



John Mitchell Brown

October 24, 1953 - August 3, 2020

John Mitchell Brown, 66, of Orlando, FL, passed away on August 3, 2020.

John was born in Shreveport, Louisiana (LA), to John L. and Lillian Brown, nee Carter, on October 24, 1953. He married Donna M. Brown, nee Nardolilli, on June 2, 1984, at Saint Andrews Catholic Church, Orlando, FL. Donna and John had just celebrated 36 years of marriage on June 2, 2020.

John was employed by Walt Disney World for 45 years, retiring in February 2017. He was part of the Magic Kingdom opening team in October 1971 and worked in various Food & Beverage positions within the Walt Disney Company throughout his career. One of his most gratifying projects the Food & Beverage operation in Japan for the Tokyo Disney Sea Resort from 1996 through March 2001. John was among the first group of Cast Members to be awarded the prestigious Legacy Award.

John was always happiest and most relaxed on the water. He appreciated spending time on his boat and cruising the St. John's River. John and Donna spent many vacations taking cruises to the Caribbean, Alaska, Hawaii, and Europe.

John is preceded in death by his father, John Lawrence Brown, and his mother, Lillian Carter Brown. He is survived by his wife, Donna, and their two sons Andrew Mitchell Brown and Sarah, nee Stabenow, of Olympia, Washington, and Scott Daniel Brown of Orlando, Florida; brothers Wade Brown and his wife, Madeline, of Chuluota, FL, and Steven Brown and his wife, Karen, of Mims, FL. He is also survived by 3 nieces, 6 nephews, and 1 great nephew.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Holy Cross Catholic Church Coalition for the Homeless, 12600 Marsfield Avenue, Orlando, FL 32837.

There will be a private viewing for family members, with a private celebration of John's life immediately following the viewing.

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



A Community Funeral Home & Sunset Cremations - August 06, 2020 at 11:15 AM



“ Three days before started as an intern at Disney, my best friend passed away, and couple weeks into my internship I was transitioning my immigration status. My papers didn't come on time, so my employment with Disney was terminated. And with immigration, the timeline is never clear, could be a week, could be a year. My life was a total chaos.

As an Operations Manager with 2,000+ employees, John still took the time to seek me out and talk to me to ensure I was okay, gave me his personal phone number and told to call him the moment I get my papers straight. After two weeks, I finally got my employment authorization from USCIS. Called John, and within an hour he already set up time for me with I-9 office, HR. The very next day I was back at work, and everyone thought I was on a vacation.

I owe my career to great John Brown and now it pains me to say John is no longer with us.

Mrs. Brown, please, accept my deepest condolences.

Baha Ismoilov

Baha Ismoilov - August 10, 2020 at 11:40 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Pictures of John



Donna Brown - August 08, 2020 at 12:49 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Pictures of John



Donna Brown - August 08, 2020 at 12:48 PM



“ Thank you Donna for sharing such loving photos

Teresa Roth - August 09, 2020 at 08:32 PM



“ John was the true definition of a professional, leader, husband, father and friend. His passion and compassion always went hand and hand. He touched and inspired so many people that he came in contact with. My memories of our time working together in Tokyo on the Tokyo Disney Sea Park taught me so much. The knowledge that he passed on to me is something that I have used and will never forget. His smile, laugh, sense of humor and always having fun is something I will treasure forever!

Donna, Kim's and my heart and prayers are with you, Andrew and Scott.
John's shoes will never be filled, he will truly be missed.

Edwin Wronski - August 08, 2020 at 12:08 PM



“ John Brown helped take care of Daniel Nardolilli for many years. I will always be grateful for his service to my father. I had hoped that he would have been able to come up and visit the Mid-Atlantic States and see two features that he would have enjoyed --- battlefields and old trains. I will miss John's laugh and his great sense of humor. Godspeed!

Mike Nardolilli - August 07, 2020 at 07:03 PM



“ There was no one quite like John Brown! As a little girl, my dad would share stories that would inevitably include John’s name. Many years later, I sat across a desk from him at Disney as he was interviewing me for my first management position. I knew exactly who he was as soon as he introduced himself and vice versa. A few years later, our paths crossed again and we ultimately became peers...THAT is when John became a cherished friend! He looked out for me, he taught me, he gently guided me along my path...

I’m grateful that we have spent the last several years making time for our “lunch bunch.” It has always been a special time for our MK family to stay connected and it was always extra special when John could join.

Donna, I loved hearing about your cruises, your sons, your dog, boating trips on St. John, etc. He was genuinely one of the most loving and impactful humans I have known.

To my “Spicy Brown,” words cant convey how heartbroken I am but I am so incredibly grateful I had the opportunity to be your friend. Your legacy will most definitely live on...in all of us that you impacted so significantly. Rest easy!

