



John William "Jack" Fitzgerald

May 23, 1923 - January 20, 2021

John William Fitzgerald, was born May 23, 1953 and passed away January 20, 2021. Jack, as he was called by his family, was adopted from Inchon, Korea in 1960 by George and Isabelle Fitzgerald of New Berlin, NY. He and his younger brother were raised in the small upstate NY community until he joined the U.S. Army in 1973. He served as a Military Police until 1977.

He spent a number of years working in construction and eventually settled in Florida. He was a resident of Tallahassee for more than 25 years.

John long battled PTSD and alcohol and drug addictions as a result of the trauma he experienced serving in the Army during the Viet Nam war. As a longtime member of the homeless community, John was known as "Chief" on the streets. He often helped other homeless individuals with some of the money he made doing construction work or panhandling.

John suffered a broken hip in 2010 after being struck by a hit and run driver as he left the Leon County Homeless Shelter. After surgery and rehabilitation, John worked hard to change his life. He got clean and sober and renewed his faith. John was accepted into the local Veterans Village housing community. He grew stronger through his new found relationships with other veterans also working to overcome addiction and homelessness. Sadly, at 68, John continued to suffer a losing battle with the demons he encountered while serving his country.

John is survived by his younger brother, James Fitzgerald (central Florida) and friends Gail Stansberry-Ziffer and Gil Ziffer of Tallahassee, as well as his friends within the homeless community.

Funeral services will be held at 11a.m. Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at the Tallahassee National Cemetery.

Susie Mozolic of Bevis Funeral Home assisted with all arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Tallahassee National Cemetery

5015 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, FL 32311

Previous Events

Funeral Service

FEB 10. 11:00 AM (ET)

Tallahassee National Cemetery
5015 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, FL 32311

Tribute Wall

MD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



michael dewitt - February 13, 2021 at 05:25 PM

MD

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



michael dewitt - February 13, 2021 at 05:15 PM

MW

“ John was the nicest and the most thoughtful kindest hearted man i have EVER known. I have only known him for his last 2 1/2 years but the love in his eyes I will never forget . he loved papa johns supreme pizza. And he loved my home made omlets with everything on it. He loved to give my children snacks and he was like family to us. I miss him so.much. he loved to play his 12 string guitar and night gaze at the stars all night long! I am so happy that he is in a better place with his father in heaven. I love you John and we miss you. Love sue mike n kids

Michael dewitt and Susan weaver - February 13, 2021 at 04:58 PM

CB

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Jack's passing. I knew him my last two years of HS, as my family moved to New Berlin in my junior year. We used to have lots of conversations in a class that was free to converse. I always liked Jack, and lost track of him as I went to college and then my parents moved again. It's nice to hear after all his challenges in life that he was the loving person I knew him to be and he was able to change from the bad challenges. My condolences to the family snd friends he made along his way in life. ❤️🕊️

Love, Carol Pointon Begeal

Carol L. Begeal - February 11, 2021 at 08:01 PM

MD

He was a great man! Miss him dearly

michael dewitt - February 13, 2021 at 05:27 PM

SC

“ *Sheena Cooper lit a candle in memory of
John William "Jack" Fitzgerald*



Sheena cooper - February 10, 2021 at 10:14 AM

SC

*May He's soul rest in peace. Your work here on Earth is done.
Go rest with God.*

Sheena cooper - February 10, 2021 at 10:17 AM

MD

Amen!

michael dewitt - February 13, 2021 at 05:29 PM