



John Oliver Pezzanite

May 10, 1952 - November 27, 2025

John Oliver Pezzanite, age 73, of Apex, North Carolina, died November 27th at UNC Hospital, Chapel Hill. He is survived by his wife Suzanne; his daughters Lynn Pezzanite DVM (Gregg Griffenhagen DVM) and Kay Jacobs (Matt); and grandchildren Maddie and Micah Jacobs. He is also survived by 3 sisters: Kathleen McCaffrey (Michael), Maureen Pezzanite, and Aileen Biser (Jerry) as well as numerous nephews, nieces, and in-laws. He is preceded in death by his parents John and Kathleen Pezzanite, brother Michael Pezzanite, and sister Colleen Boyle.

Born in Washington, DC, John called Keyser, West Virginia his hometown, where he was a boy scout, altar boy, and football player. He is still remembered there as John “Tornado” #66 who stopped a late scoring kick attempt – with his face_ to give Keyser High School the 1969 Class AA State Football Championship over Winfield. He was an outstanding math and science student at Potomac State College and West Virginia University (Bachelor of Science, 1974) and attended Iowa State University, majoring in organic chemistry. His careers included chemical sales and financial advisor, last working at Robert W. Baird & Co., Mishawaka, IN, in finance.

It is bittersweet that John died on Thanksgiving Day, his favorite holiday. He so liked it he'd send copies of President Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation instead of Christmas cards. The message of thankfulness, of counting one's

blessings no matter the other circumstances, resonated with him. (And, well, the food.) His family is grateful for the caring UNC physicians and their staff, UNC Memorial Hospital and Basnight Cancer Hospital, UNC Rex Rehabilitation of Apex, and Bayada Home Health Care.

John had many hobbies, including reading, woodworking, cooking, scuba diving, and fishing with his grandchildren. But he said the happiest days of his life were when his daughters were home. Best girl daddy ever.

In memory of John, please donate to y our local food pantries and pet rescues.