



John L. Malay

May 27, 1943 - March 1, 2024

John was born in Wyandotte, MI, and died at Transitions LifeCare Hospice Home in Raleigh, NC, from complications of CLL. He received his B.S., M.A., and Ed.S. from Eastern Michigan University. John worked for much of his career as a special education administrator in Livingston County, MI. He was a kind and generous man who put the needs of others ahead of his own. He loved his family, the beach, sports, and vanilla ice cream.

Although he and his wife relocated to Cary, NC, from Ann Arbor, MI, in 2008, John remained a Michigander at heart. He continued to follow his favorite teams – the Detroit Tigers, Detroit Lions, Michigan Wolverines and Michigan State Spartans.


John was predeceased by his parents, John L. Malay, Sr. and Helen (Fratick) Malay. He is survived by his wife of 27 years, Melinda Watson; his daughter Dana Payne and her two children Danielle (18) and Gavin (15); his son Jeffrey Malay (wife Lisa) and their two children Brady (17) and Logan (15); stepson Morgan Smith (wife Nancy) and their three children Ayla (13), Everett (10), and Eleanor (5); his sister and brother-in-law Mary Anne and Gary Marx; and niece Shannon Marx Hall, nephew Steve Marx, and their families.

The family wishes to thank Dr. Danielle Brander and her team at Duke Blood Cancer Center for their care over the past ten years.

No services are planned at this time. Memorial contributions may be made to The CLL Society (cllsociety.org) or to Autism Speaks (autismspeaks.org).

Tribute Wall



“ *John hired me for my very first teaching job in Howell. He was always supportive and kind and put kids first. I appreciated him. Thankful for his commitment to special education.* 

Daisy Mae - March 18, 2024 at 03:12 PM



From: Marci Moloney

Daisy Mae - March 18, 2024 at 03:13 PM