



John Henry Casarez

September 26, 1937 - October 11, 2024

John Henry Casarez, 87, of Chesapeake, OH, went to be with the Lord on Friday, October 11, 2024, at Emogene Dolin Jones Hospice House.

He was born on September 26, 1937, in Huntington, WV. John joined the United States Marines, sparking a love for martial arts. Through 70 plus years of martial arts, John became a 10th degree Black Belt and GrandMaster in Casarez Manabi-Masho Ju-Jitsu, a martial art he founded.

John holds Black Belts from 1st degree to 6th degree in other disciplines. He is a GrandMaster member of the World Head of Family Sokeship Council and was inducted into World Martial Arts and USA Martial Arts Hall of Fame. John has trained numerous instructors and always esteemed each of them. He trained the Huntington Police Department in self defense and was also recognized as a Hometown Hero in Huntington.

John was preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Leona Casarez, Chesapeake, OH; sisters, Hope (Ray) Kitchen, Greenville, SC, and Hazel Casarez, Chesapeake, OH; brother, Daniel Casarez, Chesapeake, OH, and son, John Lee Casarez, Huntington, WV.

John is survived by daughter, Tonya (Bill) Butcher of Evansville, IN; granddaughter, Kristen Casarez of Columbus, OH; grandsons, Rian (Jessica) Nichols and Billy C. Butcher of Evansville, IN; great grandsons, Micah and Isaiah Nichols; two cherished nieces, Dana Miller of Dothan, AL and Tana Casarez of Cambridge, OH and two dear friends, Andy and Teresa Walters of Chesapeake, OH.

A Memorial Gathering will be held at 11:00 am, Friday, October 18, 2024, at New Beginnings Worship Center, 3707 State Route 7, Chesapeake, OH. If at all possible, the family is asking that instructors and students wear their martial arts uniforms to the Celebration of Life as a way to honor John. He considered you a part of his family.

Schneider-Hall Funeral Home, Chesapeake, OH, is honored to assist the family with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to the family at schneiderhallfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall

WD

“ *What a great human being. Trained under John from 85-87, through his discipline and intrusive ways, it enabled me to view life in a different, more productive way, just reaffirming my parents disciplined guidance and mentorship. Times were simple but his training was thorough and precise and John genuinely believed and cared for all students. Once I learned how to fall no matter at what height or method, the correct ways, it seemed to get easier. After graduation of high school, I joined the Navy and retired with 24 years of service. Actions developed character. At 56 now reflecting on my time at the little Dojo at the 6th St bridge, I am not only privileged but grateful I got to know and train under this great human being. John you changed so many lives in Appalachia country!!!*

Fair Winds, Following Seas my Brother!!

Drayton Dobbs

William Drayton Dobbs - March 08 at 12:18 PM

AF

“ *I took lessons from John back when I was in junior high and high school, and even had my daughter take some lessons from him when she was younger. John was a very nice and very well respected. Sorry for your loss.*



Andrew Frazier - October 23, 2024 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ I was a student of John in the mid 1980's and early 1990's. Receiving a black belt from John was one of my proudest, and most difficult achievements. When my children were born and life became more complicated, I was unable to continue my training under John; but in my thirty years of law - enforcement, I survived at least five physical alterations without a scratch and was able to dominate the situation due to his training. John was a shining personality and outstanding Jujitsu instructor. He will always have my thanks and respect. Love and prayers to all who loved and learned from this great man.



Joe Noble - October 19, 2024 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ Teresa and Andy I'm so sorry to hear about John. I'll be praying for you as well as his family. May God comfort and bless you as you go thru your loss



Kathy hart - October 18, 2024 at 12:00 AM

RN

“ To the Casarez family - I am so sorry about Johnny leaving this earth! I met Johnny when I was in Jr. High school as I hung out with Tana and Dana a lot. We took Judo from Johnny back then! I can remember "throwing" one of the big instructors that helped Johnny teach the class. I also remember him visiting the Casarez's out "slop hollow" where we all grew up, and him riding one of my horses. Once, Dana and I took his daughter Tonya to the movies when she was tiny! Fast forward to the last 10 years - I got to have dinner with John, Tana and others a couple times a year. Fly high Johnny! "To be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord!"
2 Corinthians 5:8 Raynell Napier



Raynell Napier - October 16, 2024 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ I have more respect for Mr. Casarez than most people I know.....we had a genuinely special relationship.



AARON CHAPMAN - October 16, 2024 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Q: *What will you never forget about John?*

A: I met Johnny when I was in Junior High School in the early 70's which was 54 years ago. I started my Martial Arts training with him. He was an Amazing Instructor. My career path I started was a Paramedic & Emergency Room Nurse. The training I learned from Johnny more than once got me & my coworkers out of a jam. I and the World will miss his Amazing Skills he showed & especially those he trained. Rest In Peace my Friend. Rest In Peace.



Danny McKnight - October 15, 2024 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ *I really thought a lot of Johnny he was always great to me. Remember the times at Robbie's. Prayers for his family*



Ray Schneider - October 14, 2024 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time, May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,*



May your memories of John Henry Casarez, give you peace, comfort and strength...

Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete. I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten.

*My thoughts
and prayers to the family of*

US Marine Veteran, John Henry Casarez, is "A True American Hero" God Bless†

† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †

Cheryl J Skinner Tri-State Military Museum - October 13, 2024 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ *Loved my Uncle Johnny so very much! He was always there for us since we were small children. I will miss him so very much!*
Dana



Dana Miller - October 13, 2024 at 12:00 AM

AG

“ So sorry for your loss



Angela Gore - October 12, 2024 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ Aww wow ..Sending lots of Prayers to his Family..He made the Best Ribs here in The Tri State 💕💕💕💕



Shirley Bowman - October 12, 2024 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Rest peacefully my teacher,my mentor,my friend.you will be greatly missed by many.Being a martial arts instructor myself,I will cherish and pass on your teachings and keep your legacy alive...with honor and great respect, sincerely David Ferris



David Ferris - October 12, 2024 at 12:00 AM