



## Richard "John" Dellenbach

August 11, 2024

Richard "John" Dellenbach, age 42, of Fort Collins, CO, passed into the loving arms of Jesus surrounded by his wife and family on August 11, 2024 after complications from an infection and renal cell carcinoma.

John was born in Fort Collins on April 23, 1982. He graduated from Fort Collins High School in 2000. He attended Montana State for 2 years, completed a summer at Berklee College of Music in Boston, and received a Bachelors Degree in General Business and minored in Spanish at The University of Northern Colorado in 2005. He graduated from the NADA Dealer Academy in 2011.

It is impossible to put into words the life of someone like John. To know him was to love him. He was a man of many talents, many friends, and much faith.

John's greatest talent was with music. He began playing guitar at age 12. He played mostly by ear after his lessons in his younger years. He played the guitar, drums, harmonica, ukulele, and keyboard all by ear. He played Bass in a band named Steel Radio through his college years. They played all over Fort Collins, including the Aggie Theatre. He enjoyed recording and writing music with his cousin, Brady. He loved watching his daughters develop in their musical talents; listening to Myla play the clarinet, playing the ukulele with Sylvie, and Laira on the vocals. He listened to all genres and had a wide

depth of knowledge about music. He loved listening to, talking about, and playing all kinds.

Hunting was a great passion of his. John said he hunted “anything with wings.” He treasured all of his sunrises with family and friends—waiting for “shooting time.” John married into the right family! He enjoyed hunting with all of his in-laws, especially the annual pheasant hunt in November. John’s best hunting buddy was his pride and joy, a black lab named Duke. They had hundreds of hunts together. Duke would wake him up at 4am and cry the whole way to the hunt. They had a strong bond and Duke was a big part of John’s life.

He also loved to fish, snowboard, and golf. He spent many of his college days at Big Sky Resort (MT) and Copper Mountain (CO). He loved golfing at the Country Club with his wife, the men of St. Joseph, and other friends.

John had many other talents and interests. He had a knack for finding arrowheads along the South Platte River. He inherited a green thumb from his maternal grandmother, Doris and mother, Janene, and enjoyed growing plants and trees. When he married Brooklyn, he had a banana tree-that grew bananas and a papaya tree-that grew papayas in the living room. He served on the board for the Museum of Art Fort Collins, including a few years as President. He designed a mask for several years for their annual fundraiser, MASKS. He enjoyed adventures and traveling, especially to places where he could use his second language of Spanish. He usually earned a nickname when traveling for being the life of the party, his best known were Dr. John, Big Hawaiian John, and Juan Loco. He had a deep respect for nature and loved the ocean. His favorite place to go was Maui, it held a special place in his heart with many memories. When traveling he always loved going to the local Catholic Mass and taking his girls to the gift shop.

John started working at Dellenbach Motors at age 13, and worked his way up over the years. He started mowing and pulling weeds, he then moved onto the wash bay. During college summer breaks, he worked as a Service Advisor. After college he made his way through the ranks starting in Sales, then a Finance Manager, Cadillac Sales Manager, Subaru Sales Manager, finally, he became the General Manager for Subaru in 2022. John created an atmosphere of strong morals, work ethic, philanthropy and created many long-term relationships. John was a pillar at the Dealership and will be greatly missed by employees and customers.

John was married to his beautiful bride, Brooklyn, for 17 years. God was working through John and Brooklyn's life. They actually met when John was 6 at St. Joseph Catholic School. They started dating at age 21. Their first date was attending a B.B. King concert, where they got on the tour bus and John got his guitar signed by B.B. King. They were married at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Fort Collins in 2007. They have been blessed with three beautiful daughters: Myla (12), Sylvie (10), and Laira (8). John loved his girls; he thrived and was proud of being a "girl dad." He was the fun dad who liked helping them with their school projects, playing hair salon, playing Mass, sports, painting, and even built them a lego room. He wrote songs with them, musically jammed with them, and shot BB guns with them. He took them to the father-daughter dances and attended all of their games. He loved them for who they were and all of their uniqueness. Each of the girls hold many gifts from John. He never missed a night praying "Angel of God" with his girls and wife. He was here for a short time of their lives, but left them with enough love and memories for a lifetime.

