



## John Aloysius Morra

July 17, 1926 - February 26, 2016

John Aloysius Morra, a long-time resident of Roanoke, passed away on February 26, 2016 in Charlottesville, VA. Born in Waterbury, CT, on July 17, 1926 he lived in the greater New York City metropolitan area until relocating to Roanoke permanently in 1966. Mr. Morra was the son of John Aloysius Morra (born in Hartford, CT, in 1896) and Josephine Cattani Morra (born in Differdange, Luxembourg, in 1898). He is survived by his brother, Paul Morra (Blanca) of Brookville, NY; three children from his first marriage to wife, Rosemarie Flood Morra (who predeceased him in 1993): Kathleen Morra-Sloan (Michael) of Troutville, VA; Brian John Morra (Tracy) of McLean, VA; and Karin Morra Magno (Tom) of Charlottesville, VA; eleven grandchildren, Courtney Sloan, Gregory Sloan, Katie Conner (Kevin), Lauren Morra (Zach Stechly), Claire Morra, Coley Perkins, Sarah Perkins, John Barnhill, Luke Barnhill, Patrick Magno (Lindsey), and two great-grandchildren, Amelia Magno and Gabriel Stechly; sister-in-law, Catherine Williams; brother-in-law, Walter Houle; numerous nieces and nephews; his second wife, Clare Hare Morra predeceased him in 2014. Mr. Morra had three step-children from that marriage; Janet Hare, John Hare, and Andrea Short (Tom) and numerous step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren. John A. Morra spent his early years in the greater New York City area with family and seven siblings. His father and namesake died in 1939. After his father's passing, young John became especially close to his paternal grandfather, Dominic Morra. His grandfather was born in Naples, Italy, and immigrated to the United States with his wife, Lena in the 1880s. Mr. Morra's maternal grandparents lived in Luxembourg City, Luxembourg. His maternal grandmother died in New York City in 1919, having taken ill while escorting John's mother, Josephine to the United States to join her new husband, shortly after the conclusion of World War One. Mr. Morra's father served in the U.S. Expeditionary Forces in France, Luxembourg, and Germany during the First World War. Mr. Morra's parents were married in Trier, Germany in 1919.

John graduated from Rockaway High School in Rockaway, NJ, where he played baseball and ran track. He worked as a caddy as a young man, sparking his life-long interest in golf. He also participated in the Civil Air Patrol in high school and upon his graduation he enlisted in the United States Army Air Forces in June, 1944, and was accepted into the pilot cadet program. He served from 1944 to 1946 and was stationed at Shemya AFB,

Alaska, amongst other duty stations.

After military service he returned to New Jersey. A highly talented graphic artist and painter, Mr. Morra worked professionally as an artist in an advertising firm in Manhattan in the late 1940s. He married his first wife Rosemarie Flood in 1949. He changed careers in the early 1950s and became a life insurance salesman. He spent the rest of his career in life insurance sales and management positions in New Jersey and later in Roanoke. The death of his father at a very early age prompted Mr. Morra to work in the field of life insurance – so as to protect other families from the economic hardship his own family endured as a result of his father's untimely passing. He was employed at Prudential Life, Monarch Life, and also worked as an independent broker. In Roanoke he was very active in the Life Underwriters Association.

He was blessed to have been married to two exceptional women (he married Clare Hare in 1996) and he was very grateful for that fact until the end of his life. His other loves included music, especially swing, 1950s jazz, and Frank Sinatra; golf; the New York Yankees; and most other sporting activities. He grew up in a large and gregarious family and loved to spend time with family and friends, often entertaining them with his humor and charm.

A Funeral Mass will be held Monday, February 29, 2016 at 12 noon in Fincastle, VA, at the Church of the Transfiguration. Visitation will be held one hour prior. The address is 7624 Roanoke Rd (Route 220), Fincastle, VA 24090. He will be buried next to Rosemarie in Evergreen Burial Park. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Salvation Army, 724 Dale Ave. SE, Roanoke, VA 24013 or the Angels of Assisi, 415 Campbell Ave. SW, Roanoke, VA 24016.

# Cemetery

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**Evergreen Burial Park**

Roanoke, VA,

# Events

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**FEB Visitation 11:00AM**

**29**

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Church of the Transfiguration  
7624 Roanoke Rd., Fincastle, VA, US

**FEB Service 12:00PM**

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Church of the Transfiguration  
7624 Roanoke Rd., Fincastle, VA, US

# Comments

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“ Karin Morra Magno lit a candle in memory of John Aloysius Morra



**Karin Morra Magno** - February 25, 2020 at 05:16 PM



“ Hard to believe that you left this earth four years ago tomorrow. I miss your laugh, Dad.

