



## **John P. Wright** 1951 - 2020

John P. Wright was the youngest of the three children of Alice (Ward) and William Wright. He was raised in North Wales, graduated from Lansdale Catholic High School and Temple University. After graduating from Temple University, he taught physical education at Mitchell Elementary in Southwest Philadelphia for thirty years.

He met and married the love of his life, Harriet (Walker) in 1979 whom he married and raised a family with in Northeast Philadelphia. John worked hard and in addition to teaching, would also paint houses and sell cars in order to provide for his family. After Harriet's own untimely death in 2003, John retired from teaching and began working at Lowe's Home Improvement, where his strong work ethic continued.

After moving to Orlando, he spent his time golfing, biking and making memories with his best friend Edna Rivera. John's determination and persistence allowed him to run marathons and complete triathlons. It was these personality traits that allowed him to fight and win the battle with throat cancer when he was diagnosed in 2015. John was militant in taking care of his health and in following doctors orders (for the most part!)- he made sure to stay physically fit and eat healthy.

After almost 6 years in remission, John was suddenly and unexpectedly diagnosed November 2020 with AML Leukemia. He spent the last month hospitalized at Orlando Regional Medical Center, where his warrior spirit continued as he received intense treatment. He was known to everyone he came in contact with as the true definition of a fighter but his body could not withstand anymore. On Dec. 28th, 2020, he spoke with his sister Mary, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis in Philadelphia on the phone. He then listened to encouraging words from his best friend Edna. After these calls, he peacefully went to sleep with his daughter Bridget by his side and in the company of his son, Shane. John is forever considered a true hero to his loved ones. The perseverance he modeled is now helping them find their own strength to grieve his untimely passing.

He is survived by his three children, his sister and brother, Bill, his grandchildren and many friends whose lives he humbly touched. He will also be missed by his dog Buddy, whom he loved so very much. As per John's wishes, a memorial service for immediate loved ones will be held at St. Pete's Beach & then alongside his wife, Harriet's, grave. Memorial contributions may be made in his honor to Emeka's Fund via <https://www.emekasfund.org/donate>.

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