



John Mode Starling Jr.

January 30, 1962 - August 5, 2020

John Mode Starling Jr, 58 years young, joined his loving family and our god in heaven on August 5th, 2020. He was born in Titusville, FL on January 30th, 1962 and has lived in Tallahassee, FL for 30 years. He is pre-deceased by his parents John Mode Starling Sr and Ester Starling. He is survived by his wife Patricia Starling, 6 children; Celia Tucker, Henry Cannon Sr, Kristen Starling, Chelsea Starling, Amber Starling, Destiny Starling, 11 grandchildren; Ashley Tidwell, Breann Mixson, Remi Cannon, Hayley Cannon, Anastazia Starling, Jacarrio Starling, Kynlee Cannon, Gabriella Starling, Nevaeh Starling, Henry Cannon Jr, Gunner Starling, 3 great grandchildren; Augustus Mixson, Parker Tidwell, Marylou Mixson. John retired from the State of Florida at the Division of Telecommunications in the Department of Management Services after 30 years of employment. He graduated 2nd in his class with honors at Lake Brantley H.S in 1981 and from The University of Florida in 1985 with a bachelors degree in electrical engineering. He was a huge gator fan and made sure all of his friends that were seminole knew that. His greatest accomplishments were his wife and being a more than acceptable father. His funeral service will be held at 3 pm on Friday, August 14th at Bevis Funeral home. The interment will be held at 11 am on Saturday, August 15th at Antioch Baptist Church Cemetery, 3601 NW 177th Ave, Gainesville FL 32609. Todd Wahlquist with Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193, www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the Starling family with their arrangements. Due to current circumstances, the service will be livestreamed via the funeral home website.

Visit <https://www.bevisfh.com/obituaries/John-starling/#!/PhotosVideos> to view the service at its scheduled time.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

AUG **14**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Bevis Funeral Home & Crematory
200 John Knox Rd
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 385-2193

Tribute Wall



“ *Bevis Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of John Mode Starling Jr.*



Bevis Funeral Home - August 14, 2020 at 12:24 PM

JG

Hi John. Thanks for always being a solid voice of reason in a curious world. You bring gravitas to the simplest and most complex conversations. Thanks for your smile and charm. You will certainly be missed. God bless you on your new journey. God Bless your family.
JDG

JD GLOW - August 14, 2020 at 02:31 PM

JR

Destiny thank you for sharing your heart with us all. God bless you and your family.

Jonathan Rakestraw - August 14, 2020 at 03:37 PM

MP

Our prayers are with John's family. The ceremony was a beautiful tribute to John. He will be missed by so many.

Mark Powell - August 14, 2020 at 03:43 PM

DM

John was one of my favorite customers. Always pleasant to deal with even when the topic was difficult, as was sometimes the case. By setting an example to follow, he was a person that makes one strive to do better.

Thank you for all that you did and examples you showed.

David Meermans - August 14, 2020 at 03:54 PM

DE

Thank you Jonathan and everybody for being there for us through this difficult time!

Destiny - August 23, 2020 at 03:12 PM



“Daddy, I want you to know that, I loved everything you ever did for me, I love you so much I'm gonna miss dancing with you!”



Destiny Starling - August 16, 2020 at 05:50 PM

CG

“I worked with John at the PSC for several years. He was the best engineer and everyone wanted John on their case because he was easy to work with and extremely smart. We took our morning break together every morning and ate breakfast together. We talked about everything especially college football. I don't like many gators but I liked John. He will be missed, I'm glad I got to know him and spend time with him. Rest in Peace Gator.”

Chris Groom - August 14, 2020 at 10:22 PM

CH

“ I had the honor of working with John for the past several years. He was always patient and willing to help. Our department depended on him to do so much and yet he never had a bad day at the office. I will continue to admire his dedication to all aspects of his life. I am lucky to have also considered him to be a friend and I will miss our talks about family and politics. My deepest condolences to his family.

Camila Hornung - August 14, 2020 at 05:46 PM

KR

“ I recall John telling me about the time he flew with the governor, to set up PA sound equipment for a speech he was going to make, and during the flight, the governor talked to him about his love for Florida. Of course, this isn't news to anyone who knew John, but he was a wonderful person, always so kind and helpful. He was one of the nicest men I ever met. I will miss him.

