



John E. McKenna

October 12, 1950 - November 20, 2025

John E. McKenna, 75, of San Rafael, California, and formerly of Camillus, NY, passed away on November 20, 2025, after putting up a determined fight against a heart illness diagnosed just over a year ago.

Born in Syracuse, John graduated from West Genesee High School in 1968 and lived in the area until the mid-1980s, though he was rarely still for long. Music was always calling, and during the 1970s and 1980s he played in local bands including Darlin' and OUTAKONTROL, proving that rock and roll dreams do not have an expiration date.

John worked for Nationwide Insurance while living in the Syracuse area, then lived briefly in Connecticut, before heading west in the late 1980s—mainly for the music, though eventually reality required a job. He later retired from The Pasha Group, working in logistics, a career that suited someone who was always going somewhere anyway.

John fully embraced California life, enjoying the beaches, camping, and hiking Yosemite National Park, a trip he managed almost yearly. When back on his home turf, he'd head north to the High Peaks of the Adirondack Mountains, because relaxing apparently wasn't his style. He was a sports fan, especially of MLB and the NBA, and maintained an impressive guitar collection.

He was predeceased by his parents, Clarence and Ethel McKenna.

He is survived by his brother, Jim (Cathy) McKenna of Camillus; his sister, Kathy (Joe) McIndoo of Buffalo; several nieces and nephews; and a wide circle of friends who appreciated his music, stories, and independent spirit.

Calling hours are Saturday, May 2nd, 2026 from 12 noon to 2 pm at B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home, 10 Genesee St., Camillus, NY. Burial will be in Greenlawn Cemetery, Warners.

The family offers special thanks to the many friends who helped John along the way, especially John Coon, whose friendship and support meant more than words can say.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to WG Marching Band, make checks payable to WGCSDSAF c/o West Genesee High School, 5201 West Genesee St., Camillus, NY 13031. In memo section please write WG Marching Band.

Arrangements are by B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home, Camillus. Please sign the guestbook and share memories at www.BLBUSH.com

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 2. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home
10 W. Genesee Street
Camillus, NY 13031
(315) 672-3400
info@bushfuneralhome.com
<https://www.bushfuneralhome.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ 4 files added to the album *Memories Album*



B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home / Monuments - May 02 at 03:43 PM

DN

“ *Rest easy John. It was always a good time watching and listening to you play, especially when you were singing a Bon Scott song :)
Your friend, Donna Norman*

Donna Norman - April 26 at 10:08 PM

CS

“ Kathy and family - Condolences on John's passing. He was a great guy and musician. I worked with him when he was in Darlin with Murphy, Lutters, Callisto and another guy from the Westside. They were working with Rick Derringer doing a pre tour for the Derringer Album. The whole band stayed at a "vintage" motel someplace in Vermont. The bar they played at was so old it couldn't handle the power requirements of band equipment. After much back and forth between Dave Rezak and the owner he got a friend to install a new electric panel and the show went on. John was calm throughout. If I recall correctly, I think the guys were scheduled to open for Santana later that year. I'll always have fond memories of that summer with John and the band. RIP John.
Craig Sarraf

Craig Sarraf - April 09 at 04:54 PM

KS

“ I am truly sorry to hear of John's death. He was so devoted to creating music and a good sou And he was an important part of my past. RIP, John, and thanks Coon for your support and care for McKenna during the past year 🙏

Katrina Smits - January 06 at 11:31 PM



“ 12 files added to the album Memories Album



B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home / Monuments - December 30, 2025 at 03:46 PM

MD

Dear family of John,

I worked with John for many years at the Pasha Group in both Corte Madera and San Rafael, California. I retired in 2010 and as with many, lost track of John. I did however, eventually run into him on occasions when he worked at Sprouts in San Rafael. We would catch up.

I am writing this today, only because I just found out of his passing. Just two weeks ago I was in Sprouts and asked about him but the particular clerk did not know him.

John was truly one of a kind. I managed him in our logistics department for several years and can tell you he was a devoted worker. To be honest, drove me crazy sometimes but that was part of his charm. I did not know much about his music path, but had the joy of hearing him sing once and was blown away. We actually had to really coax him into singing.

In recent years I began to understand his passion for music as my granddaughter is a singer and John was so supportive and interested in her career. He was a selfless human being, always caring for others. It is important to know that he had good friends at The Pasha Group and I thought it important to represent something that John had been such an intricate part of for so many years. I am saddened by his passing. May he rest in peace and may good memories keep him alive in your hearts and minds.

Maryanne DeLuca

Maryanne F DeLuca - June 05 at 07:01 PM