



John C. Salerno

May 23, 1949 - December 25, 2015

Dr. John C. Salerno, Professor of Biology and Chemistry and Neel Chair at Kennesaw State University, passed away December 25 after a long illness.

Dr. Salerno, born in Troy, NY, was a graduate of MIT and the University of Pennsylvania, and had previously retired from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where he was a professor and former chair of the Biology Department. Dr. Salerno was eminent in his field, being authored on over 200 scientific publications, including fundamental discoveries in spectroscopy and enzymology. He mentored many young scientists and co-founded New Echota Biotech. John was a musician of exceptional ability and enthusiasm. In better health, he was an avid athlete, beginning with his high school track team and continuing in many forms throughout his life. He took great pleasure in reading and writing short stories and novels.

John is survived by his children Kathleen Bartlow (Jordan), John Salerno, Elena Salerno, and Louis W. Salerno; his wife Susan Smith; his siblings Charles Salerno (Kathy), Anina Salerno-Aita (Fred), Louis B. Salerno (Donna), James Salerno, and Colleen Salerno-Prescott (Jeremy); and his nieces, nephews, aunts, cousins and friends.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in loving memory of John to the American Cancer Society, 1825 Barrett Lakes Blvd #280, Kennesaw, GA 30144, to the American Heart Association, 1101 Northchase Pkwy Ste. 1, Marietta, GA 30067, or to Doctors without Borders, PO Box 5030, Hagerstown, MD 21741.

A viewing is scheduled for 3-5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 29, at Mayes Ward-Dobbins Funeral Home in Marietta, GA, followed by a brief service. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, December 30, at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Marietta, GA.

www.mayeswarddobbins.com

770-428-1511

Events

DEC

29

Visitation

03:00PM - 05:00PM

Historic Marietta Chapel

180 Church Street NE, Marietta, GA, US, 30060

DEC

30

Funeral Mass

10:00AM

St. Joseph Catholic Church

87 Lacy Street, Marietta, GA, US, 30060

Comments



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I just found this site.

John's death came as a shock to us in the Biology Department at RPI where John taught for many years. John was the one responsible for hiring me into the department. I will never forget the kindness and the enthusiasm he expressed for me. He was the main reason I got the job, and the main reason I took it. We worked together for many years and had many great conversation in the long 3rd floor hallway of the Jonsson-Rowland Science Center where John would punctuate his comments by sliding a penny down the hall. The made a small cheer if it went all the way to the end. John was a character who will never be forgotten by those who knew him and worked with him. I am sad that he is gone, and my heart goes out to Susan and the kids.

--Chris Bystroff

Chris Bystroff - February 17, 2016 at 10:44 AM



“

Dr. Salerno, as I always referred to him, advised me during my doctoral years at RPI. Our lab was few doors down from his and I saw him almost every day. After graduating, I often dropped by until he moved away from RPI. He was always gracious with his time and I greatly appreciated his humor and welcoming nature. Looking back, I realize that over the years, I've spent countless hours in his office discussing everything from protein biochemistry to history to patent law issues to academia. Each time I left his office, I was blown away by his brilliance and analysis. Decades later, I can unequivocally say that he was one of the smartest humans I have ever met or worked with. Clearly, his contributions to biochemistry speak for themselves. I will miss him both personally and professionally. Dr. Laurie Graham, a fellow graduate student with me at RPI is correct in noting: it is a sad day for science.



Raj Bawa - February 02, 2016 at 01:15 PM



“ John, Dr. Salerno back then, was my mentor and Ph.D. adviser at RPI. He instilled in me a passion for research science that I still carry today. I fondly remember our discussions about research, him sitting with his feet up on the counter and yellow legal pad in hand. Although we did not stay in touch I have enjoyed following his research through out the years. What a sad day for science. My heart goes out to his family and friends.

Laurie Graham - January 26, 2016 at 03:50 PM



“ I am so very saddened to hear of John Salerno's passing. John always took the time to converse with me as we crossed paths in the halls of KSU. I enjoyed each and every one of our many conversations. He will be remembered and missed. --Deayne Johnson



Deayne Johnson - January 14, 2016 at 08:51 AM



“ My condolences to John's family. John was a second cousin, his father Chuckie being my first cousin. John's grandfather was married to a Sanzo. I'm sorry for your loss.

Tony Sanzo
Dennis, Ma.

tony sanzo - January 02, 2016 at 07:58 PM



“ Love Stacey, Bob, Patrick, Diana, Noel, and Grant Bartlow purchased the Adoration Casket Spray for the family of John C. Salerno.



Love Stacey, Bob, Patrick, Diana, Noel, and Grant Bartlow - December 29, 2015 at 02:22 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of John C. Salerno.



December 29, 2015 at 11:24 AM



“ Sara Dixon Feathers & Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of John C. Salerno.



Sara Dixon Feathers & Family - December 29, 2015 at 11:13 AM



“ John was an incredibly intelligent human being in so many respects. Of course he was brilliant in his field, but he also had amazing interpersonal skills and could connect with people on a personal level. He was a valued colleague for over 11 years and I will miss him tremendously. Whenever you needed someone to dive into a project (institutional grant proposal, take over a class), John would step in and shepherd it to completion. KSU as a whole and his college in particular will feel his absence for a long time.

Carolyn Elliott-Farino

Carolyn Elliott-Farino - December 29, 2015 at 10:21 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John C. Salerno.



December 29, 2015 at 02:45 AM



“ A great tragedy...for the family and mankind. Aunt Cindy Bayly Dixon

Aunt Bayly Dixon - December 28, 2015 at 09:08 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John C. Salerno.



December 28, 2015 at 03:26 PM



“ 83 files added to the album LifeTributes



Mayes Ward-Dobbins Funeral Home - December 28, 2015 at 02:24 PM



“ i'm at a loss for words.john was a great guy and will be greatly missed. cousin dave and family

cousin dave and vicki - December 28, 2015 at 02:15 PM



“ I have very fond memories of John when he was a graduate student at U Penn and when he was an independent scientist. As a former teacher, I was very proud of his professional achievements. His early work on the effects of distributed parameters on EPR line shapes was superb. John had a wonderful sense of humor and never took himself too seriously. He was a great friend. I will miss him greatly.

George Reed
Professor Emeritus
Biochemistry
UW-Madison

George Reed - December 28, 2015 at 02:14 PM



“ Best regards Dipak and Family. purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of John C. Salerno.



Best regards Dipak and Family. - December 28, 2015 at 11:24 AM