Kent R. State of Florida, DMS/Bureau of Public Safety

Kent Raheb - August 14, 2020 at 05:02 PM

DM

“ I had the honor of working with John at DMS for many years. We shared many walks and talks through out the years; as we also shared a very special friend, Bill Hand, who I still miss dearly today. I loved to hear John share stories about his family and his girls who he loved immensely. His sense of humor and passion for people will definitely be missed. John was great to work with, there was never a dull moment, especially during those long hours spent at the State Emergency Operations Center for ESF 2 where he'd keep us entertained with funny stories and engaging conversations about life, sports and work! He was an awesome team player; he always made me feel special as the “lady” of the engineering group. We lost one of our best. Rest In Peace John...gone but never forgotten!

Danette McBride - August 14, 2020 at 04:58 PM

ED

“ I’m so thankful to have had John as a colleague; he was an absolute gem to work with. He was intelligent, selfless with his incredible knowledgeable hardworking, patient and kind. He gave so much and was so valuable to DMS and the state of Florida. His gentle, lighthearted charm made one feel as if everything was going to be okay. He will be greatly missed. My sincere condolences to his family.

Edie - August 14, 2020 at 04:26 PM

AM

“ John,
The great work environment, the times we spent attending several conferences, the passionate Noles-Gators discussions, the laughs I shared with you and Bill Hand will always be with me. Thank you for all the good memories!
Abdul Majid

Abdul Majid - August 14, 2020 at 04:10 PM

JM

“ Jennifer Moreen lit a candle in memory of John Mode Starling Jr.



Jennifer Moreen - August 14, 2020 at 03:36 PM

TH

“ I had the privledge of working with John and then seeing him every year at the Night to Shine prom with Destiny. He was one of the most dependable people that ever worked for me and he was always willing to help. He always made me smile with his Ohio State barbs and I would try to match him with some comments about his Gators. I could sit in a room with him and Bill Hand forever and listen to those two go on about one thing or another. I hope he is able to share some laughs with Bill now. I know how much he loved his family! I wish there were more people like John out there. He will be missed.

Thank you for living the life you did, John.

Tabitha Hunter - August 14, 2020 at 03:27 PM

AR

“ John you were the coworker that constantly rescued me, and my friend. We are all finally figuring out that we each though you were nice to everyone but we all secretly thought that we had a special bond with you. Turns out you were just incredibly thoughtful and kind to everyone and had a special bond with us all. You are so incredibly missed, and will never be forgotten by your work family.



Ann R - August 14, 2020 at 03:25 PM

DL

“ Don Lamb lit a candle in memory of John Mode Starling Jr.



Don Lamb - August 14, 2020 at 03:08 PM

DL

“ John was such a gentle soul. While we were running around before a meeting trying to get the audio to work John would calmly step up and make all well. John always had a kind word for any and everyone he crossed paths with in the coarse of a day at work. You will be missed by all your DMS family.

*R.I.P. John
Don Lamb*

Don Lamb - August 14, 2020 at 03:07 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with your family John. I always appreciated your advice and your time. I remember like it was yesterday the used car discussion we had and your position on “no sunroofs”. If it isn’t leaking now, it will soon. I’ll think of you every time I decide not to buy a used car because it has a sunroof. Thanks for still looking after all of us.

Jeremy Daniell - August 14, 2020 at 02:25 PM

NP

“ Since the late 1990s, as your colleague and supervisor, you were a superb engineer and importantly, an amazing person! I admired you for your dedication to your family! You reminded me of that song from Brad Paisley, “Father he didn’t have to be”! I am a better father because of that influence! I enjoyed our time together when I invited you to the baseballs games when the Gators visited Florida State. There are so many stories I could tell everyone! There are so many stories I could tell everyone, but the one that comes to mind is probably the scariest for many of us. You were headed back to work and a car side-clip your SUV causing it to flip. You called while in the SUV upside down to tell me that were going to be late for work! I immediately drove over to wreck site and wanted to make sure someone was with you! Wow, John! That was bad wreck and I cold not believe that you had called me to let me know you were going to be late. You are amazing! I’m glad we got you home a little shook up, but safe! We are all going to miss you so much! I will always pray for you and your family! God bless you!!!

