



Phillips, John James

October 28th, 1946 - May 12th, 2020

It is with extreme sorrow that we announce the peaceful passing of our father and loving husband - John James Phillips. John was called to his "log cabin in the sky" on Tuesday evening, May 12th; 2020 - at approximately 11:50 pm. He was residing at the Iverary Manor in Inverness, Cape Breton. His loving wife Rita, of 42 years and his sister Marlene, were right by his side; to the very end. Born October 28th, 1946; John's home was in Margaree Centre, Cape Breton. John loved the people in the Margaree community. He was the first born son and pre-deceased by the lovely Allena Mary (MacNeil) Phillips and John Joseph Phillips. John's closest friend was always his dearest mother, Allena. There was nothing he wouldn't do for his dear mother. She gave him life, and in return; he gave her his heart forever.

His final words to her would always be, "I Love You Mother". John was blessed to have four loving sisters, Jessie Murphy (Thomas, deceased), N.E. Margaree; Iris (Drake) Phillips (Walter), Halifax; Marlene Fortune (John, deceased), N.E. Margaree; Arlene (Timmons) Dunn (William and Andy, deceased), Margaree Forks as well as his one and only ever-loving brother Franklin Angus Phillips (Mary),

Truro . John was also very blessed to have 27 nieces and nephews. They were all loved by "Uncle John", just as if they were his very own children. He was pre-deceased by 6 of his nephews, their names are listed with their corresponding family members below. Anne-Marie and Donnie - John Paul - Wade, Fabian and Benjiman - Isadore, LeeLand (deceased), Tommy, Bruce, Barry, and one of John's Godchildren; Dougie (deceased) - another Godchild Frankie Angus (deceased), Joey (deceased), Elvis, Corrina, Rocky, Billy Jack and Ern; Frankie John (deceased) and Charlene - Scott and Raylena; Tracy (deceased), Marilyn, Andrea and John. John also had one more Godchild Duke Timmons (Patricia). May he watch over all of you and your children, forever and ever; Amen. Following in his Father's footsteps, John also chose to make his home in Margaree with his darling wife Rita (Aresnault) Phillips who was formely from East Margaree; Cape Breton. Daughter of the late Annie Rose (Arsenault) Cormier and the late William Arsenault. He also had the pleasure of being loved by Rita's sibilings Helena Bonnar (Dave), Leo Arsenault (deceased) and Laurretta (Timmons) Boutlier (deceased). In his early years John was so full of energy, he cut pulp with his Dad and he raised and sold horses and ponies across the Island. He always shared fond memories of his first job working at the old Margaree Valley Fiberglass Shop. The late Donnie McDermid really treated John well while he worked there. John Joe (as his friends loved to call him) and Rita were blessed with a large, beautiful family of fifteen children. John is survived by: The first one to steal his heart and call him Dad - Jason (Cora); Rachel (Billy); Terry (Carrie); Jody (Leah); Jolene; Jessica (Rodney); Belinda (John); Christina (Devin); Douglas; Bruce (Theresa-Ann); Mary (Andrew); Courtney; Katrina Isabel (Bobby); Lawrence (Becky) and his baby Kendra (Axel). They were his heart, his everything! John always had a special place in his heart for Axel and the Dorton boys. John and his wife were pretty much inseperable all their lives. After marrying Rita, they enjoyed spending time together in St. Ann's cutting wood. He always said, "more hands, makes light work". Living on his parents homestead, they managed to keep a beautiful farm for many years. Along with caring for all their children, they also raised horses, milk cows, chickens, pigs, and sheep. It was alot of work, but John did it... and he loved doing it; until he couldn't do it anymore. John had vegetable gardens, flower gardens and weed gardens. It was all beautiful to

him. He kept his whole family laughing with his dry humor and well thought out pranks. John loved dancing at their family gatherings, the "Party on the Hill". He would make Rita laugh so much sometimes, her belly would jiggle. Then they would laugh even more. He would pick his children up from friends houses at 1 a.m. and be up to deliver the newspapers for 5a.m. He shovelled snow from his mother's doorstep by 7:30a.m. and had his children to school for 9a.m. He must have been running on empty, even though his heart was always full. John, really was a kind soul with a heart of gold. Later in life, he loved taking his kids to early morning hockey practice and afternoon soccer games. Even if it was not always his children getting the goals... he was cheering just as loud for everyone. His pep talks were priceless..."If your going to do something, make sure you do it right the first time." and "You can do anything those boys can do, probably even better... now get out there and play your butt off." He had lots of cheers to go around; and he needed them for his 23 beautiful grandchildren. Marissa, Jordan and Amelia (Jason); Isaac and Nash (Rachel); Noah, Willow, and Eliza (Terry); Ella, Jake, Wyatt, and Ira (Jody); Dean, (Jolene); Chloe, Ava, Dustin, and Chase (Jessica); Mia (Belinda); Arya (Christina); Abbigail, Avery and Luca (Bruce) and Seph (Mary). He loved them all dearly. They could jump on him, stand on his head and crawl all over him. As long as he could speak, he would say "Oh, that's alright, let the little darlings be!" John loved everyone and helped anyone, day or night. There were no boundries he wouldn't cross to help someone in need; even in times when he barely had enough to help himself. He was not a perfect man, sure he slipped sometimes; but he certainly gave it his all. John had so many friends, aunts, uncles and cousins; there are too many to name.....but you all know who you are. Thank you for accepting John for the wild young man he once was, and loving him for the distinguished gentle man he became.

We the family, extend a very special Thank You; to all the Health Care providers who cared so deeply for John. Thank You to Father MacLennan for the beautiful reading of the last rights and prayers for John. To all the Home Care and Inverary Manor staff, he knew you loved him right to the end; you will never be forgotten. Cremation has taken place under the care of the Forest Haven Memorial Gardens. Memorial donations can be made directly to the Inverary

Manor, Inverness; Nova Scotia or their Palliative Care Department. A "Celebration of Life" and Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date, when the ongoing State of Emergency restrictions are lifted.

You can rest your weary eyes now Daddy, we'll take it from here. You taught us well! May you always smile down on us from Heaven. Our hearts are with you, until we meet again! We love you Dad and to quote you "Take care dear!" - Love Forever your Phillips Family