we take comfort in knowing John is finally at peace and no longer in pain. John, you put up such a good fight. We will miss you every day until we meet again.

We love you, you old buzzard.