



# John Lewis Bretanus

AUG 3, 1963 - JUL 9, 2021



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Tulsa Funeral Service  
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## John Bretanus Obituary

A memorial gathering celebrating the life of John Lewis Bretanus will be held from 6-8 PM Friday, July 16 at the James E. McNellie's Pub, 409 E. 1st Street downtown Tulsa. A few words of comfort and a time of sharing will take place at 7 PM. John passed away Friday afternoon, July 9, 2021 at his Tulsa residence surrounded by many people who loved him. He was 57 years old.

Born August 3, 1963 in Chicago, John was the son of Raymond and Veronica (Westingheiser) Bretanus. He grew up mostly in Tulsa graduating with the Class of 1981 from Edison High School. John was a football player and a wrestler. To say John was "larger than life" might be an understatement. His "Leo" parties that he hosted at his Tulsa home will not soon be forgotten by a host of friends who loved him.

John loved everything and anything outdoors. He enjoyed camping all over Colorado, bird hunting in Kansas, and fishing for King Salmon in Alaska. John loved literally all genres of music and you could certainly find him partying hard when his favorite concerts came to town. He always looked forward to the big events at the Red Rock Parks and Amphitheatre while living in Colorado.

On his 40th birthday, John received his Harley Davidson motorcycle as a birthday present which he enjoyed immensely through the years. John loved entertaining his friends, cooking all types of food, and most especially, just being the life of the party!

John was very entrepreneurial and started several companies The Idea Factory and ProMo Ad which sold promotional advertising nationwide. He had a great deal of success doing so.

John was instrumental in naming Cherry Street and helping organize the Reggae Festival in Tulsa for many years.



## Obituary

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The family would like to thank those who cared for John in his last days

Surviving family members include his daughter, Kennedy Bretanus; brother, Chuck Bretanus, sister, Kathy Beck and brother, Rob Bretanus. John was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Tony Bretanus.

To send flowers  
to the family or plant a tree  
in memory of John Lewis Bretanus, please visit our floral store.

[Read More](#)



# Tribute Wall

**John Lewis Bretanus**

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**Bixby Funeral Service** shared a **Video**.



April 22 at 7:38 AM



**Blake Woodley** posted:

The day Johnny and I met in the halls of Edison junior high school turned out to be typical of many days to follow. I would run my big mouth and Johnny would save me. In the early days it was from a fistfight. Later he would protect me from other things. When I was away at college he would meet me on the highway because I didn't want to hunt birds alone. Johnny showed up. When I moved to Florida, Johnny showed up. When I moved to North Carolina, Johnny showed up. There is no place I have lived that Johnny hasn't stood. Going out with Johnny in high school was like going out with James Dean. Good luck getting the girl! Like others have said, I too was always impressed with his determination and work ethic, that so many lack. They say that we are a product of our parents. Ronnie's love and Ray's discipline formed a great bunch of kids and Johnny was an example of that, but we all know that Johnny had special qualities that were unlike anyone else we know. Bretanus family - I love you always and please know that my life is richer for knowing all of you. Woody-

July 15 at 4:36 AM



**Scott Becko** posted:

The poet Mary Oliver wrote, "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" John and I were friends for almost 50 years. Half a century. I can't imagine my life without him or his family. Momma B would always welcome me in their home, and his dad, Big Ray, loved to tease me, calling me by my dad's name, "There's Harry Becko!" I miss them both and often think of Momma B's delicious cinnamon french toast. I've always admired the Bretanus family's grit and determination. All of them are successful entrepreneurs. I especially admired John's ability to live a simple life, free from judgment or criticism. He had a big heart and friends from all walks of life. He was the magnet that brought us all together. The last few months were hard on him, and I prayed every day for his well-being and ultimately for a peaceful deliverance. Man, we had some good times together. I'll miss his crazy laugh (an outburst, really), his quick smile, and his cutting wit. It was a privilege, and I'm so happy and proud that I got to share John's wild and precious life. I loved him dearly and can barely think of him now without weeping. My heart goes out to the Bretanus family, Michelle, and Kennedy, and to all of those who knew and loved John. Rest in peace, brother. You'll always be on my mind and in my heart. God bless.

July 14 at 3:34 PM



## Tribute Wall

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TR

**Tresa** posted:

John was a true ray of sunshine, he will be missed by all who knew him. So very sorry for your family's loss.

July 12 at 11:45 AM

SC

**Steve Chaney** posted:

Gosh where so I start? I spent many years on the football field or on wrestling mat and in the classroom with Johnny. I could always count on Johnny to protect me from Tony how hated me!!lol Johnny was the life of the party , loved by the ladies and a friend to so many people! I feel like I lost a brother and he will never be forgotten, love to Robbie , Kathy and Chuck and there families and Johnny's beautiful daughter ❤️

July 12 at 10:24 AM

KM

**Kathrine McMahan** posted:

Johnny B's laugh and smirking facial expressions could have been Trademarked. What a terrific guy who will be sorely missed. I am still in somewhat of a shock. Prayers go out to the Bretanus family.

July 11 at 4:39 PM



# Media

**John Lewis Bretanus**

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**Bixby Funeral Service** shared a **Video**.

April 22 at 7:38 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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