



## Jonathan D. Rice

March 17, 1965 - December 31, 2023

Lunenburg, Jonathan D. Rice, 58, of Lunenburg, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, December 31, 2023 after suffering a cardiac event at his workplace.

Jon was born in Gardner on March 17, 1965 and grew up in Westminster graduating from Oakmont High School. Shortly after his graduation from high school John to join the United States Navy, and served his country for four years until his honorable discharge.

He had worked the past several years at Hollingsworth and Vose in Groton as a tower boss and prior to that he worked at Simonds Saw and Steel for 18 years.

Jon enjoyed spending time with family and close friends, golfing and darts. He leaves his wife, Paula M. (Costa) Rice of Lunenburg; his mother and stepfather, Frances Chaisson and Donald Chaisson of Leominster, three step-children, Zach Costa of Fitchburg, Tyler Cordio of Fitchburg, and Olivia Cordio of Lunenburg, his two brothers, Chester Rice of Fitchburg, and Joshua Rice of Florida. Jon also leaves many aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces and cousins.

He is predeceased by two brothers, Michael Chaisson, and Daniel Rice.

A celebration of his life will be held at Chopsticks Restaurant on January 11, 2024 at 12:30PM for family and close friends. There are no calling hours. The Isabelle & Anderson Funeral Home, 316 Clarendon St., Fitchburg is assisting the family with the funeral arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Vincent de Paul c/o St. Joseph Church, 49 Woodland St., Fitchburg, MA

# Tribute Wall

DC

“ I didn't have the pleasure of bringing Jonny into this life but was fortunate enough to come into it, watching him grow from a young awkward teenager, with a basketball sized afro hairstyle, venturing away from home for the first time to become a proud sailor, and years later ultimately a prouder family man, loving husband to Paula, and a guiding light to Zak, Olivia and Tyler.

Jonny was a lot of fun and we shared many memories, so it's hard to pick out just a couple.

One of my favorites, and I believe his, was our family trip to Florida in the late 70's. Fran, me, the 4 boys and my brother and sister, hopped into a cramped van "no back seats", no side windows, no radio and a cassette player with 1 tape. Yes, 1, that we played over and over and over again. No complaints from anyone. 22-hour trip down and 24 hours back. We stayed with his Auntie Jean, Uncle Paul and cousin Kelly Duba. All 6 kids slept in sleeping bags on the floor in the living room.

Another favorite memory for us was our trip to the Azores with him, Paula and some of her family members, where we crisscrossed the island taking in the beautiful sites and at one point visiting the home where Paula lived as a child. Here, unbeknownst to us or anyone, he knelt down on one knee and proposed to Paula. She happily said yes, and by the look on his face you could tell he was now complete.

Jonny was larger than life at times and will undoubtedly be missed by so many that knew him.

Say hello to your brothers for us.

We love and miss you!

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**Don Chaisson** - January 11, 2024 at 10:39 AM

BV

“ You meet people in life and you are glad you got to spend time with them. Jonny I really enjoyed the times I spent with you and Paula the last few years with Shannon. I am very saddened by your passing. My condolences to Paula, Franny, Donny and family.

Bob Valera - January 05, 2024 at 10:55 AM

DA

I immediately liked him, as I did Paula. I was so happy when she pointed him out to me at 5 finishing and said that's my husband. Two very nice people. Prayers for you Paula. Rest in peace John.

Darlene - January 09, 2024 at 10:04 AM

GL

“ It was a pleasure knowing him in the short time we worked together. He will be missed! RIP brother.



Garret Lewush - January 04, 2024 at 12:38 PM

SS

“ I have the best memories of John and his brothers growing up. So glad I got a chance to see him last summer. My prayers for Paula, Fran and all family. I love you all 🙏❤️



Suzanne Smith - January 04, 2024 at 12:05 PM