

John C. Tepper - Deceased - Nov. 23, 2009

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. -- John Charles Tepper, 59, died at his home in Oklahoma City on Nov. 23, 2009. He was born in Winchendon, Mass., Nov. 1, 1950, to the late Stanley and the late Florence Eileen Tepper.

John grew up in Orange, Mass., until he joined the United States Navy in 1968 and spent the next four years as a cook on the Bolster Salvage Ship. He was quite proud of their work in and out of Vietnam.

John has lived in OKC since his honorable discharge from the Navy and following a debilitating tractor accident in 1976, which left him paralyzed and aphasic. Not one to be stopped, John was determined to walk and talk again and accomplished his goal through extensive and excellent therapy at the Oklahoma City VA Medical Center.

He proved himself a charming and loving son, brother, uncle, and cousin. His quick laugh and generosity to all will be missed by his family as well as his many, many friends. John never knew a stranger, but if he did, he soon made them a friend, if only for a moment.

John was preceded in death by his father in 1990 and his mother in October 2009.

His devastated survivors include his aunt and uncle, Mary and Harry Carroll of Vermont, his sister, Patti Tepper-Rasmussen of OKC, brothers Michael of New Hampshire and Laurence Tepper of Phoenix, Ariz., and brother-in-law Andy Tepper-Rasmussen, and sisters-in-law Ann Kennedy Tepper and Rose Morrill; nieces and spouses Megan (Tepper-Rasmussen) and Jeremy Sokolnicki, Tracey (Tepper) and Julio Molinari; nephews and spouses Michael Vincent and Kirstie Tepper, Kirk and Karrie Tepper, and Michael Tepper-Rasmussen; grandniece Sabrina Tepper and grandnephews Gulio Molinari and Stanley Logan Tepper, along with hundreds of Tepper and Hogencamp cousins and their families back in New England.

All our hearts are broken as he beat the odds in so many ways with grit and determination, to be taken away so young.

Service plans are pending; interment will be in Littleton, Mass.

Cremation arrangements by OK Cremation & Mortuary Service of Oklahoma City. published Athol Daily News 12/4/2009