



John M. Delaney, 86, of Townsend

October 25, 1939 - March 12, 2026

TOWNSEND: John Delaney passed away on March 12th at age 86, surrounded by family. Born October 25th, 1939, in Fitchburg, MA, to Marcus and Ellen Delaney. John grew up in Fitchburg, graduating from Fitchburg High School, then attending Fitchburg State University, graduating with a degree in mathematics and physics.

John always loved teaching. After graduating from college, John moved to California and began teaching high school. His teaching took him far, including a stop in New Newfoundland and then France, where he met his wife, Barbara. John taught for the armed services and was also a track coach. John and Barbara married and moved to England, where they began collecting antiques. Their sons, John and Sean, were born in England. Shortly after, they moved to Townsend in 1968, where John taught math at Leominster High School. On weekends, he ran an antique shop attached to their home. He soon focused on clocks, and by 1976, he retired from teaching to work full-time as an antique dealer.

Buying and selling antique clocks became a lifestyle for his family. He often traveled with his family in pursuit of clocks. John is credited as one of the first American antique clock dealers. His family business in West Townsend grew into the largest retail antique clock shop in the country.

When he wasn't working, he loved fishing, traveling, hiking, which included completing the Appalachian Trail and the El Camino trails, canoeing, and spending time with friends and his family, especially his grandkids. He was a voracious reader and loved a good practical joke. Later in life, he enjoyed an active membership with the Townsend Lions Club. Aside from being in the shop, his second favorite place was at his home in Bonita Springs, Florida, where he loved taking his grandchildren fishing and going on nightly runs for ice cream.

John leaves behind his wife of 60 years, Barbara; their oldest son, John, and his wife, Heidi, of West Townsend; son Sean and his wife, Amy, of Groton; his sister Lynn Ann Morin of Hubbardston and 5 grandchildren he adored: Bailey and her husband, Troy, of Townsend; Kelty; Declan; Lily; and Griffin Delaney.

John's family will receive relatives and friends at calling hours from 3-6 PM Monday, March 16, 2026 at the Anderson Funeral Home, 250 Main Street (Rte. 119) Townsend Center.

Cemetery Details

Riverside

Dudley Road
West Townsend, MA 01474

Previous Events

Calling Hours

MAR **16**. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Anderson Funeral Home - Townsend
250 Main Street ~ Route 119
Townsend, MA 01469
(978) 597-2692

Tribute Wall

FK

“ *Faye Kemon lit a candle in memory of John M. Delaney, 86, of Townsend*



Faye Kemon - April 23 at 01:28 AM

FK

John will be remembered as a man whose warmth, humor and generosity touched me and everyone who knew him. He brought joy into the room with his quick wit and easy laughter. He loved his wife Barbara, his children, grandchildren and was the center of his life. Through his clock business he created more than just a place of work. He built a welcoming space where anyone who walked through felt at home. He even offered you a delicious turkey sandwich and homemade dessert if u had the time! That simple, generous spirit defined who he was. John i will miss your laughter, your jokes and most of all, your big heart...

Faye Kemon - April 23 at 01:46 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John M. Delaney, 86, of Townsend.*



March 30 at 09:40 AM

MP

“ To Bo and the entire family. I am sending my love and sympathy. John was a lovely man and one of a kind. MUCH love Melanie Pefinis Bonita Springs

Melanie Pefinis - March 22 at 09:21 AM

AH

“ 1 file added to the album John M. Delaney



Anderson Funeral Home - March 19 at 08:24 AM

MA

John would have loved this excellent moving video.

mo andrews - March 20 at 11:20 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John M. Delaney, 86, of Townsend.

March 18 at 02:33 PM

AD

“ It was a pleasure knowing John and family all these years. Since 1986 when I visited his gallery and told him to call me for any at restoration on his clocks. It wasn't long before a piece arrived for restoration and I was delighted to be of service as I am to this day. John spent time in the studio chatting about clocks and educating me for which I am grateful for. Most times he had to save time for puppy dog in the studio. He was a fine family man, kind and caring. Count me as missing him. Astrid Donnellan

Astrid Donnellan - March 17 at 03:47 PM

DA

“ John was a great brother in law to me. He put up with a 12 year old me- when it wasn't easy! I was jealous that he took my big sister away. But he was patient and caring through out my life. He really cared like a big brother. But the very best thing was he adored my sister Barbara. He put her on a pedestal . He could not have loved her more. And bonus - he was crazy about his sons John and Sean. There was nothing he would not do for them . And bonus bonus he was over the moon about his grand kids. I'm pretty sure I couldn't sit in COLD hockey rinks watching games endlessly for years giving family support where ever he could. John was a family man. A rare and beautiful thing. He will be sorely missed. Donna

Donna Andrews - March 17 at 10:32 AM

MA

“ *My brother-in-law, John Delaney, was one of a kind, the best kind. I never met anyone who consistently did the best he could with every little thing that came his way.*

John was a sincere, loyal family man and a good friend to many.