John was always a practicing Catholic, but God used his cancer diagnosis and suffering as a means to draw him deeper into his faith. John experienced an incredible peace within him. God gave John a special grace to develop a

profound, living faith. John surrendered completely to God, knowing how short life is on earth. He realized that he really wanted to be with God forever in Heaven, so he took everything to a deeper level in his heart. He began to pray daily the "Surrender Novena", the St. Peregrine Chaplet, and many other prayers and devotions. He prayed at least one Rosary every day and developed a special love for Our Lady of Guadalupe. He began to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy often, attended Confession ("tribunal of mercy") frequently and many daily Masses. He joined a men's Bible study that met every Monday morning. He gave to various charities to have Masses offered for others. He maintained a demeanor of serenity and peace throughout his sufferings and treatments. John handled his diagnosis with amazing grace. He was always so grateful to his doctors, nurses, and anyone taking care of him. Even through his final hours, he always said "thank you," and greeted everyone with a smile. He was kind to the core and that really shined when he was faced with incredible trials.

John is survived and adored by his wife, Brooklyn, and daughters, Myla, Sylvie, and Laira, parents, Mike and Janene Dellenbach, sister Mary (Dan) Jackson, sister Haley (Troy) Sauvageau, in-laws Kevin and Judy LaFleur, brother in law Kevin (Tony) LaFleur, brother in law Dan (Joni) LaFleur. He had 8 nieces and nephews who he treasured and found so fun; Ava Jackson, Kyler Sauvageau, Zach Jackson, Adelyn Sauvageau, Grant LaFleur, Jack LaFleur, Hutch Sauvageau, and Emmerson LaFleur. He is also survived by many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends that were like family.

John's life will be celebrated with a Rosary/Vigil Service beginning at 6:00pm, Friday, August 16, 2024 at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Parish, Fort Collins. Mass of Christian Burial will be held the next day at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, August 17, 2024 at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Parish, followed by Interment at Grandview Cemetery. Reception to follow at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Hall.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Joseph Catholic School, Pathways Hospice, and Ducks, Unlimited.

# Previous Events

## **Rosary and Vigil**

AUG **16.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (MT)

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Parish Church  
5450 S Lemay Avenue  
Fort Collins , CO 80525

## **Mass of Christian Burial**

AUG **17.** 10:00 AM (MT)

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Parish Church  
5450 S Lemay Avenue  
Fort Collins , CO 80525

# Tribute Wall



“ *I'm so sorry to read about John's passing. My sincerest sympathies to Brooklyn, Myla, Sylvie, Laira and all of the extended family. I was so blessed to meet John & Brooklyn while we were travelling around Europe in 2009. They then welcomed me into their home when I was passing through Denver later the same year. John took us out on the boat and taught me beer pong with some of his friends. Brooklyn took me for my first Walmart experience that same weekend and we all had a great laugh having drinks at the Colorado Brewery. My travels took me further away and the last 15 years have passed so quickly. I often think and talk about my travels and the amazing people I met, not least of all John & Brooklyn. I remember John's laugh, his mischievous grin and his bravery at trying Vegemite for the first time but mostly I remember his love for Brooklyn and the amazing life they were creating together. Sending you all loving thoughts and prayers from Australia. Rest in peace John.*

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**Deb Wills-Wright** - October 07, 2024 at 05:43 AM



“ *Our hearts go out to all the Dellenbach family over this sad loss. Jacki & Jay Witlen*

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**Jacki Witlen** - September 02, 2024 at 02:32 PM

LH

“ It was my privilege to get to know and work with John as he was Chair of the Board of the Museum of Art Fort Collins from 2016-2021.

*It is no easy task to helm an arts non profit, especially through the pandemic, but John handled his tenure as Board leader with what I think of as his core characteristics: with calmness, thoughtfulness, grace, vision, wit and steadiness.*

*He was truly generous in every interaction – I never saw him frustrated or flustered- but strived to find a solution to every intractable problem that presented itself.*

*To his family: you raised and nurtured an incredible man – with deep values and faith, who lived for his family but gave so much to his community as well. Please know that the time that you shared him with us was not wasted even though it took him away from you- he was such a good and steadfast leader and I trusted him as a co-pilot to help lead and strengthen our museum.*

*I am grateful that I could connect with John over our shared love of the arts, whether that was visual art or music. He gave so much of himself to his family, to his work, to his community.*

*John- we love you and honor your extraordinary life and will miss you deeply.*

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**Lisa Hatchadoorian** - August 18, 2024 at 05:32 PM

BP

“ I had the good fortune of knowing John thru his sister Mary who played softball with a team I was coaching. He served as an honorary bat boy, and just really kept everything stirred up. He was always at practices and keeping his eye on Mary and critiquing her play. My deepest condolences go too Mike and Janene, Mary, Haley and all of his immediate family. He was a special person, with a unique character and smile.



