



John Charles Amoruso

February 1, 1949 - September 15, 2018

It is with great sorrow that the family of John Amoruso announces his passing. After a long battle with cancer John passed away on September 15, 2018 at the age of 69. He was preceded in death by his father Philip Elmer Amoruso and mother Doris Edna Amoruso. He is survived by his sister Janet Stephens and his brother Jerry Amoruso, his children and their spouses Corey Amoruso (wife, Trista), Lydia Lenoir (husband, Matthew), and Edison Amoruso, as well as his two grandsons Ryker Amoruso and Kane Lenoir.

John was born on February 1, 1949 at St. Joseph Memorial Hospital in Vancouver, WA. He graduated from Clover Park High School in 1967 and would later go on to graduate from Washington State University in Pullman with a Bachelor of Arts in 1977 and again in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science. He spent four years in the United States Army working in pharmacies and hospitals across Europe, serving most of his time in Germany. Upon returning to the United States and graduating from WSU John worked as a pharmacist for Payless Pharmacy, Hi-School Pharmacy, and Walgreens. John loved his profession and his customers and in his later years often reflected on his time spent with Hi-School Pharmacy.

John was an avid outdoorsman and loved both fishing and hunting. If John was not at work there was a good chance he was on his boat fishing. He loved taking his children to Lake Merwin to fish for kokanee and go inner

tubing in the summer months.

He will be greatly missed but his memory will live on through his children, grandchildren and all those who knew him.

Any donations in honor of John could go to the WSU College of Pharmacy.

Tribute Wall

JD

“ *John and I were buddies at wsu 1975 and 1976*

John dolan - May 28, 2025 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ *John and I were buddies at education 197576*

John dolan - May 28, 2025 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ *I became aware of John's passing today while reading Washington State Magazine. John and I started Pharmacy School together in the fall of 1980. We both had previously earned degrees at WSU thus were a few years older than most of our classmates. The memories I have read here are very much the same I remember sharing with John. As a break from studies we spent many hours chasing quail, partridge, and pheasant all over the Palouse hills. When hunting with John your chance of bringing home birds was increased due to his skill and knowledge of the sport and the fact that he had a good bird dog. To me John was a gentle giant and a good friend. Rich Grillo, Cle Elum*

Rich Grillo - August 09, 2019 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Tribute Store - October 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ I've been John's friend for 56 years. We've shared many memories, some sad but most very happy. It's difficult to narrow 56 years of friendship to one or two written remembrances. We shared many stories. Two friends whose bond with each other was deep and abiding. Our friendship is one that doesn't come along easy or often. We were able to say, "You are my friend," which denotes trust, acceptance and commitment. As friends we were able to stand by one another no matter what. Rocky Armfield

Rocky Armfield - October 04, 2018 at 12:00 AM

MQ

“ I met John Amoruso in the fall of 1969 when we both pledged the Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity at WSU. That would have been enough to make us lifelong brothers', but John and I struck up a special bond that would last the rest of his life. One of the first things that drew me to John was his easy to laugh manner and love of the outdoors. We shared many days hunting birds and deer around Pullman. If it had anything to do with going out in the field John was all in. He must have loved the chase because we hardly ever got anything. John was not a complex person. What you saw was what you got. He was a physical presence in his prime and loved to wrestle with many of us in the Fraternity and, unfortunately many of his dates. But he was unabashedly loyal and traditional, opening doors and pulling the chairs out for his girlfriends and quick to your defense when you needed it. If stubborn were a requirement for surviving at WSU, John had it in spades. John decided he wanted to become a pharmacist, but WSU wasn't so sure and kept rejecting him whenever he applied to the school of pharmacy. They didn't know who they were dealing with. Long after most of us had graduated John was still at school trying to get into the school of pharmacy. When they realized they couldn't win, John was admitted? For whatever reason John was one of those people who was perfectly suited for the field of pharmacy and a career as a pharmacist. None of us could really understand it but it was true. His gregarious demeanor and expertise in pharmaceuticals earned him the respect and friendship of many of his customers. It was hard to believe it when John first shared the news with me about his battle with a glioblastoma (brain cancer). He was so full of life and strong, it just didn't seem possible. The doctors told him to get his affairs in order, that he had only a few months left to live. That was more than 12 years ago. Again, they didn't know who they were dealing with. The disease finally stole John's career, and as the years went by, more and more of his independence. It couldn't take his fondness for gambling however. That's when Charlie Synder (another fraternity brother) and I started making trips to Vancouver to haul John out to various casinos to do some gambling. Whether it was the La Center Tribal Casino or the new one at Ilani, John loved it. While John was

still able to play blackjack, the dealers were gracious, and patient as were the other players around the table. They could see John was disabled from illness and after we explained what he had been through, they did everything in their power to help him win, which he did over and over. If Charlie or I played we lost. But John always won. Nowhere was this truer than at the new Ilani Casino along I-5 north of Vancouver. By this time, John could no longer play blackjack, but he loved to play the mega millions meltdown slots and one machine in particular. We took John there at least four times and he won over \$5000. Charlie and I never won and were humbled into just cashing John's receipts and keeping him company and hydrated with water and mountain dew. Since he was the only winner, we started letting him buy the lunches. John really didn't care about winning or losing as much as just getting out, especially as his disease progressed. Rocky Armfield, one of John's closest friends was able to join us for one of John's last trips to Ilani. My wife Paula, who was very close to John, Charlie and I got to see John a couple days before his journey ended. Although he was bedridden and unable to communicate verbally, he knew we were there. He rolled onto his side, listened and smiled when we played one of his most favorite songs, Bob Lind's "Elusive Butterfly" from 1966. The song is adapted from a poem that heralds the joy we feel when we're chasing something. Two days later Rocky Armfield texted me that John's journey had ended, and he was with God. I am not particularly religious, but Paula and I were driving in Olympia at the time and before Paula finished reading Rocky's text message, Bob Lind's "Elusive Butterfly" came on the radio. Stop running John, you made it. Perhaps our paths will cross again some time distant. Until then we'll miss you dearly good friend. Mark and Paula Quinn

Mark and Paula Quinn - October 03, 2018 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ **John Charles Amoruso**

Tribute Store - October 03, 2018 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Tribute Store - October 02, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Tribute Store - September 30, 2018 at 12:00 AM