



John Van Clief III

July 27, 1967 - October 23, 2023

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John Van Clief III was born in Brooklyn to Dorothy and John Van Clief, Jr., on July 27, 1967. The family of three moved to Leonia when he was two years old. He attended Anna C. Scott Elementary School and Leonia Middle School, where he was a popular classmate. He was a member of the Cub Scouts and played Little League Baseball and Leonia Recreation Center Basketball among his many activities.

John attended Leonia High School, where he was an engaged student and member of the basketball team all four years. He was a fixture on the basketball court in Wood Park—but once he learned to drive and got hold of the keys to a blue Chevy Chevette, new worlds opened for him and his friends. John was fun to be around because he was so friendly, constantly connecting people and making things happen.

Upon graduating in the Class of 1985, he attended Syracuse University, where he earned a BS and BA degrees in finance and economics. During his time there, he added to his extended friend group and was a founding member of the Sigma Nu fraternity. He furthered his academic pursuits with graduate studies in economics at New York University and Fordham Gabelli School of Business.

In a distinguished career, John held many leadership posts with financial and

investment firms, including Lehman Brothers, Lanyi Research, Legg Mason, Bear Stearns, Matrix Research and Felix Investments. He was also managing partner at Spaha Capital Management and Green Knolls Capital LLC/Ravensbridge Capital LTD.

John married Beth Jarrett, who he met in Syracuse and would become the love of his life, in Nassau, Bahamas, on August, 14, 2004. The two settled in Manhattan for the duration of their time together where they had two sons, John IV (17; known as Jack), and Connor (15). John and Beth have been active members of the community, participating in school events, as well as coaching and cheering on the boys' sports teams.

Throughout his life, John's affable nature and ease with people, as well as his bright smile and laugh, were social forces of nature that created a network of lasting friendships from every stage of his life. The parties he hosted with his wife Beth at the Hamptons and at their apartment for Christmas and club outings he led back in the day were legendary. Hitting the town with his posse or hanging out one-on-one made you feel you were in the place to be and left you feeling good.

John was a big fan of a diverse range of music, from R&B, disco and soul, to rock and jazz. He also enjoyed classic television and movies and was quick to share his opinions on politics and world events. His real joy came from spending time with his family and sharing in his two sons' academic and athletic accomplishments. He could not have been prouder.

John passed away peacefully surrounded by his family and friends. He is predeceased by his mother, Dorothy, and survived by his father, John Jr., his wife, Beth, his sons John IV (Jack) and Connor.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent in honor of John to New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Hospital or the National Kidney Foundation.

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **29**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Volk Leber Funeral Home
789 Teaneck Road
Teaneck, NJ 07666
info@volkleber.com
<http://www.volkleber.com>

Closing Prayers

OCT **30**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Volk Leber Funeral Home
789 Teaneck Road
Teaneck, NJ 07666
info@volkleber.com
<http://www.volkleber.com>

Committal Service

OCT **30**. 11:30 AM (ET)

George Washington Memorial Park
234 Paramus Road
Paramus, NJ 07652

Tribute Wall



“ *Volk Leber Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John Van Clief III*



Volk Leber Funeral Home - October 28, 2023 at 01:45 PM

JH

“ *I am a high school friend of Beth's so I only had a few visits sprinkled throughout the years to get to know John. In those visits, he was so warm and made you feel known and welcome. He had a joy in spirit that made you want to be joyful in his presence. I always appreciated him touching base with me on trips to Chicago just to say hello and catch up. Sending love to you, Beth, Jack and Connor and all family and friends.*

Jessica Greenfield Hillesland - October 30, 2023 at 01:02 PM

NN

“ Little Johnnie's infectious laughter and his ability to light up any room with his jokes will forever stay with my family! The memories of those unforgettable Hamptons parties and the times he visited Long Beach with his parents and aunt Phoebe, are special memories that will last a lifetime.

Little Johnnie's caring nature, and his love for family and friends, were the cornerstones of his character. He selflessly put others before himself, always showing genuine concern for their well-being. To him, family and friends were everything, and his warmth and generosity left a lasting impact on our lives.

We will greatly miss Little Johnnie, but the legacy of his love and kindness will continue to shine in our hearts. His memory will forever remind us to cherish the bonds we share and to embrace life's opportunities with the same enthusiasm and spirit he displayed.