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**Barry Peterson** - August 16, 2024 at 06:58 PM

ZS

“ I was lucky enough to meet John when I moved to a new neighborhood in 6th grade. I was a shy kid, but took to John and his wonderful family instantly. We spent the formative summers of our youth fishing, building terribly unsafe boats to “sail” on the local lake, interviewing elderly neighbors for our neighborhood newspaper, raking leaves, racing go karts, inventing dangerous games, floating rafts under Drake to Lake Sherwood, and generally causing chaos as only young men can. By the time we got to High School, I was neither shy or timid. I will always thank John for that confidence. As the years passed, we drifted apart, as many people do, but those years and those adventures were among the most formative and powerful parts of my youth. John had an incredible ability to convince you to be as brave or as adventurous as he was, and those beliefs stick with you forever. John was so important to so many people. He will be forever missed.

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**Zach Schroeder** - August 16, 2024 at 12:16 AM

CS

“ My best memories of John were during his high school years at FCHS. John had a personality and sense of humor that would bring a smile to everyone’s face. He was the type of person you’d always want to be around because of his cheerful personalty and positive demeanor. John was caring, kind, and compassionate. He left an indelible mark on my life. I’m grateful for the time I had with John.  
My heartfelt condolences to his family.

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**Chris S** - August 15, 2024 at 10:00 PM

CK

“ John and I spent our early teens together through middle school and a year of high school. He was a lot of fun to be around and would always make me laugh. Our lives went different directions, and I only saw him a few times in adulthood but he will be missed. I was telling stories to my wife about hanging with John when we were younger and it makes her smile. My condolences to him and his family. Sad day for sure. My he rest in peace and know he brought a lot of positivity and humor to everyone around him.

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**Cody Keller** - August 15, 2024 at 06:05 PM

AS

“ John was always the light in the group when I was around him. He was my band mate in college, and we went through an adventure with music and friendship that shaped my life and I still think about all the time. He's the one that made everything possible, brought the group together, smoothed over any squabbles and brought joy whenever he was around. Hi laughter was contagious. Words can't express. I miss you brother. Sending love to his family and friends, I'm so sorry for your loss.



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**Alex Schuknecht** - August 15, 2024 at 11:54 AM

SC

*What a very special man of great faith, courage, a man with endless love given to whomever needed it the most. Brooklyn and your daughter were the apple of his eye and nothing seemed to ever be too much. I felt privileged to have been invited to your wedding. It seems it was just yesterday. John's eyes just sparkled when talking about Brooklyn. Brooklyn hold that though as you grieve his loss, but realize he is with the Lord he longed for and lived with in his heart that caught your heart, too. I love you, sending prayers to ease the pain of your broken heart! Peace, Sister Carolyn*

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**sister Carolyn Hoying, CPPS** - August 17, 2024 at 10:27 AM

JL

“ There are not enough words to properly describe what a good, generous, and faith-filled man John was. I was at a family wedding with John last year while he was going through treatment and he said his feet were like walking on glass but he danced with his wife and beautiful daughters for hours. I don't think I saw him come off the dance floor so he could spend time with them. That's the kind of husband and father John was. So many examples for so little space. One of a kind!

*Uncle Joe LaFleur*

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**Joe LaFleur** - August 15, 2024 at 10:43 AM

CP

“ So very sorry to hear this news. Sincere condolences to Mike, Janene, and all of the wonderful Dellenbach family.

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**Chuck Panella** - August 15, 2024 at 10:26 AM

DM

“ Janene and Mike,  
We were so sorry to learn of the loss of your son. Our hearts go out to you and we hope fond, loving memories of John bring not only peace, but joy in re-living the best of times.  
Warm regards, Debbie and Jeff McCubbin

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**Deborah Bird McCubbin** - August 15, 2024 at 09:42 AM

NL

“ I was so sorry to hear about John. He was such a great guy and will be missed. I always enjoyed our conversations over the years and always left feeling better than when I walked in. He was always so positive and caring. My thoughts and prayers are with the entire family.