**Karin Morra Magno** - February 25, 2020 at 05:18 PM

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“ Karin Morra Magno lit a candle in memory of John Aloysius Morra



**Karin Morra Magno** - August 29, 2018 at 08:06 PM

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“ Steve and I lived across the street from John and Clair for a number of years and share our sadness at this news. We often had lively conversations ranging from politics to sports, gardening to snow plowing... all the topics that neighbors share. Both were exceptional people with a wonderful zest for life. We will miss them both and want to let you know that your family is in our thoughts and prayers.  
Steve and Debbie Moses

**Debbie Moses** - March 08, 2016 at 01:51 PM

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“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you in this time of loss. May happy memories bring you peace and consolation.  
Annette & Carl Schell

Annette Schell - March 04, 2016 at 08:13 PM

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“ Karin Morra Magno lit a candle in memory of John Aloysius Morra



karin Morra Magno - March 04, 2016 at 03:38 PM

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“ To The family of Mr Morra,  
It is with great sadness to learn of the passing of your Father, John. I had the wonderful opportunity to meet and work with your Dad in Physical Therapy while he lived at Salem Terrace. Being a fellow "Yankee", I enjoyed immensely the laughs and memories we shared, especially about how our humor only other Northerners may truly appreciate. He shared great memories of his childhood and spoke lovingly of his life with two "wonderful" women and how fortunate he was to have had them in his life I loved his desire to talk and share but not just for himself but he felt the sadness of those around him and tried so desperately to make them smile. He also shared so much about his love for his children and brother. Spending time with John although was short was truly an honor, prayers to the Morra Family and thanks again for the opportunity to have met with your Father.  
Sincerely,  
Lisa Krackow

Lisa Krackow - March 01, 2016 at 02:54 PM

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“ Steve considered John a good friend and always appreciated his business advice. I'm sorry I am unable to pay my respects to him at the funeral home but am in Florida for a few more weeks .I know he will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.  
Dot Eggleston

Dot Eggleston - February 29, 2016 at 06:17 PM

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“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of John Aloysius Morra.



February 28, 2016 at 09:30 AM

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“ Bobbi Sloan lit a candle in memory of John Aloysius Morra



Bobbi Sloan - February 28, 2016 at 05:21 AM

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“ The Endless Sky Spray was purchased for the family of John Aloysius Morra.



February 27, 2016 at 09:04 PM

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“ Jim & I lived next door to Mr. John Morra for the past 3 years. We're so sorry for his family's loss.

Marie Jim Sharkey - February 27, 2016 at 06:12 PM

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“ Marie Jim Sharkey lit a candle in memory of John Aloysius Morra



Marie Jim Sharkey - February 27, 2016 at 06:09 PM



“ John will deeply be missed. Our prayers for John and his family. Mr. & Mrs. Thomas & Rose Magno.

Mr. & Mrs. Tom N, Magno - March 01, 2016 at 01:28 PM



“ I miss you, daddy.

Karin Magno - March 09, 2016 at 07:11 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Aloysius Morra.



February 27, 2016 at 05:15 PM

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“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of John Aloysious Morra.



February 27, 2016 at 03:53 PM

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“ We were so sorry to hear about your dad, Kathleen. Phil, having gone to high school with you knew them longer than I did, but after Mary Washington and UVA, your wedding, my marrying Phil and moving to Roanoke, I was lucky enough to develop a friendship with them, as well, especially with your mom, Rosemarie. I remember many a conversation with her over the years when we talked of her family - her husband and kids and how proud she was of all of you. I will cherish always the time I spent with her during her times in the hospital visiting with her. Such a dear lady ... and your dad, what a kind, kind man he was. Your mom and dad welcomed both Phil and me into their world because of our friendship with you and your family. What a gift that was for, especially for me, a transplant from Richmond. Having lost both of my parents, I know how tough it is but fortunately we know we will see them all again someday ... and now he is wherever the two loves of his life are ... and that makes me/us smile.

Love, Patti and Phil Peters

**Patti and Phil Peters** - February 27, 2016 at 02:01 PM

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“ Love, Terra Lahrman (Richie's daughter and niece) purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of John Aloysious Morra.



**Terra Lahrman** - February 27, 2016 at 01:08 PM