



John D. Demler

December 19, 1956 - August 25, 2025

John David Demler, 68, passed away on August 25, 2025 at Buffalo General Hospital from complications following a courageous 15-year battle with Multiple Myeloma.

At the moment of his passing, John was welcomed into the arms of his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, surrounded by his loving children: Helen (Kyle) Dennis, Jacob Demler, Zachary Demler, Isaiah Demler and Naomi (Brandon) Reiter. He is also survived by his first grandchild, Lenore Bernice Dennis.

John was born and raised in North Tonawanda, NY, the only son of Bernice L. (Vogt) Demler and the late Walter H. Demler. He is also survived by his sisters Deborah (Thomas) McCauley, Margaret (John) Pasiak, Maryalice Demler, and Elizabeth Demler as well as 15 nieces and nephews and dozens of cousins.

John was predeceased by his beloved fiancée Donna Jesment Licata, who passed away in September 2024. She was the love of his life, and his true love. Her daughters Andrea Licata, Jenna (James) Ellis, and Ashley (Patrick) Flaherty were also very dear to him. John will be remembered as "Papa" to Donna's cherished grandchildren.

John's pride was his family, but his passion was his 40-year career as a skilled Diesel Mechanic for Ryder System, Inc. where he was widely respected for his expertise, dedication, and professionalism. Over the years, he received numerous commendations and safety awards in recognition of his technical proficiency, exceptional service, and unwavering commitment to his craft. He

was also a 40-year veteran of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Union.

John was a fan of many sports but especially loved cheering on the Buffalo Sabres and Buffalo Bills. He loved the outdoors and enjoyed hunting, camping and helping Donna with their outdoor garden. He spent countless hours tuning up his 1969 Ford Torino Cobra.

Family and friends are invited to call on Saturday, September 6, 2025 from Noon to 3:00pm at Wattengel Funeral Home at 533 Meadow Drive, North Tonawanda, NY 14120. John's funeral service will take place at 3:00pm immediately after calling hours. Private burial alongside Donna Licata will take place at a later date at Cary Cemetery in Oakfield, NY.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, 665 Elm Street, Buffalo, NY 14203. Online guest registry at wattengel.com

Cemetery Details

Cary Cemetery

Oakfield, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 6. 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Wattengel Funeral Home (Meadow Drive)
533 Meadow Drive
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
(716) 693-0440
wattengelfh@gmail.com
<https://www.wattengel.com>

Services

SEP 6. 3:00 PM (ET)

Wattengel Funeral Home (Meadow Drive)
533 Meadow Drive
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
(716) 693-0440
wattengelfh@gmail.com
<https://www.wattengel.com>

Tribute Wall

DG

“ So sorry for your family's loss. May he RIP in the arms of God. Eternal rest grant unto him Lord and let perpetual light shine on him.



dawn grant - September 16, 2025 at 06:35 PM

DM

“ Thoughts and prayers for John's family and friends. I still have a memory of him from so long ago in kindergarten because he was such a nice person. May your memories of him give you comfort always!

Debbie Tontala Mura - September 07, 2025 at 10:45 AM

SR

“ Growing up with the Demler family was an amazing experience for me and I am so sorry for this loss to all of you. John was always so nice and his whole face lit up when he smiled at me. Praying for strength and peace for all of you.

Sandi Franusiak Roe - September 05, 2025 at 11:15 PM

MM

“ So sorry to hear about John. I worked with him for many years when I worked at Lyndonville vinegar/Mizkan and worked at Ryder . He was such a great human being. So sorry for your loss.

Myrtle Merriman - September 05, 2025 at 12:56 PM

KJ

“ My deepest condolences to his entire family, John was an extraordinary colleague and leader whose impact will never be forgotten. His dedication, skill, and quiet strength shaped not only the shops he worked in, but also the people like me that were fortunate enough to work alongside him. His calm presence and steady guidance created an environment where respect, teamwork, and professionalism thrived. John led with example, always fair, always thoughtful, and always committed to doing what was right. His influence will be remembered in the lives he touched and the standard of excellence he leaves behind.
May he rest in peace, Kevin Garvey

Kevin Garvey Jr - September 05, 2025 at 12:36 PM

KE

“ I met John when he started dating my sweet friend Donna. They were so happy through the good and the bad. They were all about family, their children and their grandchildren. I was crushed to hear she passed so quickly, but knowing they're together now for eternity melts my heart. May the best in them shine through their children and grandchildren. We feel blessed to have known them,
Dan and Kelly Bright.

kelly - September 05, 2025 at 09:54 AM

DC

“ My sincerest condolences to the entire family. I had the honor of being John’s Transplant Coordinator through the years. He had such a big personality that I will always remember fondly, he had a way of putting a smile on my face during some of the toughest times and an enduring strength that I will never forget. I will always remember John, and it will be followed with a big smile. May he rest in peace..

Dana Cipolla

Dana Cipolla - September 04, 2025 at 09:57 PM

R(

“ Karen I am so very sorry to read about your brother John, remember all the great things about him! He is one of Jesus ANGELS NOW watching over u and the family. God bless I’ll be praying for u and the family. Robin 🌹❤️💖🙏🙏🙏

robin david. (Hejmanowski) - September 04, 2025 at 09:39 PM