You will be dearly missed cousin and your spirit lives on in our cherished memories and your family. Our sincerest condolences go out to you Beth, your handsome boys, and Big Johnnie!

Love,
Tyrone, Tasha, & Brittany Nurse

Natasha Nurse - October 29, 2023 at 01:06 PM

JS

“ I am so sorry to hear about John's passing. I had the privilege of coaching Jack in Safe Haven and I got to know John both as a dad and, later on, as a coach of the Safe Haven sidelines. He was a dedicated, supportive and loving father in a dedicated, loving and supportive family. No words can capture your family's loss but hopefully your good memories can in some way give you some semblance of comfort. Your whole community is thinking of you and is here for you. My sincere condolences to your entire family.

Jim Strauss - October 29, 2023 at 08:48 AM

MS

Even in high school John was a person you could absolutely rely on to be kind, and definitely to make you smile or laugh. Pretty sure even back then he had learned a ton empathy and how to be a genuine person. Also, many times at the Leonia Rec Center, just hearing him laugh made me laugh in an instant. I'm so sorry for your family's deep loss.

Milena Skollar - October 29, 2023 at 10:38 PM

AJ

“*Little Johnny...Wow Cuz, can't believe you're gone. You will be missed dearly. You were a Brother that i never had growing up & you filled that roll effortlessly. We had some really fun times during our youth & I miss those day's with all my heart. Having Great Aunt Phoebe take me to Leonia, NJ by train & bus to your home & having the time of my life playing with your trains & race tracks, making comic books & playing Intellivision video games was a blast! Getting into rap music & trying to memorize the rap songs, man we had some great times together cuz. You racing your go carts with your friends in Leonia. Also, riding me on the back of your bike speeding down Leonia hills like a professional motorcycle bike racer...Boy did we love your laughter. You had us cracking up on some crazy stuff growing up & beyond! You was always good at that just having me & you on the floor in stitches cracking up! I really look up to you cuz & very proud of you & the things you accomplished in life. You was a go getter but your heart was gold. You was constant cuz, from youth on up! That's what I loved about you the most cuz. My heart goes out to Beth & your two sons. May God give them comfort & peace, "the peace of God that excels all thoughts" be with them in coping with this major & tragic loss in their lives.*

Love

Alonzo C. Merkerson Jr.

Alonzo C. Merkerson Jr. - October 28, 2023 at 10:14 PM

BD

“ Jim and I are so sad in the passing of one of our favorites! Our deepest sympathy to Beth and the boys and know our hearts and love are with you all.

Barbara Harper Davidson - October 28, 2023 at 04:29 PM



“ 149 files added to the album LifeTributes



Volk Leber Funeral Home - October 28, 2023 at 01:03 PM

NN

Little Johnnie's infectious laughter and his ability to light up any room with his jokes will forever stay with my family! The memories of those unforgettable Hamptons parties and the times he visited Long Beach with his parents and aunt Phoebe, are special memories that will last a lifetime.

Little Johnnie's caring nature, and his love for family and friends, were the cornerstones of his character. He selflessly put others before himself, always showing genuine concern for their well-being. To him, family and friends were everything, and his warmth and generosity left a lasting impact on our lives.

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Love,
Tyrone, Tasha, & Brittany Nurse

Natasha Nurse - October 28, 2023 at 07:54 PM

CT

“ *Sending so much love to John's entire family. I am a college friend from Syracuse. John's upbeat and positive nature made him a joy to be around. Blessings and peace to his family.*

Cheryl Todmann - October 27, 2023 at 08:13 PM

DC

“ *My heart breaks for John's family at this most difficult time and I offer my deepest sympathy and condolences. Of all my interactions with John over the past 17 years, I always came away with how engaging, intelligent and talented a person he is. His presence will truly be missed in our community at the Palm. May God rest your beautiful soul John.*



Delia Cintron - October 27, 2023 at 09:20 AM



“ *My moments with John, however few (too few), were punctuated by long, thoughtful conversations, typically over a morning coffee after the school dropoff. I feel blessed to have had those moments with him and send my most heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones.*

Amy Mingasson - October 27, 2023 at 07:18 AM