



John Harry Sofios



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John Harry Sofios

John Harry Sofios, 80, of Antioch, passed away Monday, April 9, 2018. He was born in Bowling Green, Ohio, on May 14, 1937, a son of Greek immigrants. He was preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Helen Sofios and a brother, Ted Sofios.

Upon returning from Germany after serving in the U.S. Army, he began his career working for the East Bay Regional Park District. He retired as Supervisor of Briones Park in 1999 and was very proud of his 32 years of service.

During the seventies, he and his brother, Ted, opened a Greek Taverna in Berkeley, called Aitos. There they taught Greek dancing and became very well known in the Bay Area for performing traditional Greek dances.

He was a lover of music, and was an avid Jazz fan, and followed the Oakland and San Francisco Jazz scene for many years.

John loved people and most of the time was the life of the party. He would go out of his way to talk to strangers. Sometimes this act alone led to lifetime friendships. He was loved deeply by his family and friends and will be missed.

He is survived by his wife of 27 years, Kay Sofios, his daughter, Nicole and son-in-law, Dean Miller, and step-daughter, Robyn Wood.

He is also survived by brothers, Nicholas Sofios and wife Virginia of Rhode Island, Chuck Sofios and wife Sandy of Michigan, sisters-in-law

and brother-in-law, Sylvia and Lamar Brown, and Joyceanne Williams of Georgia.

Nieces and nephews, Jim and Nancy Sofios and children Nick & Nicole, Alysia Sofios, Evangeline Johnson and children Erin and Christopher, Kim Hersch, Gregory Sofios and Melissa Mudgett,

Stephanie and Jon Kirwan and daughter Nicolette, Scott Williams and son Brandon, Adam Brown, Kari & Greg Sostrom and sons, Tyler, Cody, and Jordan.

Goddaughter Mimi Mantalvanos and special cousins, Peggy and Jimmy Tanaka.

Services are Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 1:00 at Chapel of the Chimes, 4499



Obituary

John Harry Sofios

Piedmont Avenue, Oakland, CA. There will be a visitation in the chapel from 4:00-7:00 on Tuesday, April 17.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations for a bench in Briones Park, Martinez, CA, to honor John.

<https://www.gofundme.com/johns-memorial-bench>



Tribute Wall

John Harry Sofios

KL

Kent Lambert posted:

Well I doubt that any family member will ever see this post since John passed away more than 4 years ago, but what the heck. I looked him up on the internet today since the prompt for my Storyworth submission this week was "What was your first boss like?" Here is what I wrote about John: What was your first boss like? My first job was working for the East Bay Regional Park District at the swim lagoon at Cull Canyon Reservoir (the same lagoon I referenced in an earlier post concerning late-night skinny-dipping adventures 😊). I was fifteen or sixteen years old, and I made a whopping \$3.25 per hour as a Recreation Attendant. I sold entry tickets and hot dogs and brand-new ice cream treat called "Its It". My first boss was the Park Supervisor John Sofios. John was responsible for the entire park, so I did not have a ton of contact with him, but there are two things that I recall distinctly. Every summer he threw a huge party for friends and family. John was Greek and I can still recall the delicious smell of roasting goat at the picnic. There was also plenty of music and laughter at these affairs, and I admired him for being the centerpiece of such a grand gathering. The second memory that I have of John is when he showed me the easiest way to load a wheelbarrow into the back of a truck. In case you have never attempted this act, it can be a little awkward and you may even tweak your back if you do it wrong. The trick, as John showed me, is to flip the wheelbarrow upside down with the two handles straddling your legs while you grasp the wheelbarrow feet with your hands. Then with the back lip of the tub leveraged against your thighs you simply lift and lean backwards slightly until the front lip is high enough to clear the height of the truck bed. You can then push forward with your hands and your thigh as it slides easily into the bed. Reverse the order for unloading. I enjoy sharing this technique with folks as we work together, and I try to always give credit to my first boss John Sofios for teaching it to me almost 50 years ago. Thanks John, and I am hoping you would forgive me and my friends for the late-night visits to the lagoon! Kent Lambert

November 3 at 4:26 PM

PH

Percy Millet And Wife Shelley Hart posted:

We will miss you so very much. Goodbye old friend

April 17 at 7:56 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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