



John Zeeman

March 2, 1937 - December 13, 2023

John Zeeman of Lake Bluff, IL, and Tequesta, FL, died peacefully at home on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, with his wife and children by his side.

John was born in New Jersey in 1937 to Oscar Edward (Bernie) Zeeman and Margaret (Peg) Moore. He graduated with a BA/MA in Journalism from Northwestern University, where he met his first wife, Diane Mair. John and Diane had three children: JD, Lori, and Greg. In 1982, John met the love of his life, Patricia Granger Zeeman; they were happily married for 39 years.

John was an insightful human being and a gifted marketer. He worked at United Airlines for 23 years, where he became known as the industry's leading de-regulation expert. In 1989, John left United as its Executive Vice President of Marketing and Planning to move to London, where he became the CEO of Galileo, a worldwide computer reservation system. During this time, John sat on the Boards of many organizations, including Northwestern University's Transportation Center, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Ravinia Music Festival, Chicago Children's Memorial Hospital (Lurie), and Exmoor Country Club.

John loved his wife, three children, ten grandchildren, one great-grandson, and his many Cavalier King Charles Spaniels. He was a world traveler and a loyal Northwestern Wildcats and Cincinnati Reds fan. He was also a

passionate single-digit right-handed golfer who, after a "bout with the shanks" in his late 60s, got down to a 14 handicap as a left-handed golfer. No matter what side of the ball he played from, his touch around the greens was enviable.

His friends and family will remember John for his keen intellect, courage, generosity, and fair-mindedness. He was well-liked by anybody who knew him and loved by many. His dry wit and ability to retain sports data were remarkable. John is survived by his wife Patricia (Patti) of Lake Bluff, IL and Tequesta, FL; his children John David (JD) and his wife Robyn of Hinsdale, IL; Laura Jill (Lori) and her husband Roy Hawthorne of Hinsdale, IL; and Gregory Todd (Greg) and his wife Martha of Lake Forest, IL; ten grandchildren: Rachel, Jake, Claire, Matt, John, Cagan, Griffin, Caroline, Tucker and Brian; one great-grandchild Jonathan, one more great-granddaughter (TBD in March) and his two beloved pups Brody and Cassie.

The family will be planning a celebration of John's life in the spring in Lake Bluff, IL.

Before his passing, John requested that in lieu of flowers or gifts, we all make an extra effort in these times "to be kind to our fellow man."

For information – Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Directors of Lake Forest, 847-234-9649 or www.RTfunerals.com.

Tribute Wall

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“ One of the best friends I've been lucky enough to meet along the serpentine road of my own life's journey. We enjoyed many deep conversations early many mornings in our local haunt, The Bagel Bistro. I would pick him up and drop him off whenever needed, just to spend time with him. He was a man who possessed great knowledge gained from his many life experiences in business, personal, sports and politics. Always articulate, whether joking sarcastically with others in our breakfast group, or serious discussing business, politics or sports. I will certainly miss my friend John - alot. RIP Zee.

Perry Silverman - June 18, 2024 at 03:41 PM

JH

“ Condolences to all members of John Zeeman's family. I worked with him for a number of years at United-- he running marketing and me supporting him with PR-- and appreciated his keen intellect and sharp focus on business objectives of the company. He was a great asset to United as a businessman and also a delight to associate with on the personal level. Joe Hopkins

Joe Hopkins - December 21, 2023 at 01:37 PM



“ While at United, I was so impressed with John's humanity and concern for United staff like me I remember he called me in my hospital room after I had back surgery and he at the time only knew me as a very low level staffer. He always listened carefully in every meeting to staffers like me and was very helpful in guiding career decisions. He was a great and empathetic leader.

Bruce Mainzer - December 20, 2023 at 04:19 PM