



John A. Farrell

July 30, 1942 - August 18, 2022

John A. Farrell, 80, of Pittsburgh, passed away Thursday, August 18, 2022. He was born July 30, 1942 in Pittsburgh, a son of the late John B. Jr. and Freida E. (Wilson) Farrell. John also known as “Tony” and “Bear” was a member of Mary Mother of God Parish, and attended St. Robert Bellarmine Church. He was a proud Army veteran that served in the Vietnam Conflict. Tony taught at W.B. Ray High School, Corpus Christi, Texas, and greatly enjoyed his time there instructing the students in both Math and Science. Tony also served as president of the Corpus Christi Native American Association. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus serving as Grand Knight, was a member of the State Board of Education serving for five years. He was a life member of VFW Hilltopper Post 8430, East McKeesport, Amvets Post 60, North Braddock, American Legion Post #997, Clarion, the NRA, volunteered for the Wounded Warrior Project and was a member of Southern Poverty Law Center. Tony was a martial artist reaching 10th degree grandmaster in Kyokkushin-Kai Karate. He was a sportsman and instructor with National Bow Hunters Education, a member of Trout Unlimited, and taught veterans fly tying at the VA Medical Center, Aspinwall, through Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing. He was an artist and especially enjoyed oil painting.

He is survived by his children Jayne’a Farrell and Sean B. Farrell both of Maryland, Tiffany Gramby of Ohio, and Nicole Saunders of Pennsylvania; three grandchildren; siblings Dennis P. (Yun Cha) Farrell, Jacquelyn Y. Farrell, Michael D. (Deneane) Farrell, and Beverly E. Farrell, also nieces and nephews.

Friends will be received from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, August 26, at the Forgie-Snyder Funeral Home, 1032 Broadway, East McKeesport, 412-823-8083. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Saturday in St. Robert Bellarmine Church, East McKeesport. Interment will follow in Penn Lincoln Memorial Park. Those wishing may contribute to Disabled American Veterans <http://www.dav.org> . For online condolences please visit www.snyderfuneralservices.com.

Cemetery Details

Penn Lincoln Memorial Park

14679 U.S. 30
North Huntingdon, PA 15642

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **26**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Forgie Snyder Funeral Home
1032 Broadway Ave
East McKeesport, PA 15035
(412) 823-8083
<https://williamsnyderfuneralhome.com/>

Visitation

AUG **26**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Forgie Snyder Funeral Home
1032 Broadway Ave
East McKeesport, PA 15035
(412) 823-8083
<https://williamsnyderfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Mass

AUG **27**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St Robert Bellarmine Church
1313 5th Ave
East McKeesport, PA 15035-1603
(412) 824-3688

Tribute Wall



“ *An amazing instructor, I was always blown away by how much knowledge he had and how he could show you the tiniest detail and it would greatly improve your technique. I'm sad to say we fell out of touch and I am just seeing this now. My condolences to all his family and friends. He was one of a kind.*

Sándor István - February 09, 2025 at 02:43 PM

OM

“ *All that I am to this day, I owe to this man.*

omar - June 07, 2024 at 12:03 AM

RA

You were his son! We love and miss you! Rita/Ne'a and Sean

Rita Abella - March 08, 2025 at 02:07 PM

JC

“ *A great martial arts instructor and even better human being. He always pushed me beyond my perceived limitations and improved my technique every time I took one of his classes. Not a day goes by where I don't rely on the discipline and strength that he instilled in me. I will miss him very much, but I his impact on me and so many others will live on!*

Joab Corey - May 21, 2024 at 01:04 AM



“ *John A. Farrell*

October 07, 2023 at 10:37 AM

JB

“ *My classes were free in the 70's as I was unable to pay for training I was taught confidence and humility. One of the best! Rest in peace sensei Farrell. I will miss you!*