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**Nancy Lindholm** - August 15, 2024 at 08:46 AM

DS

“ We knew John as an elementary student at Saint Joseph's. He was in our daughter, Jessica's, class. In addition to being a wonderful young man, he managed to be the one to physically support our daughter with periodic dizzy spells she would experience while standing for some of the religious observances. Always there to support and help our daughter, that's the John we knew and loved.

*He was a wonderful blessing.  
Dennis & Sue Sumner*

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**Dennis Sumner** - August 14, 2024 at 11:09 PM

NS

*Dear Janene & Mike, we have such fond memories of John in Hawaii and at our Christmas"craft group. parties. What a kind young man you two raised! Our hearts are breaking for yours. With love and abundant prayers, John & Nanc*

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**Nancy Sanker** - August 16, 2024 at 10:40 PM

CS

“ John and I where talking at the golf course about the time he got his truck stuck in the Poudre River and ruined the engine. We got a good laugh about how long it took him to pay that mistake off.

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**Craig Schmillen** - August 14, 2024 at 09:47 PM

BC

“ I am sorry to learn of John's passing. I loved having John in class with me in high school. He definitely lit up the rooms and halls of FCHS with humor. Our family is sending positive thoughts to his family.

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**Bennett Colvin** - August 14, 2024 at 07:16 PM

SJ

“ Such a great guy has left us too soon. I will always remember our trip to Whistler as that was such a great time full of laughter and celebration. I am very sad to hear the news. Rest in peace, John.

Steve Jones - August 14, 2024 at 04:37 PM

AV

John was a great husband, father, and man. I know this because I had the honor of meeting him on a few occasions. And I am friends with his amazing wife, Brooklyn. John and Brooklyn's three daughters are just as beautiful and sweet as their parents ❤️ and I know they will miss their daddy tremendously. What a huge loss for John's family and friends. For all of us. Rest in Peace, John ❤️

Amy W Vandegrift - August 14, 2024 at 11:36 PM

MB

“ We are so sorry to know about his passing . I will never forget how welcoming and good hearted John was when I first went to buy my first car. Been from another country, he welcome me!! He will be always remember by our family.  
Our condolences to all the Dellenbach family.  
Richard and Maria Bush

Maria Belem Bush - August 14, 2024 at 04:29 PM

JA

“ So sorry to hear about John. He was a great guy - always had a smile and always had a positive attitude. I enjoyed working with him. My condolences go out to his entire family.  
Jim Addleman

Jim Addleman - August 14, 2024 at 03:20 PM

ES

“ I’m very sorry to hear about the passing of John he was a great friend and High school Class mate of mine. Prayers to the family doring this tough time.

Erik Sampson - August 14, 2024 at 02:52 PM



“ I’m very sorry to hear about John’s passing. He was such a fun classmate and CCD mate, and even though it’s been years since I’ve seen him, he will be greatly missed.

Davin Dearth - August 14, 2024 at 01:55 PM

JA

“ We are so sad to hear of John D’s passing. Please accept our sympathy. May you feel God’s presence supporting you. Peace, Rod and Janie Arndt

Janie Arndt - August 14, 2024 at 09:32 AM

DC

“ I am so sorry to hear this news. I was John’s assistant principal during his junior and senior high days. He was one of my favorite kiddos. There are no words to describe the hole left by John’s passing.

Dr. Dierdre Cook - August 14, 2024 at 09:10 AM

CS

“ We are so sorry to hear this news. John and Brooklyn were good friendly neighbors of ours in Stanton Creek. Our thoughts and prayers are with Brooklyn and the family.

Cliff and Eran Skrdlant

Cliff Skrdlant - August 14, 2024 at 08:24 AM

TM

“ My connection with John was very special to me. He always greeted me with a big smile and always asked how my wife Victoria was doing. John had a big heart and cared about everyone. I feel for his family in this difficult time. I have lost a few family members lately and I can say with all my heart I have lost another with John's passing. He was a beautiful soul. And Victoria and I are missing him already. God bless my friend and familia Dellenbach.

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**Toby Medina** - August 13, 2024 at 10:21 PM



“ John and I would chat about music at the dealership whenever I was in the area and he always gave me great advice. He was such a talented musician but his family came first.

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**Martin Manweiler** - August 13, 2024 at 06:37 PM

RH

“ I was impressed with John's work ethic and Christian integrity, but more important than that was his love for his family. We can take comfort in knowing that his pain is over and he is in heaven with his Grandparents.

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**Ron Heusinkveld** - August 13, 2024 at 06:26 PM