John was generous, most hospitable, and accepting of all my friends since I was 16. He had strong opinions yet was incredibly open minded to various esoteric studies at the same time.

My younger sister thought John was like a Viking, and I had to agree. Every chance he had to took enjoyed the waters of the gulf and Atlantic.

A senior guy sat on the docks watching the boats prepare to go out on the Gulf, and John made his day by inviting him to go out! And he went!

John was a rescuing hero to some SW Florida locals who were stranded far out in the Gulf when their boat sank.

I often stated that John doesn't 'go' fishing, he 'goes to get' fish. And he would share his catch with everyone. He even knew the shrimpers.

I can picture him now racing over the waves with a storm chasing him home, enjoying every minute.

Most of all I loved the way he loved my sister, Barbara. She brought a good good man into our family and I appreciate that.

Deepest condolences to Johnny, Heidi, Bailey, Troy, Kelty, Declan, Sean, Amy, Lilly and Griffin. John absolutely knew you all loved him to the max.

Smooth sailing, John, you will not be forgotten.

Mo Andrews

mo andrews - March 16 at 02:43 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John M. Delaney, 86, of Townsend.



March 16 at 09:18 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John M. Delaney, 86, of Townsend.

March 16 at 09:18 AM



“ The McDowell Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of John M. Delaney, 86, of Townsend.



The McDowell Family - March 16 at 09:01 AM



“ I was saddened to hear of John's passing. I spoke with him on the phone this past fall to arrange delivery of a special clock. He was very interesting to talk to, knowledgeable and kind. My husband (the clock collector) and I will miss him. Sending our deepest condolences to his wife and family.

Amy McGill - March 15 at 10:28 PM

PR

“ *The Regan family would like to share our sincere condolences to the entire Delaney family. We have had a fifty year plus relationship with John and Barbara and John will be truly missed. I can remember enjoying so many hours just sitting in the Shop where time just flew by talking clocks. John’s knowledge was unsurpassed. That relationship shall continue with John Jr and Sean. They truly emulate their father’s great character.*
Paul & Sally Regan and family.

Paul Regan - March 15 at 08:05 AM

DB

“ To the entire Delaney Family, I was shocked to hear the news of John's passing from John jr. It hit me hard. I've know this loving family for 30 plus years from business dealings to coaching is grandkids in hockey in PAT.

Always, the true gentleman, statesman, and humorist (quick witted). His knowledge was infectious when it came to clocks and the way he treated life.

But, it was his love for his "FAMILY" that made him stick out to me. He reminded me of my own Dad.

To say he will be missed by all that LOVED HIM, is a understatement. He was a True American Patriot, Loving Husband, Father and wonderful Grandfather. He leaves a everlasting bright spot in the town of Townsend Mass and the Antique World.

Many can say how honored it was to have know him. But as a former US ARMY N NAVY MAN I SALUTE YOU, SIR ! The gates of heaven welcome you with open arms may you rest in peace. You leave a true legacy to be admired by all.

YOU WILL BE TRULY MISSED.

*David Beauchamp Antiques
New Bern, NC*

David C Beauchamp - March 15 at 06:44 AM

MW

“ Mike Coyle and Nancy Wyman purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of John M. Delaney, 86, of Townsend.



Mike Coyle and Nancy Wyman - March 14 at 06:38 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of John M. Delaney, 86, of Townsend.*



March 14 at 05:46 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John M. Delaney, 86, of Townsend.

March 14 at 05:46 PM



“ *Northern Spy Golf Club purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of John M. Delaney, 86, of Townsend.*



Northern Spy Golf Club - March 14 at 04:45 PM

DL

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



deb laflamme - March 14 at 04:27 PM

DL



deb laflamme - March 14 at 04:28 PM

DD

“ Nothing was more fun than to be with John when he laughed. Our lives were made all the brighter by knowing him.

Dawn D'Angelillo - March 14 at 04:06 PM

DA

“ Dawn and Artie purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of John M. Delaney, 86, of Townsend.



Dawn and Artie - March 14 at 03:59 PM

DA

“ Dawn and Artie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John M. Delaney, 86, of Townsend.

Dawn and Artie - March 14 at 03:59 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of John M. Delaney, 86, of Townsend.



March 14 at 03:14 PM

AK

“ Alison, Julie, Cristine, Sue and Kim purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of John M. Delaney, 86, of Townsend.



Alison, Julie, Cristine, Sue and Kim - March 14 at 02:47 PM

AK

“ Alison, Julie, Cristine, Sue and Kim planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John M. Delaney, 86, of Townsend.