James Brown - January 04, 2023 at 08:21 PM

RI

“ *I have not been in touch with Sensei Farrell in many years. I started studying with him in 1973. He was a great friend and teacher for me. He was a patient teacher. I have missed him and sad to see he has passed.*

rick - November 14, 2022 at 01:53 PM

YL

“ *A legend of martial is born.*

Yves Legault - October 05, 2022 at 12:01 PM

MA

“ *Tony was bigger than life, bigger than any words could ever express. His absence leaves a large hole in the universe, but he lives on in the hearts of those who knew him. 大変お疲れ様でした、 Tony.*

Mark - September 07, 2022 at 02:33 PM

WH

“ *This is a photo of Kancho John (“Tony”)Farrell (center back) and his Springfield, Virginia, Kyokushin group taken in 1993. I am kneeling on the right. Kancho Farrell would remain my trainer until he passed in August 2022. He dedicated his life to knock-down Kyokushin Karate the traditional Mas Oyama way. But even more importantly to me, he was my good friend and confidant, someone who was enthusiastic about life, uplifting, trustworthy, and absolutely dedicated to his students.. I admired him greatly as a human being, and, as I write this, I can still hear his “Osu!” Sensei Paul Murphy (Yondan), New Market, Virginia.*



William Snyder Funeral Home - August 29, 2022 at 10:01 AM

EM

That’s a great tribute Paul. Shihan Farrell was a great teacher and a great friend to me too. I was the kid in front of him in this picture. I will always remember him with affection and respect.

Eddie McNett

Eddie McNett - September 09, 2022 at 08:35 PM



“ 101 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



William Snyder Funeral Home - August 26, 2022 at 02:46 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of John A. Farrell.*



August 25, 2022 at 08:16 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John A. Farrell.*



August 25, 2022 at 02:56 PM



“ *You left us Tony but left too soon. The sun will continue to shine. It will forever shine on you. Your impact on life touched many in sight. The love radiated will touch us each night. Thanks for our friendship within the village of St. Clair. It helped us gain friendships touching many everywhere. You gave it you all which was your very best. It's now Gods Time to lay you to rest.*

Friendships are eternal

Luther Wilson Jr.

Luther Wilson Jr - August 25, 2022 at 01:00 AM

DK

“ I met Kancho Farrell back in the 80's when i was just 10 years old. He would judge me when i was at tournaments. We finally reunited in the early 2000's and ever since he became may friend and confidant. He taught me so much about life. I am a better person having known him. I will always remember all that you have done for me. Thank you Kancho,



Dwayne T Krieger - August 24, 2022 at 06:45 PM

LZ

“ Sir you will be missed. DOL!

Lieutenant Colonel Salvador Zuniga - August 24, 2022 at 06:23 PM

LS

“ John was such a great man. He was respectful and respected. He will be miss. He used to send me candy bars to Texas that I couldn't get here. Sweet man.

Linda Stapper - August 24, 2022 at 05:10 PM

RA

“ Tony, next the time we meet it will be at heavens door, when we see you standing there, we won't cry anymore. We will put our arms around you and kiss your smiling face. Then the pieces of our broken hearts will fall back into place. You will be greatly missed - Jayne'a (daughter), Sean, (Son) and Rita (ex-wife).

Rita Abella - August 24, 2022 at 03:43 PM



“ John A. Farrell

August 23, 2022 at 04:00 PM

BR

“ Toni and I were friends when we both were kids and lived in St Clair Village.

Barry Roach - August 23, 2022 at 01:58 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John A. Farrell.*



August 23, 2022 at 11:54 AM



“ *A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of John A. Farrell.*



August 23, 2022 at 09:51 AM

BB

“ *I remember that John, who I knew as Tony, was a good friend of Ruriko Masutani. I was able to practice Aikido in Sensei Masutani's dojo for 25 years. I met Tony at our seminars there and at seminars in Morgantown organized by Shihan Davis. I will always be indebted to Shihan Farrell for the strong support he gave to us at Aikido of Pittsburgh. I know his contributions to martial arts reached many more students in other disciplines also. Barbara W. Brandom*

Barbara W Brandom - August 22, 2022 at 02:34 PM