



John M. Romani

January 31, 1956 - April 3, 2026

John Michael Romani, originally from Fairfax, Virginia, died on April 3rd, 2026, after a period of health challenges and illness. He was 70 years old. He was born on January 31st, 1956, in Washington, DC to Miss Anita Marini who named him Steven Michael. As a young, single mother wanting the best for her firstborn, she chose adoption for him. John was raised by Mr. and Mrs. John A. Romani (formerly Elvira J. Colavecchia), as their only child and they were devoted to him. Growing up in Alexandria, Virginia within the multigenerational Romani clan, young John developed an abiding passion for history, politics, cars and sports largely due to his close relationship with his father and the family patriarch, his grandfather, Alfonso Romani.

John graduated in 1970 from St. Louis Catholic School and from Groveton High School in 1974, where his native intelligence and academic promise were evident. His was a very sheltered world of family, school and church. The Romanis were devout Roman Catholics and John spent many years from the late 1960s serving as an acolyte and being active in the church community. His mother, Elvira dedicated most of her life to church service and support for its work, which would influence John's sense of social and civic responsibility such as volunteering with the Fairfax County Department of Recreation in the 1980s.

John's trajectory led him to become trained and certified to work with

Addiction Treatment Programs of hospital and halfway house programs in the 1990s – helping many through his volunteer service – including Crisis Link, a mental health and suicide-prevention hotline in Arlington, Virginia. His close circle of friends recalls in memoriam his active work in the recovery community in the Washington, D.C., area where he helped many people.

John began his academic career at a couple or so local universities, including the University of Richmond, until he completed undergraduate and graduate degrees at his alma mater, Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. In 1998, he became a member of the Honor Society of Phi Beta Phi fraternity and later graduated from the ODU College of Business and Public Administration with a B.Sc. in Business Administration (Management). By 1999, he was awarded the M.Sc. in Business Administration with honors (Management). In 2015, his lifelong passion for learning took him online through the work/study route to graduate from Grantham University School of Business with a M.Sc. in Performance Improvement, with distinction.

John's professional career spanned a variety of mid-to-upper-level management and technical positions in Human Resource Development with several sizeable companies in the D.C. metropolitan area, including ABM Commercial Cleaning Services. He was a dependable, dedicated, hard worker and team player - even as he bravely confronted his multiplying "assortment of maladies" (as he wryly called them) over the last 25 years. In the last several years, John worked part-time as a tax consultant with Jackson Hewitt until his demise. From 2022, John was a part of United Way, based in Frederick, Maryland as a Program Administrator for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. He was officially recognized in 2023 for his expertise, leadership and service to Frederick County, Maryland before parting with the NGO in 2025 due to health challenges.

John was an avid sports enthusiast especially of football, basketball, baseball

and lawn tennis and followed these disciplines over the years, at the professional level. He had played amateur basketball from his youth and stayed active throughout most of his life – playing lawn tennis up to four years ago. Until his early 40s, John also took part in marathons to benefit charities. His other strong interests included lifelong learning, being a news junkie: local, national and global affairs; actively working with political campaigns; quiet philanthropic support to various children's charities and being part of a spiritual community. Despite being an introvert, John especially loved playing cards and board games with friends and family.

John leaves to mourn his spouse of 20 years Yasmin Odlum (Romani) and his beloved stepdaughter, Yochi. Having been pre-deceased by his younger brother, Roger Allen Husband in 1990, he is survived by his two sisters and daughters of Anita Marini Gill: Donna Husband and Coleen Maria Dixon, and his brother-in-law, Marlin Dixon. He also leaves behind three nephews and their families: Eric Koch and his wife, Christine - and children, Brandon, Avery and Olivia; Charlie Bruce and his wife, Alice and daughter, Rosanna; Trevor Wood and husband Justin. He will be fondly remembered by his stepfather, Roger Husband and wife, Patricia Brelsford. Among the bereaved are his aunt, Shirley Louise Rogers, the last survivor of Alfonso and Elisa Romani's ten children, as well as numerous Romani cousins, their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. John will be dearly missed by the Odlum, Edwards and Reynolds families of Washington, DC – along with the family of Reginald Brown, Sr. John shared long, special, tight-knit and enduring friendships with men and women friends in recovery who expressly remember him as one who truly cared for others. He will also be remembered by his community of friends from Victory Haven (Damascus).

The family wishes to express its profound gratitude to the many devoted doctors, nurses and support staff from Georgetown Hospital, Washington

Hospital Center, Providence Hospital, Suburban Hospital (Bethesda), Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, Holy Cross Hospital and Casey House (Montgomery County) which have provided quality care to John through the years - and to the end. We also thank Going Home Funeral Care (Rockville) for its services as well as Jefferson Funeral Chapel and Mount Comfort Cemetery.

John Michael Romani will be laid to rest with his pre-deceased parents, John and Elvira Romani at Mount Comfort Cemetery on Friday, May 1st, 2026; after a memorial service in celebration of his life at Jefferson Funeral Chapel at 10:30 am. Guests will be received starting at 9:30 am.

Those who cannot attend in person may view a livestream of the service under the Tribute Wall tab on Jefferson Funeral Chapel's website for Mr. Romani.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Comfort Cemetery

6600 South Kings Highway
Alexandria, VA 22306

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY 1. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel
5755 Castlewellan Drive
Alexandria, VA 22315
(703) 971-7400
info@jeffersonfuneralchapel.com
<https://www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com>

Graveside

MAY 1. 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Mt. Comfort Cemetery
6600 South Kings Highway
Alexandria, VA 22306

Tribute Wall



“ Jefferson Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of John M. Romani



Jefferson Funeral Chapel - April 21 at 03:05 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John M. Romani.

April 30 at 02:31 PM



“ The Lewis family. purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of John M. Romani.



The Lewis family. - April 29 at 11:16 PM



“ The Lewis family. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John M. Romani.

The Lewis family. - April 29 at 11:16 PM

DD

“ Douglas B. Dortch purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of John M. Romani.



Douglas B. Dortch - April 29 at 10:47 AM

DD

“ Douglas B. Dortch planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John M. Romani.

Douglas B. Dortch - April 29 at 10:47 AM

KE

“ I knew John for 24 plus years, I have never heard John raise his voice or refuse to help when asked. We always speak of how punctual John always was, if he said 5:00 trust that he will be there at 5:00 or earlier. I enjoyed talking football with John, and will miss him at the family gatherings. Travel on John, we will always remember you and your laugh.
Keran Edwards.

Keran - April 20 at 01:40 PM

SC

Sincere condolences to you and Yoshi. Also to John's family and friends. Although I did not have the pleasure of meeting John I gather from his Obituary that he was a kind , caring gentle man.
Eternal Rest grant unto his Soul Oh Lord
And let Perpetual light shine upon him
May he forever Rest in Peace

Sheridan+Galen St. Jour. CousinsofYasmin - April 23 at 01:29 AM

SH

John and I were friends for 28 years. John was a really nice man who cared for others through service. He gave of himself so that others could improve their lives.

He will always be in the hearts of those whose lives he touched. Till we meet again. Steve Hayward

Steve Hayward - April 30 at 10:51 PM

AS

John and I knew each other for 30 years and he was kind, caring, man. He walked the talk. May his memory be a blessing!!

Adam Saperston - May 06 at 05:16 PM