



Dr. John R. Morella, Sr.

July 2, 1941 - April 25, 2019

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, June 8, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. at Martin & Castille's La Fleur de Lis Chapel located at 600 E. Farrel Rd., Lafayette, Louisiana 70508 for Dr. John R. Morella, Sr., age 77, who passed away on Thursday, April 25, 2019 at his second home in Cypress, Texas surrounded by his loving family.

Father James Brady, JCL, Pastor of St. Pius X Catholic Church, will conduct the service.

John is survived by his daughter, Deneen Weatherly, her son Bryce Martin and her partner Steve Gibson. His son, John R. Morella, Jr., his wife, Chalet along with their daughters, Madeline and Victoria, his brother Joe Morella and his wife Tonia, and his sisters-in-law Mary Lena Morella and Jane Webb Bloomer. John is also survived by many nieces and nephews who he mentored throughout his life as if they were his own.

He was preceded in death by his wife, best friend and love of his life for 53 years, Charlene Webb Morella, his parents Joseph and Lena Morella, his brothers Sam Morella, Anthony Morella and his wife Marie, and sister Sadie Guarisco and her husband Pete.

Dr. Morella was a native of Patterson, Louisiana and a resident of Lafayette, Louisiana for most of his life. He was born on July 2, 1941 into a prideful Italian-American family of immigrant parents with five children. He attended Patterson High where he was a proud Lumberjack. John was passionate about playing football and baseball and lettered in all sports. He was also voted Best Dressed as his father owned the only clothing store in town, J. Morella and Sons. He also served as an alter boy for many years at St. Joseph Church. He attended college at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where he fell in love and got married in 1963 to "his Charlene". He was very active in college and served as president of the Psychology Club, Psi Chi a national honorary Psychology Fraternity, a member of the Sociology and Newman Clubs, a Representative of the College of Liberal Arts and a member of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society. Upon graduation he went on to receive his Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Oklahoma and began his sixteen-year career of teaching in 1966 as a professor at Northeast Louisiana State

College and in 1975 at the University of Southwestern Louisiana. His passion as a board-licensed Psychologist was private practice where he founded Lafayette Psychology Center along with Dr. Maureen Brennan and Dr. Larry Benoit. He provided professional services to the public for over twenty years specializing in children and adolescents. He also held numerous consulting positions as well as founded the first video store in Lafayette, Video Showcase. Upon his retirement he continued his teaching career at South Louisiana Community College and was awarded the outstanding adjunct instructor by the National Institute for Staff and Organization Development, University of Texas, Austin in 2007. During his retirement, he turned his energy to writing, publishing several fiction and nonfiction magazine articles, most notable in Angels on Earth, a division of Guideposts. His first book, A Guide for Effective Psychotherapy was published in 2006. He wrote his final book in 2009 entitled Give Teens a Break!

John was a loving and devoted husband to his wife Charlene. She was his soul mate. He was also a wonderful father, grandfather, brother and uncle who will be remembered for his many years of wisdom and guidance he so loved to give to his family and friends. John was very blessed by many dear lifelong friends who shared his love for life and family, Lucia and Don Carter, Glenva and Jay Thompson, Fred and Patricia Reggie and numerous others.

The family requests that visitation be observed in Martin & Castille's SOUTHSIDE location on Saturday, June 8 from 10:00 a.m. until time of service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in John Morella's name to The Family Tree Information and Education Center who provides community education and counseling. 1602 W. Pinhook Rd., Suite 100A, Lafayette, LA 70508.

Martin & Castille-SOUTHSIDE-600 E. Farrel Rd., Lafayette, LA 70508, 337-984-2811

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Martin & Castille Funeral Home - May 16 at 10:47 AM



“ 147 files added to the album LifeTributes



Martin & Castille Funeral Home - May 16 at 09:37 AM



“ 12 files added to the tribute wall



deneen weatherly - May 14 at 02:31 PM



“ John was my good friend for over 40 years.
He set an example in his marriage, his professional integrity, and his giving nature. He always spoke with pride and a smile of Deneen and Johnny.
I love and miss this guy.... Jay Thompson

John Thompson - May 05 at 07:00 PM



“ Thank you Jay. He loved you.

Deneen - May 14 at 01:54 PM



“ Johnny and I were classmates and although we went our separate ways after graduating from PHS in 1959, I will never forget him. We were a small, but close group that bonded as only those who grew together and befriended each other since Miss Claire taught us could. It’s hard to recall those days without mentioning others, Jerry Guzzino, Dennis Taylor, Dale Rentrop, Jane Marin, Leona May Lipari, and a few others who, like Johnny were my family growing up in Patterson. Such a man of accomplishment! RIP, my friend.

Leona Lee - May 02 at 01:54 PM



“ Deneen and Johnny, my heart and prayers go out to you, the kids and your family. D...I remember it like it was yesterday. We were in 5th grade when y'all moved into the neighborhood. Your dad was like a second dad to me from then on. He was always there to lend a ear and dole out advice that we not always necessarily wanted. He tried for years to psychoanalyze us to no avail. He even admitted we had eluded his higher educational background and years of experience. A not so quiet victory we celebrated at his expense every chance we got. This went on through college and into our adult lives. He passed on to me much wisdom, compassion and love. Loudan grew to love and respect him just as much. It did my heart good to see my son be able to sit with him and casually discuss teen and world issues without feeling "weird". I will forever be grateful for his support for Loudan and I when we lost Johnny. It was unwavering! The world has lost a great father, grandfather, teacher, and friend to many. I will miss you Papa John but I know you and Mama C are together again, the way it should be. All my love!

Sandra Muncy Vines - May 02 at 10:44 AM



“ Sandra, you brought tears to my eyes. That was a very accurate tribute to my Dad. Love you.

Deneen - May 02 at 11:59 AM



“ Love you my bestie!!!

Sandra Muncy Vines - May 02 at 12:03 PM



“ Sorry for the loss of your Father Johnny and Deneen - and also to all extended family. From the stories I heard over the years, it seems as though he was a very wonderful and intelligent man. Love to you all x x x

The Workman Family

angela workman - May 02 at 10:33 AM



“ Deneen Weatherly is following this tribute.

Deneen Weatherly - May 02 at 09:38 AM



“ Thank you Angela and all the Workmans!

Deneen - May 02 at 12:00 PM



“ Deneen and John, and grandkids, my heart and prayers are with you during this time of grief. Your Dad was amazing! With love, Shaun Romero-Godshall

Shaun Romero-Godshall - April 26 at 04:19 PM



“ Thank you Shaun.

Deneen Weatherly - April 30 at 11:42 AM



“ I just found out this morning of the passing of my former boss, of many years, Dr. Morella. My prayers are with his two beautiful children, grandchildren and extended family. Dr. Morella taught me so much about life and how to manage a good office. I'm sure he is happy now to be with his wonderful wife, Charlene. He was the best. God Bless You.

Bernice Bellard
Lafayette, Louisiana

Bernice Bellard - April 26 at 12:26 PM



“ Thank you Bernice.

Deneen Weatherly - April 30 at 11:42 AM



“ Deneen and Johnny my thoughts and prayers are for you and your family with the loss of your Dad. From the days we lived next door on Highland Drive I thought a lot of your family. John was a good man and i was privileged to know John and Charlene.

Thomas R. Martin - May 15 at 04:53 PM