Nicholas Platt - August 14, 2020 at 02:04 PM

LL

“Mrs. Starling our deepest condolences to you and the Starling family during your time of loss, our thoughts/prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time. I was so sorry to hear of John's passing and we want to express our most sincere sympathies to you and the family during this difficult time from our DivTel team here at DMS. Your husband was a highly valuable and respected member of our team here and the effects of his passing are already being felt here by his fellow coworkers and management.

I was lucky enough to work with John and got a chance to see what a great man he was. Although I only recently got a chance to really work closely with John over the last year and a half. I can only say that he was a pleasure to work with, I was very impressed with his work ethic and relentless desire to complete a project. I will miss him dearly and wanted to extend my sympathies to you and your family.

John was a wonderful man who understood the meaning of the word "team." He was always more focused on the good of the agency and the department than on his own benefit. He made many great contributions to our agency and helped it move forward in numerous ways. His work here will not soon be forgotten.

John was a remarkable man and everyone at DivTel is better for having known him. For those of us that had the privilege of calling him "friend" outside of work, we were humbled by his kindness and compassion to everyone around him.

He will be greatly missed and everyone here is saddened by his death. Know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and his family and friends during this difficult time.

With sincere sympathy,

Luis & Yolanda Lopez

Luis Lopez - August 14, 2020 at 01:16 PM

MA

“ To the Starling Family,

My deepest and most sincere condolences on your loss! I share your sorrow and only ask the Almighty God to give you strength to endure his loss. My all his fond memories bring you joy to pull through this sad times.

To all his friends, colleagues and the people that knew John,

I worked closely with john for over 16 years (the joke between us was, we were "John & Marcia"- due to my age, since I was older, I was John & he was Marcia. Plus, I had to make sure that Marcia was always happy; so most often, I would let him win the arguments and often for very good reasons. And if I had better reasons for my standings, he would come back and say "ok, we can modify the stance in this new & compromising way", since he also wanted to make me happy. We never let each other felt defeated and always our stances on the issues came to be stronger and more solid.

John, Mohammad (another visionary and great engineer) and I, together with the help and expertise of many of our colleagues, with concurrence and special support from our Division/Department's leadership, shaped the future of the State of Florida Telecom Network and services. We built on the solid footings of the SUNCOM network, what's best for Florida and all those who serve Florida.

As for John, he was one of the smartest, sharpest and most astute and efficient individuals, I have ever came across. Although, his demeanors and humbleness may not show, John was a very well read, educated, and always in search of new knowledge, innovative ideas and futuristic visions. John was well rounded and multi faceted individual. He was a very caring individual and always attempted to please people, dropping whatever he/we were doing in trying to meet the needs of others (specially our colleagues).

John was an opiniated (but never arrogant) individual but in a very good way. He was a good listener. He did his best not to be judgmental and most often succeeded. His stance on issues was for the care of others and the mass of the population. He definitely was progressive and had strong political but solid views. He was a tolerant person, but inside could not stand "Stupid" - He liked the saying " Stupid is, what stupid does". To some, his weakness was that he was a "Gator", but not to me, since I am for all Florida schools, even though, all my children graduated from FSU.

Finally, John was a family man. From the love and care for his wife Pat, to his parents and specially his children and grandchildren. No matter how busy, their care and welfare was his top priority. He often spoke about them and he set his life course around their well being. When talking about retirement, his ultimate goal was how best arrange and maximize his retirement so that his family be best taken care of. I know for fact that he put the family's needs ahead of his own likes and desires. No matter what life dished out, he managed to overcome the obstacles for his family, while he met all his work challenges. I do not wish to mention names, but he spoke about all children so often that I feel I know each one of them.

God bless him and his family. May his soul soars to higher and better places, among his deceased loved ones.

I shall miss John!

Mahmoud

Mahmoud - August 14, 2020 at 12:03 PM

ED

Thank you for sharing these memories, Mahmoud.

Edie - August 14, 2020 at 12:27 PM



To John's family and friends, I am so very sorry for your loss.

The SoF was my customer for many years, and John was my main contact. He was always so nice to me, and never even raised his voice if he disapproved of something we did, or didn't do. I spoke to John many times about matters other than work, but about life. I really enjoyed my time working with him, and I am incredibly saddened by this news.

My heart felt condolences.

