



John Eugene Raffaele

April 23, 1948 - August 16, 2025

John Eugene Raffaele of Cadillac passed away August 16, 2025. He fought and won courageous battles with pancreatic and lung cancer. He was currently in round two with lung cancer. John was 77.

John lived a full and vibrant life devoted to all that he did. He was a paradox in the best sense of the word. He appreciated the finer things in life, but was most comfortable with the basics. In business he was fiercely pragmatic, known for his unyielding principles, sharp mind, and meticulous planning; yet beyond the boardroom, his adventurous spirit was boundless – skiing, hockey, hunting, camping, mountain biking, and immersing himself in the outdoors. Paradox was not conflict within John, but completeness. He was a quietly generous man with both time and resources, always desiring to help others. He had lifelong faith in God, but it grew in later years and he began passionately pursuing a deeper understanding. The trials he faced did not make him question that faith, but rather embrace it. John was humble about his accomplishments, except as a father. He was convinced that of all else he did, God placed him on this earth to be a father. His three sons truly were his life, and part of him was lost with the loss of his son Chase.

John was born April 23, 1948, in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, to Eugene Paul and Aili Mary (Huhtala) Raffaele. He was proud of his Italian and Finnish heritage. In 1986 he married Terri Voorhees, the love of his life. His devotion

to Terri and his sons reflected his character – committed, steadfast, and generous.

In 1972 he graduated from Aquinas College with a degree in Business Administration, and he later did graduate work at Roosevelt University in Chicago. John spent the first eleven years of his career with Brunswick Corporation. In 1978 he accepted a position with Cadillac Rubber & Plastics as Controller, later becoming the CFO, Board Member, and ultimately an owner. In 1989 he negotiated the sale of Cadillac Rubber & Plastics to Avon Tire & Rubber of Bath, England. At the time of sale, the company employed 2,000 people and operated out of seven locations. John went on to own various small businesses, from furniture manufacturing to food and hotel franchises. He also served a year as General Manager for the Sault Eagles Junior A Hockey Team.

After retiring John made significant contributions to the community, serving as a board member for the YMCA, Mercy Hospital, Industrial Development, OASIS, and many others, as well as consulting on local businesses, helping to plan and fund the county's first indoor ice rink, and later voluntarily managing The WexCivic Center for a year. John was also a founding member of the Cadillac Area Community Foundation.

He is survived by his wife Terri; a brother Ron (Bonnie) Raffaele of Sault Ste. Marie; sons: Jason (Chris), Brock (Natalie), daughter-in-law Mallory Raffaele; brothers-in-laws Bill (Linda) and Jim Voorhees, sister-in-law Julie (Rush) Clement; grandchildren Aidan, Brinley, and Callan Raffaele, and many very special nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his beloved son Chase, parents Eugene and Aili, Paul Allen, brother Rick Allen.

Funeral services will be held 11:00 AM Friday, August 22, 2025 at the First Baptist Church of Cadillac with Pastors Chad Zaucha and Dave McMahon officiating. Burial will be at Maple Hill Cemetery in Cadillac. Visitation will be Thursday from 4-6 PM at Peterson Funeral & Cremation Services in Cadillac.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Cadillac Area Hockey Association, First Baptist Church, or Life Resources of Northern Michigan. An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Cemetery Details

Maple Hill Cemetery

Mitchell Street
Cadillac, MI 49601

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **21**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Peterson Funeral Home
205 E. Cass St.
Cadillac, MI 49601
(231) 775-3411
info@petersonfh.com
<http://www.petersonfh.com>

Funeral Service

AUG **22**. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Cadillac
125 Stimson St
Cadillac, MI 49601-2237
(231) 775-5629

Tribute Wall

DO

“ A belated condolence to the Raffael family. “Johnny” and I were next door neighbors and best buds for most of our growing up years. His dad Eugene was one of my first hockey coaches. Sad to hear. “Bobby O’Brien”

Dr. Robert O’Brien - November 01, 2025 at 08:24 AM

TA

“ Sending love, I’m very fortunate to have known him. So many hockey memories throughout my whole childhood💜



Tony Andreen - October 09, 2025 at 10:50 PM

JM

“ My sincerest condolences to the Raffaele family, friends and all who loved John. He was always a wonderful supportive hockey dad while his boys were with us at Gilmour Academy. His love of his family was evident in all he did. I grieve with his family and community. R.I.P. John.

John Malloy - August 25, 2025 at 10:51 AM

LC

“ I was sad to hear the news about John. I send my deepest condolences to Terry, Brock and the rest of the family. I always enjoyed my time with John and valued his knowledge of hockey when we were coaching. Glad to have gotten to know him. May he rest in peace . Lyndon Corniuk

Lyndon Corniuk - August 22, 2025 at 05:32 PM

TA

Well said Lyn

Tony Andreen - October 09, 2025 at 10:47 PM

DL

“ Don L. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Eugene Raffaele.