Alison, Julie, Cristine, Sue and Kim - March 14 at 02:47 PM

MS

“ Always the teacher. Forever a great friend. A breadth of knowledge and wisdom combined with a twinkle in the eye that said volumes about his sense of humor. A story teller extraordinaire . A listener supreme. There was no one better to pull up a chair and chat with. A renaissance man in so many wonderful ways. John, it was a blessing that we knew you.

With our love to your loved ones,
Mark, Beth, Wyatt, Hailey, Kyra, Remy.

msf - March 14 at 01:52 PM

RS

“ We have known John for at least 40 years. Our clock collection has mostly come from him. Even though we haven't seen him lately we consider him and Barbara to be good old friends. Our condolences to you all. A great loss!Harvey and Rosalie Slansky

Rosalie Slansky - March 14 at 12:38 PM

TS

“ Beyond a wonderful family man, John M. Delaney was a giant in the world of antique clocks. For the last fifty plus years, he devoted his life work to conserving and selling the finest antique American clocks, especially those beautiful tall clocks known as "grandfather clocks".

No other antique dealer in clocks came close to him, not even Israel Sack and the other major New York antique dealers who sold clocks. If you wanted to buy or simply admire the finest antique clocks of all varieties, what John created in his West Townsend shop was the place to go and it still is.

I feel blessed to have known his wonderful gentleman and I treasure my annual visits to him even though I live many hundreds of miles away. One of the last times I saw John was on a weekend visit to his shop which is open 9-5. A joyous full day of visiting with my wonderful friend flew by so fast it was 6 pm before we both realized it!

The memory of this good man will be with me whenever I hear the happy striking of one of the beautiful antique clocks that I bought from him or his son John A. Though we grieve that such a wonderful man has left us for Heaven, we need to be grateful that God placed such an exceptional man on this earth for 86 years and that his sons and grandson continue his exceptional work.

Terry G. Seaks
North Carolina

Terry G. Seaks - March 14 at 11:06 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John M. Delaney, 86, of Townsend.



March 14 at 11:04 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John M. Delaney, 86, of Townsend.

March 14 at 11:04 AM



“ Condolences to the Delaney family and Friends. What a legacy this man leaves. May be rest in peace 🕊️
Kath & Steve Bourn

Kathleen M Bourn - March 14 at 08:49 AM



“ Very sorry to hear this. We've lost a giant in our world of horology.
Bob Frishman

Bob Frishman - March 14 at 07:39 AM



“ The P.A.T. Hockey Family purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of John M. Delaney, 86, of Townsend.



The P.A.T. Hockey Family - March 14 at 07:39 AM



“ The P.A.T. Hockey Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John M. Delaney, 86, of Townsend.

The P.A.T. Hockey Family - March 14 at 07:39 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John M. Delaney, 86, of Townsend.*



March 13 at 08:52 PM



“ *The Cicchini Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John M. Delaney, 86, of Townsend.*



The Cicchini Family - March 13 at 06:18 PM



“ *Dear Delaney Family,*

We just learned of your loss and share our empathy and sympathy. John is out of sight – But not out of mind, he will forever live in your hearts.

May each day bring you a little more peace, and serenity.

Warmly, David and Lynn Hillier

David Hillier - March 13 at 04:53 PM

ME

“ John, Sean and the rest of the family, I am so sorry for your loss. He was a great man and will be missed, may he rest in peace.



Mark and Sherry Esielionis - March 13 at 03:32 PM

CL

Barbara, I hope you feel surrounded by much love during this terrible time. My heartfelt condolences to you and your family.
Carlene Lee

Carlene Lee - March 13 at 05:11 PM

MD

John, Sean and family....we offer our deepest condolences on the loss of your dad. In the few times that we have met, I really enjoyed his perspective on issues and his tips on growing a fruitful garden...never helped me grow tomatoes like he did though.
Keeping memories of him will help heal the pain you are feeling.
Michael & Paula Dembowski

Michael Dembowski - March 13 at 09:46 PM

DC

Dear Barbara, John , Sean and family,
I am truly sorry for your loss. Please accept my thoughts and prayers for your family in honor of a great family man and a giant in the world of horology.
What started out many years ago as visiting West Townsend (Mecca for me) as a clock collector turned into a friendship with John and family both in West Townsend and Mystic CT. The conversations shared went far beyond the clock world. We shared our experiences in working with our children and how that is and was our proudest moments in the business world.
May John rest in peace and his family be surrounded by loving memories and friendships.
Dennis Cambria DDS

Dennis Cambria - March 14 at 11:16 AM

WC

*Deepest sympathies to the entire Delaney family.
Gavin and I will keep with us the fondest memories of our trips to West
Townsend.*

*We are both so grateful and feel privileged to have been considered
amongst John's friends.*

With love, Gavin & Wayne

Wayne Chosse - March 16 at 10:34 AM