



John V. Ashby

May 6, 1971 - February 28, 2020

John Vannuck Ashby—loving husband, father, son, brother, uncle, officer, and friend—passed away on Friday, February 28, 2020, at the age of 48, after a courageous battle with cancer.

John was born on May 6, 1971 in Lansing, MI, to John and Heidi (Vannuck) Ashby. He grew up in East Lansing among his large extended family of siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and cousins. He enjoyed summers in Grayling, MI, where he spent his senior year and graduated from Grayling High School in 1989.

In 1990, he met Valarie Burton in Ann Arbor, and they married in 1993. Their union brought them three children: Caleb, Caitlin, and Jonah. For the past 16 years, they raised their children in Saline, MI, where they attended Keystone Church.

John enlisted in the US Army in 1992. He was stationed at the 40th Engineer Battalion in Baumholder, Germany, until 1996.

John served as an officer (corporal) and detective for the Sumpter Township Police Department for more than 20 years. He became the department's first DARE officer, and he was well respected for his fairness and empathy. See the Sumpter PD announcement at <https://www.facebook.com/sumpterpolice/>. John was also the proud co-owner and president of a successful private investigation business, which he founded in 2012.

John was always known for both his tremendous sense of humor and the unfailing helpfulness and support provided to his family, friends, neighbors,

and communities. For his entire life, he had an amazing ability to make others laugh, no matter the situation. He never hesitated to step up and help anyone in need, in any way that he could.

John was a very solid and comforting presence in his family, which he led with abounding laughter and playfulness, security and compassion, and common sense and faith in God—all encompassed by love. He most enjoyed time spent with his wife, children, and other family, and was known for his fine photography; his coaching youth sports, including being head coach of 7th and 8th grade football at Saline Middle School; and managing his daughter's music band.

John is survived by Valarie Ashby, his wife of over 26 years; their children, Caleb Ashby, Caitlin Ashby, and Jonah Ashby; his parents, John Ashby and Heidi Rogge; stepfather Denis Rogge; his sister, Stacey (Steve) Kimbrell, and brother, Jake (Carolyn) Ashby; his grandmothers, Colleen Vannuck and Lovella Ashby; four nephews; two nieces; and a multitude of treasured aunts, uncles, cousins, and in-laws.

John was preceded in death by his grandfathers, John Ashby and Allen Vannuck.

A Memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2020, at 11:00 A.M. at Keystone Church in Saline. Visitation for friends and family will be held before the service from 10:00 A.M. until the time of service at 11:00 A.M. Memorial contributions in his name may be made to the Sarcoma Foundation of America. You may donate at www.curesarcoma.org. To sign John's guestbook, to leave a memory, or for more information and directions, please visit www.rbfhsaline.com.

Cemetery Details

Oakwood Cemetery

227 West Michigan Ave
Saline, MI 48176

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 7. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Keystone Church
3375 Saline Waterworks Road
Saline, MI 48176
<http://www.keystonechurch.us/>

Memorial Service

MAR 7. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

Keystone Church
3375 Saline Waterworks Road
Saline, MI 48176
<http://www.keystonechurch.us/>

Luncheon

MAR 7. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Sumpter Twp Senior Center
23501 Sumpter Rd.
Bellville, MI 48111

Tribute Wall



“ *John V. Ashby*

October 23, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ *What a wonderful man. As a police officer he helped conduct the Concealed Carry Classes classes at Tri- County Sportsmen’s League, with facts , humor and a way that kept everyone’s attention. He was a friend from the first time I met him. So sorry for your loss. Prayers for all his family and friends. He will be greatly missed. The Tellas family,*

Lorena - March 09, 2020 at 07:40 PM



“ *Sorry for your lose, Retired Police Chief Clinton Brown.*

Clinton Brown - March 09, 2020 at 12:04 PM



“ *The Frank Family purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of John V. Ashby.*



The Frank Family - March 06, 2020 at 02:01 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John V. Ashby.*



March 06, 2020 at 12:48 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John V. Ashby.*



March 06, 2020 at 11:35 AM



“ *So saddened to hear of John's passing. Our family has so many fond memories as our sons played baseball and football together. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. The Cowen family.*

The Cowen Family - March 06, 2020 at 10:18 AM



“ *Hilarie, Jared, Qualicia, Wednesday, and Dorian. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John V. Ashby.*



Hilarie, Jared, Qualicia, Wednesday, and Dorian. - March 05, 2020 at 01:32 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John V. Ashby.*



March 05, 2020 at 12:39 AM



“ *We are truly sorry to hear about your loss. Please accept our condolences and may our prayers help comfort you. We are thinking of your family, Grant, Cole, Devon and Brent Sitterley*

Brent Sitterley - March 04, 2020 at 08:24 PM



“ *Your TQL Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of John V. Ashby.*



Your TQL Family - March 04, 2020 at 02:33 PM



“ *John Asby was an outstanding officer, It was an honor to have worked with him. He was a man of integrity and moral conviction. He will be remembered by us all.*

James Pierce Jr. - March 03, 2020 at 11:09 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John V. Ashby.*



March 03, 2020 at 05:35 PM



“ *My heart aches for Valarie and all who knew John. Sending my deepest condolences. I pray that your memories may provide your family with some comfort during this difficult time. Hugs*



Robin Padilla - March 03, 2020 at 03:41 PM



“ *With our sincere condolences to the Ashby family, John was a great guy. Thinking of you, Kirk, Julie, Brad & Lucy Fischer*

Julie Fischer - March 03, 2020 at 01:17 PM



“ *Anca & Vahakn purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of John V. Ashby.*



Anca & Vahakn - March 03, 2020 at 12:18 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of John V. Ashby.*



March 03, 2020 at 11:59 AM



“ *Condolences and prayers for strength and comfort to Family and Friends. Rest in perfect peace*

Barbara Schmid Losee - March 03, 2020 at 11:20 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John V. Ashby.*



March 03, 2020 at 08:57 AM



“ *He was a great guy and an awesome officer. He will be sadly missed.*

Kyra Sorenson - March 02, 2020 at 09:34 PM



“ *John ashby was one my favorites. And was always a kind friend when my kids needed him. There is no other like him. He will be missed. One of our best officers*

Judy grodi - March 02, 2020 at 07:42 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John V. Ashby.*



March 02, 2020 at 12:01 PM



“ *I knew John as a friend, coach , member of our church and wonderful mentor to many kids. Kind, compassionate and so willing to give in anyway he could. He has an amazing family and his legacy will live on through them and the many children and adults he touched during his short time with us. I'm sure he has a football team started in Heaven! Blessings and peace to the family and all of us missing John! Stacy F*

stacy fletcher - March 02, 2020 at 09:50 AM



“ *John was the guy that would feed anyone who needed food, give his shirt to someone who needed it. He was kind and compassionate to all that he met. He will be missed everyday.*

Beth - February 29, 2020 at 04:06 PM