Don L. - August 22, 2025 at 01:50 PM

WP

“ Will always remember when John arranged for a hockey game in the Soo . A men’s team from Cadillac traveled there for an overnight trip!! Fun and good hockey times !!! Condolences to the family !! 🙏🙏

wayne partica - August 21, 2025 at 09:40 PM

SE

“ Shannon, Jon, Goldie, and Eva purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of John Eugene Raffaele.



Shannon, Jon, Goldie, and Eva - August 21, 2025 at 06:53 AM

JR

“ Jim, Bill, Linda, Julie, & Rush purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of John Eugene Raffaele.



Jim, Bill, Linda, Julie, & Rush - August 20, 2025 at 11:06 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Eugene Raffaele.

August 20, 2025 at 09:15 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Eugene Raffaele.



August 20, 2025 at 09:15 PM



“ Bruno and the Soo Eagles purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of John Eugene Raffaele.



Bruno and the Soo Eagles - August 20, 2025 at 03:07 PM



“ Zachary Mills planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Eugene Raffaele.

Zachary Mills - August 20, 2025 at 10:45 AM

ZM

“ Zachary Mills purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of John Eugene Raffaele.



Zachary Mills - August 20, 2025 at 10:45 AM

SN

“ Sue, John, Abby, and Lily Newman purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of John Eugene Raffaele.



Sue, John, Abby, and Lily Newman - August 20, 2025 at 10:40 AM

JR

“ We will miss you cousin. Riposa in pace (rest in peace) Jim and Kim Raffaele

james raffaele - August 20, 2025 at 07:57 AM

DP

“ Dawn P. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Eugene Raffaele.

Dawn P. - August 19, 2025 at 08:00 PM

LF

“ Love, The O'Hagan Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John Eugene Raffaele.



Love, The O'Hagan Family - August 19, 2025 at 06:13 PM

LF

“ Love, The O'Hagan Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Eugene Raffaele.

Love, The O'Hagan Family - August 19, 2025 at 06:13 PM

JS

“ Julie S. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Eugene Raffaele.

Julie S. - August 19, 2025 at 04:55 PM



“ Rest in Peace. Blessings to Terri and family. Dean & Dean Werner

Jerilou Werner - August 19, 2025 at 04:35 PM

FR

“ Family of Natalie Raffaele planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Eugene Raffaele.

Family of Natalie Raffaele - August 19, 2025 at 12:48 PM

FR

“ Family of Natalie Raffaele purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of John Eugene Raffaele.



Family of Natalie Raffaele - August 19, 2025 at 12:48 PM

RB

“ Rene, Susie, Troy and Brian planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Eugene Raffaele.

Rene, Susie, Troy and Brian - August 19, 2025 at 11:40 AM

RB

“ Rene, Susie, Troy and Brian purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Eugene Raffaele.



Rene, Susie, Troy and Brian - August 19, 2025 at 11:40 AM

DS

“ Dear Terri & Raffaele Family, Our entire ministry prayer team is praying for you now and asking God to warmly embrace each of you at this time. May HE carry you through the days ahead, and fill each of your homes with HIS presence, HIS protection, HIS peace, HIS love.

*With Compassion & Love, Donna S., and,
Leading The Way with Dr. Michael Youssef*

Donna Stanger - August 19, 2025 at 11:34 AM

AR

“ Aaron, Bob, Heather and Roxanne planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Eugene Raffaele.

Aaron, Bob, Heather and Roxanne - August 19, 2025 at 10:24 AM

AR

“ Aaron, Bob, Heather and Roxanne purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of John Eugene Raffaele.



Aaron, Bob, Heather and Roxanne - August 19, 2025 at 10:24 AM

TO

“ Terri...Our heartfelt thoughts are with you and your family at this heartbreaking time. Fondly, Mary & Tim O'Neill

Tim & Mary O'Neill - August 19, 2025 at 10:05 AM

PH

“ Dear Terri and family, I'm so very sorry for this huge loss. No words are adequate. Sending love and prayers, always prayers. Most sincerely, PK Harrison

PK Harrison - August 19, 2025 at 09:31 AM

AW

“ Terri, Jason, Brock, and family; You are in my thoughts and Prayers. Sending Sympathy and Christ's Peace.



AlisonKay Wilson - August 19, 2025 at 07:06 AM

BR

“ Best brother-in law ever. I love you and will miss you deeply. Say hi to Chase and Kelsey. ❤️❤️❤️❤️

Bonnie Raffaele - August 18, 2025 at 05:29 PM