



## John Robert Presto

December 19, 1951 - January 5, 2023

Beloved comedian, actor, musician, and friend; John “Johnny” Robert Presto (AKA: Ol’ Light Blue Eyes, Amos Karnacher), 71 of Lancaster, PA passed away peacefully following an extended illness on January 5th at UPMC of Lititz.

Born to the late Pearl M. (Hummer) Presto and Late John Presto in Mount Joy, PA on December 19, 1951. Graduated from the Donegal High School Class of 1969. His entertainment career was inspired by his creative activities and production skills developed in high school: marching band (trombone), choir, musical, master of ceremony, and talent shows. Attended Elizabethtown College and was an active member of the performing arts program. He was employed by the Jay Group and previously Armstrong World Industries.

John’s joy of performance and talent in music and theatre was a gift that he shared with local communities. He could be seen around Harrisburg dressed as characters like a pink bunny as he delivered light-hearted singing telegrams. His original parodies were sung as his alter ego of Amos Karnacher, the hip Dutchman of Lancaster County and would give ‘Weird Al’ Yankovic a run for his money. John had the chance to test this theory when he performed as Karnacher for ‘Weird Al’ during the opening act of the Amish Paradise Tour in August of 1996 at the Lancaster Host. Amos Karnacher performances were seen in local Lancaster County schools and libraries as well as appearances on Channel 43’s “Pete McTee’s Clubhouse, WGAL and

WITF. John also produced performances for multiple years at Countdown Lancaster Celebrations (as both himself and as Karnacher) and Mount Joy Winter Fest. He graced the stages of: Ephrata Area Community Theatre, Ephrata Performing Arts Center, Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre (Lancaster), Susquehanna Stage Company (Lancaster), and Belmont Theatre (York). John also was owner and producer of the Johnny Presto Lounge Act which brought jazz and pop standards to local restaurants and retirement communities in Berks, Lancaster, and York counties.

The memories of John are cherished by his chosen family: Jaime Linn Brown (Stage Daughter), Daniel Brown, and Archer Brown; Stan Tucker (Stage Brother), Kathy Tucker, Melia Farrelly, and Josiah Tucker; Brooke Sharp (Stage Daughter), Brian Sharp, Lochlann Sharp, and Maeve Sharp; Glen Leib (Mentor) and family; Roger Thompson (Brother from another Mother) and Gail Chern-Thompson; Mike McDowell (Stage Brother) and family; Rebecca Bonanni (Stage Daughter) and family; and Joanne Ciscon (Stage Daughter). An informal Celebration of Life in John's honor will be held on February 9th from 5-7 PM at the Wallick-O'Connor House, 4 East Main Street, Mount Joy, PA 17552 (entrance is in the rear). Parking is available at Sheetz Funeral Home. A private interment will follow on February 10th.

Should friends desire, contributions on behalf of John Presto may be sent to: Music for Everyone, 42 N Prince Street, Lancaster, PA, 17603, [www.musicforeveryone.org](http://www.musicforeveryone.org).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **9**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Wallick O'Connor House (Sheetz Community Center)  
4 East Main Street  
Mount Joy, PA 17552

# Tribute Wall

CC

“ *My sincere condolences to John's family and friends. He was extremely talented, personable, and an inspiration. As a child I saw the musical Carnival at Donegal High School in which John played the lead. I adored him in that production and it was one of the things which inspired me to become a professional actor, and enjoy a long, still ongoing, life in the theater. John, you provided joy to so many - a life well-lived! Cynthia Charles*

**Cynthia Charles** - January 29, 2023 at 10:22 AM

BL

*I am so sorry to hear about John passing. He was such a good man, kind and understanding. He brought laughter and joy to so many people. Beth liggins*

**Beth Liggins** - February 06, 2023 at 09:09 PM

DW

*I have known you, John, basically all of my life. I will miss you for the rest of my life. I dearly wish I could be there but you understand. Rest in peace my dear friend until we meet again. ❤️  
Dorothy Biesecker Wilhelmsen*

**Dorothy Biesecker Wilhelmsen** - February 09, 2023 at 09:23 AM



*Great Guy and performer x*

**Johnny Weaver** - February 09, 2023 at 01:23 PM

DS

*I grew up across the street from Johnny in Mount Joy. He was a kind and joyous soul.*

**David Stumpf** - July 15, 2023 at 11:32 AM



“ *This amazing man graced the stage at the travel lodge where I hosted Karaoke on more than one occasion. He wasn't just a truly talented performer, but an incredible person who could light up a room with a smile and a song. He will be missed and remembered fondly.*

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**Star Bunner** - January 28, 2023 at 07:47 PM

SH

“ *He was always so kind and sweet doing our time at EPAC together.. he will be greatly missed.*



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**sheri** - January 28, 2023 at 05:37 PM

JW

“ *Appreciated the opportunity to experience John's appearance in The Rat Pack Lounge at the Belmont Theater. His love of Sinatra shined through an engaging, energetic and genuine performance!*

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**Jeff Witman** - January 28, 2023 at 09:51 AM

NH

“ *I knew John as a classmate at Donegal High School (class of 1969). My favorite memory is of him MC'ing the yearbook assembly. I was editor, and he made the whole process hilarious and fun.*

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**Nancy Heisey** - January 27, 2023 at 06:44 AM