Dan Weiner

Dan Weiner - August 14, 2020 at 12:47 PM

ME

You said very well about him, I remember once when he spend time to choose my favorite music background- to play during employee's appreciation picnic in last two years in my show time, and make me happy- he was hard worker, honest and had nice smile on his face always. My prayers is with his family and he is in God's care. Mina Eslah

Mina Eslah - August 14, 2020 at 02:09 PM

JS

My heart is full of sorrow by hearing about the loss of John and my most sincere condolences are going out to you and your family. May the Lord comfort and bless you during this time of bereavement. Professional and personally he was such a great guy. John was never to busy to stop and help a fellow coworker. John was a great person and engineer! He will be truly missed! Jennifer Swanson

Jennifer Swanson - August 14, 2020 at 02:33 PM

AD

That was so nice what you shared Mahmoud. Sorry for your loss of your friend.

Anne DeLucca - August 14, 2020 at 03:34 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Mode Starling Jr..



August 14, 2020 at 08:55 AM



“ All your friends at CenturyLink purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of John Mode Starling Jr..



All your friends at CenturyLink - August 12, 2020 at 05:47 PM



“ John was cheerful in all weathers of life, and possessed an abundance of patience. He was a model for kindness, and the world is now a bit less bright without him in our lives. We were all so lucky to have had him grace our days. My heartfelt condolences to his entire family. I imagine he has left some mighty fine footprints.



*Janet Doherty
DMS Coworker*

Janet Doherty - August 12, 2020 at 12:37 PM

WM

“ John always had a great sense of humor and he not only found what others did amusing but he could laugh at himself as well. He was a great guy and we will all miss him!

*Bill McCusker, Retired
DMS/DivCom,
DEM/esf 2/ Infra structure Branch*

William McCusker - August 12, 2020 at 12:21 PM

LT

“ I would like to send my sympathy and prayers to Johns entire family. He was one of the kindest men I have met in my lifetime. We worked together many years at DMS and it was a pleasure every time I saw him. Smiling that smile probably 99% of the time which made me smile, if he wasn't smiling it was always warranted. Not only was he kind he was so dedicated to his family. He will definitely be missed by many.



Laura Towne - August 12, 2020 at 11:19 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Mode Starling Jr..



August 11, 2020 at 12:39 PM

LF

“ Love the Mixson family purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of John Mode Starling Jr..



Love the Mixson family - August 11, 2020 at 10:42 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Mode Starling Jr..



August 11, 2020 at 10:06 AM

EM

“ My sincere condolences to the Starling family. John was one of my roommates at UF. After leaving college we lost contact with each other until this past November when we met with a group of friends in Gainesville for the FSU football game weekend. John had remained that intelligent, big hearted, gregarious gentle giant that I remembered from our time together in the early 80s. It was wonderful to learn about his successes in professional and family life. I certainly looked forward to the time ahead when we could engage in our favorite topics centered on current events and 70s rock music. And I certainly looked forward to seeing him again at future gatherings during our favorite Fall Saturday pastime of Gator football. The world has lost a caring and thoughtful man during a time it could use him most. John was a treasure and will be greatly missed by those of us who had the great fortune of calling him friend.

Eric Van Meter - August 10, 2020 at 09:51 AM

LM

“ *Me. Starling was one of a kind. Chelsea Starling and I are great friends and have been since we were both in middle school. He would happily take us to the movies, fun station (it was the cool thing to do), etc. almost every weekend & his authentic enthusiasm to be there for us meant a lot to me as a teenager. The Starling family will always hold a special place in my heart. My family and I will continue to pray for your healing during such a hurtful time.*

My Deepest Condolences,

Laysha McBride

Laysha McBride - August 09, 2020 at 05:12 PM

LM

*Mr. **

Laysha McBride - August 09, 2020 at 05:12 PM

GD

My deepest condolences to the family. I enjoyed working with John throughout the years. He was a special person and will be sorely missed. You are all in our prayers!

George Dalton - August 14, 2020 at 03:19 PM

AA

Sending my thoughts and prayers to John's family. He will be missed greatly. I worked with John and he always had a smile on his face. I never passed him in the hall or any where else that he did not make eye contact and speak with a smile on his face. If you were having a bad day all you needed to do was go see John. His smile was contagious and you left smiling. God has gained an amazing angel. Spread your wings John and soar.

Angela Aber - August 14, 2020 at 04:16 PM