



## John Josef Vrablec

May 22, 1939 - August 31, 2015

Guided lovingly by his family and greeted by many friends, John Josef Vrablec, 76, passed from this life on August 31, 2015 at Seasons of Life Hospice in Woodruff, Wisconsin. John was born on May 22, 1939 in Holic, Slovakia to John and Catherine (Vanek). After leaving Slovakia and making his way through Austria and Canada, John and his family settled in the United States. In 1962 he graduated from Michigan State University with a B.S. in Forestry and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Following a 4 year active duty assignment, he became a Naval Reserve Officer, retiring with the rank of Captain. In 1966 he married his loving wife Marion (Fedor) in New York and began a long career with the U.S. Forest Service, traveling through the country, finally settling in Park Falls. After almost 30 years of federal service, John retired to enjoy life with his friends and family. He loved to travel and spend time by the fires talking and laughing. His grandchildren brought him such joy and his family enjoyed laughing and seeing him smile. He loved to fish, hunt, golf, play cards with his friends, travel and watch sports. He spent countless hours volunteering his time in every community he lived in and truly touched every life he encountered.

He is survived by his lovely wife Marion of 49 years, two daughters, Joann (Brian) of Windsor, CO and Elizabeth (Jody) of Savage, MN, three grandchildren, Katherine, Alexander and Ryan, and many nephews, nieces and countless friends. He is preceded in death by his parents and his sister

Anne Drac.

Visitation will be at 10:30 am on Saturday September 5, 2015 at St Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Park Falls, WI with a celebration memorial Mass to follow at 11:30 am. Fr. Shaji Pazhukkathara will officiate.

Military honors will take place after Mass under the auspices of the Park Falls VFW post.

In lieu of flowers or other memorials, donations to the Seasons of Life Hospice House in Woodruff, WI would be greatly appreciated.

The Novitzke Funeral Home is assisting the Family

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 5. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

St. Anthony's Catholic Church  
276 5th Ave South  
Park Falls, WI 54552

## Service

SEP 5. 11:30 AM (CT)

St. Anthony's Catholic Church  
276 5th Ave South  
Park Falls, WI 54552

# Tribute Wall



“ *John Josef Vrabec*

October 05, 2023 at 02:07 PM



“ *I've known John for at least the last 20 years, mostly from golfing and the RMEF. He was one of the main people that got me involved with the RMEF back around 2000. I always loved seeing that picture of the elk being released into the Clam Lake area for the first time and seeing Gov Thompson on one side of the trailer and John on the other. His passing was untimely and he will be greatly missed. My deepest condolences to his family.*

**Steve Gustafson** - September 05, 2015 at 08:05 AM



“ *John and I go way back to Manistee, MI where he reported for duty following his active Navy service. John and Marion have been close friends to Dee and I all these many years. John was unique in my book given his talents and dedication to his family, community, and the Forest Service. His "can do" attitude was always a positive influence. Our lives have been enriched because of John and we will miss him dearly.*

*Mike & Dee Hathaway*

**Mike Hathaway** - September 03, 2015 at 08:38 PM

MB

“ John was an outstanding, Forest Service employee, modelling the examples of (1) a good "steward" of National Forests and (2) "servant leadership" for both citizens and employees. I am grateful for his leadership in the workplace and for the opportunity to serve the agency with him, including an opportunity on the Evans Notch Ranger District, White Mtn National Forest.

*I can only imagine the leadership he modeled in matters of "family" and "faith" but believe they were both of the best and brightest.*

*Blessed be his memory!*

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**Mark Boche** - September 03, 2015 at 01:01 PM

KD

“ Last year during the fall Ruffed Grouse Festival in Park Falls John helped out with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation booth. He was a loyal member of the Flambeau Chapter of RMEF and as a "newbie" I was justifiably nervous. He told me many times "not to worry" adding "you'll do fine". He shared that he'd tried to get Park Falls named as elk capital, but we already had the ruffed grouse. I'll miss his wise friendship, laughter and willingness to share knowledge. Rest well Mr. Vrabec.

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**Karen Dums** - September 02, 2015 at 07:17 PM