Brandi Keogh Ward - August 07, 2020 at 08:55 AM



“ John and I used to live close to each other and often I would see him at the traffic lights to and from work, making a silly face at me or gesture and vice versa. It would always make me laugh and I enjoyed making John laugh. I could see his car moving up and down as he laughed out loud inside and it would make me smile. John taught me so much and I owe much of my career to him. He always had your back but wouldn't hesitate to help and teach you if something wasn't right.

John was the boss you always enjoyed showing up in your area and you always wanted to do a good job for him and make him proud. He brought the best out in people.

He used to say he declared me on his taxes as a dependent when he would coach me :-)

I know he will be missed sorely by many. I have a tear in my eye typing this now.

God bless you John and thank you to you and your family.

Adam Rutherford

Adam Rutherford - August 06, 2020 at 11:27 AM



“ Donna, My heart breaks for you. I knew what a close and special relationship you two had. Know that I’m thinking about you and praying that God’s grace and love will comfort you and the boys. Cathy Harbin



Cathy Harbin - August 06, 2020 at 10:57 AM



“ “Pay attention to synchronicities and people who touch your life every day. These people can be angels who will help you along the way.”
Dr. Wayne Dyer

John was one of these angels that helped many, including me, along and showed us the Disney way.

He is in my heart and in my memory. Rest In Peace my friend!
Donna, my deepest sympathies to you and the entire family.

Alex Pfluger - August 05, 2020 at 05:56 PM



“ John was not only the most talented and knowledgeable Food and Beverage leader I have ever worked with, but also a true compassionate leader who cared about everyone.

The news broke my heart, you will be missed by the entire Walt Disney World Food and Beverage family, RIP my friend.

My thoughts and prayers are with your entire family.

Jean Marie Clement

Jean Marie Clement - August 05, 2020 at 05:47 PM



“ John was a true legend in so many facets. As a person John was always authentic, humorous, caring, compassionate and sometimes mischievous (with that twinkle in his eye). He is a true Disney Food and Beverage legend like no other and i was honored to have spent time with him learning and observing.....he knew the business and the Guest and most importantly the Cast.

My heart and support goes to Donna, Andrew, Scott and the extended family. May John rest in peace with no pain or regret but with joyful laughs. We have lost a truly great and amazing man.

Teresa Roth - August 05, 2020 at 05:30 PM



“ John was one of my Best leaders at Walt Disney World. He made it so comfortable and easy to have a chat with him! He was a wonderful man! He will be missed!! My thoughts and prayers are with his family!

Betty Phillips - August 05, 2020 at 05:29 PM



“ John was a true gentleman. I had the honor to work with John on many Magic Kingdom projects. John knew the food and beverage operation in and out...he knew what works and what does not work in one of the busiest park in the world. We will miss a true professional and a genuine individual. We pray for comfort and strength for the family.

Shaji George - August 05, 2020 at 04:49 PM



“ John was an amazing man and leader!! I have so many great memories of the times we worked together and the stories he would tell. There wasn't a day that went by that we didn't laugh about something!! I agree with Tom, John truly was a great leader, but more importantly a wonderful person!

My prayers are with the entire family!

Maryann

Maryann Smith - August 05, 2020 at 04:47 PM



“ John was a Disney Food and Beverage legend! So many of us have been fortunate to have been inspired by him and walk in his footsteps. A great leader, person, gentle man and gentleman!

Donna, Andrew and Scott, his impact will never be forgotten.

Tom Starck

Tom Starck - August 05, 2020 at 03:56 PM



“ My deepest sympathy for your family's loss. Celebrate his life and the many memories you have made together; Donna, Andrew, and Scott. My prayers are with you.

Carolyn M. Stabenow - August 05, 2020 at 02:28 PM



“ I'll miss John. Since he and I were both in-laws, we would chat and keep each other company during family gatherings. I will always remember his genuine warmth, his gentle nature, and his deep, rumbling chuckle. He was a rock of stability in the family: calm, unflappable, and quick to help out wherever he was needed. Thanks, John, for everything! Rest in peace.

Rick Wicklin - August 05, 2020 at 02:28 PM



“ John was such a loving, caring, and giving man. I greatly appreciate how he not only took such good care only my sister and his children, but also, the love and care he gave to my father. I really love the picture of him with Sam. In my mind, that picture really captures John's spirit. I will always remember his warmth and his laugh. Rest in peace, John.



Nancy Wicklin - August 05, 2020 at 02:05 PM



“ Sorry, my words were mixed up -- you know that you always put everyone else before your own needs. Sorry, John, usually I make better sense with my words. Love you, Donna

Donna M. Brown - August 05, 2020 at 01:35 PM



“ Hi, my dear husband. It seems unbelievable that I had to say good-bye to you a few days ago, and it is breaking my heart again. Thank you for taking good care of your family, and always putting yourself before anyone else. Thank you for all the love and encouragement that you gave and for always believing in me. I will keep your love in my heart always. Rest in peace, you do not need to fight or suffer anymore. With all my love, Donna



Donna M. Brown - August 05, 2020 at 01:32 PM