



## John S. Terista

April 2, 1946 - November 27, 2020

DANVERS- John S. Terista, 74, passed away on November 27, 2020 at Salem Hospital. He was born in New York City on April 2, 1946, son of the late John Terista and Madeline (Quinto) Terista.

John attended Martin Van Buren High School in Queens, NY. He played baseball for the Brooklyn Cadets, shortstop for Ithaca College, and in the Cape Cod Baseball League in the summer. John graduated from Ithaca College and received his Master's degree from the University of Northern Colorado in 1968.

John volunteered for the Peace Corps where he made many lifelong friendships and memories. While in the Peace Corps in the early 1970's John spent two years in Lofa county and then Zleh Town, Grand Gedeh, Liberia as a health educator. While in Africa, he spent some time in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire. John loved to travel. He traveled to South America, throughout Europe, skied the Alps, and even lived in Italy for some time. Upon returning to the United States, John taught health education at Danvers High School, and later went on to a career in real estate and financial services.

An excellent cook who loved to grow his own vegetables and herbs to use in the kitchen, John enjoyed making ravioli from scratch, among many other recipes taught to him by his loving grandmother. He was always there to lend a hand for home improvement projects, and once restored an old farmhouse in Prince Edward Island, Canada with the help of many friends and family.

Above all, John loved his family more than anything, and always put his family and others before himself. He continued to stay in close contact with relatives in Italy and Sicily. He loved to research, record, and share our family genealogy.

John coached his son Andrew's little league teams for years. He never missed one of Andrew's numerous baseball games, or daughter, Alexandra's soccer games. He made sure he was always there to see his daughter off on deployment and to be there when her

ship returned to homeport. He loved spending time with his granddaughter, Isla, who adored her Papa. The two spent a great deal of time together reading, drawing, sharing homemade Italian ice, and singing together (mostly to Abba's Mama Mia!)

He is survived by his children, Andrew R. Terista and Alexandra R. Terista both of Danvers, MA; His former wife and children's mother, Deborah A. Riva; His granddaughter Isla Marie Bergman of Danvers, MA. He also leaves behind his brother, Frank Terista of NJ and nephew and niece Timothy Terista and Valerie (Terista) Klopfer and their families; as well as many close cousins and extended family members.

Private services will be held. John will be laid to rest at Annunciation Cemetery in Danvers. A remembrance ceremony will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation in John's name to the Peace Corps or your local Little League.

# Comments

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“ Thinking of you all at this time. I remember John as my health class teacher and then later when Andrew and my son Joe would play sport I would see John on the side lines. My you hold on to the memories you have shared with him

**Paul Pepper - Class of 78** - December 02, 2020 at 08:26 PM

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“ To the family & friends of John Terista: Although I had not seen "Mr." Terista since my High School days many years ago, I share deeply in your sorrow. Over the years, I often found myself wondering how and where he was. You see, John (as I think I can respectfully call him now) was more than just a teacher to me, but also a friend & mentor.

His kindness and sincerity was unique in his role as a teacher. I fondly remember being able to talk to him about issues beyond that of the classroom. I could turn to him for advice.

Over the years, whenever I heard someone described as "down-to-earth", I would think of John. As he was the first example of such a person in my young life - and a great one at that!

I hope he had a good, peaceful life here on earth. And I have no doubt that he touched many peoples' lives along the way. I have no doubt that he will Rest in Peace.

With Heartfelt Sympathy,

Gail M. Longval

Class of 1978

**Gail M. Longval** - December 02, 2020 at 09:26 AM

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“ To the Terista family, please accept our condolences as we remember John with loving and joyous thoughts. John was one of the really outstanding and nice guys that worked in my group. Always kind, always happy to share good ideas to pursue. One of the best. We will always remember him lovingly. God Bless. Mike and Virginia Omar

**mike omar** - December 01, 2020 at 05:46 PM

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“ I met John in Monrovia, Liberia he and my husband Bob travelled together to Ghana and stayed at a castle on the ocean shore. John was a very sweet man. He also visited us at Bloody Pond in Plymouth MA. RIP.  
Coral Prince-Wilson

**coral** - December 01, 2020 at 01:25 PM