



## John M. Valdiserri

June 1, 1957 - January 6, 2020

On Monday, January 6, 2020, John M. Valdiserri, age 62, of Baldwin Borough. Beloved husband of Donna M. (Zabinski) Valdiserri; father of Adam Crossan and Meg (Christopher) Markley; son of the late John D. "Jimmy" and Mildred Valdiserri; son-in-law of Louis and Virginia Zabinski; brother of Michael (Jeannine) Valdiserri and Christine (Chuck) France; also survived by nieces, nephews, cousins, and brothers and sisters in law. John loved his Slovenian and Italian heritage which included winemaking, Potica baking, and washtub playing. He was a member of Carpenters Union Local #432, recently retiring from the University of Pittsburgh. He was also a member of SNPJ Lodge #138 in Strabane and active with the Baldwin High School Class of '75 Reunion Committee. Friends received Wednesday 6-8 p.m. and Thursday 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the GRIFFITH FUNERAL HOME, INC., 5636 Brownsville Road, (at 6th St.) South Park Twp. (412) 655-4600, where a Blessing Service will be held on Friday at 11 a.m. Condolences may be offered for the family at [www.GriffithFH.com](http://www.GriffithFH.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 8. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Griffith Funeral Home, Inc.  
5636 Brownsville Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15236  
(412) 655-4600  
<https://www.griffithfh.com>

## Visitation

JAN 9. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Griffith Funeral Home, Inc.  
5636 Brownsville Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15236  
(412) 655-4600  
<https://www.griffithfh.com>

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## Service

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JAN 10. 11:00 AM (ET)

Griffith Funeral Home, Inc.  
5636 Brownsville Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15236  
(412) 655-4600  
<https://www.griffithfh.com>

# Tribute Wall

CM

“ *Claudia Mikulski lit a candle in memory of John M. Valdiserri*



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**Claudia Mikulski** - January 09, 2020 at 08:58 PM

ML

“ *Every time somebody leaves us, piece of us leaves too. News that John passed was really sad for us. We cannot understand that so live and happy man suddenly passed away. We remember often on the time when we first time met him in Koče and on our trip to Bled an Gorenjska region. Our last meeting in Ljubljana is also still in very live memory. We will remember him such as we have seen him every time when he was on visit in Slovenia. Happy, open minded and good hearted. Donna, Mike, Chris and entire family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

*Mira and Maks Lenarčič*



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**Maks Lenarcic** - January 09, 2020 at 03:10 PM

DV

*Thank you Mira and Maks. You and your family meant so much to me and John. He was so happy when he was with you and we cherished our time with you in Slovenia.*

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**Donna Valdiserri** - January 10, 2020 at 12:40 AM

LM

“ I needed some carpentry work done and a friend put me in touch with John. I didn't really know John that well as he only worked on one job for me. He was kind and courteous. His work was impressive. I was so sorry to hear of John's passing. My condolences to his immediate and extended family.

Linda Martire - January 09, 2020 at 12:07 PM

DA

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Darryl - January 09, 2020 at 11:41 AM

DA

Here's to you John Nasvidenje!

Darryl - January 09, 2020 at 11:38 AM

BZ

“ Bob & Mary Ann Melani, Frank Melani & Angela Zody purchased the Fairest of All for the family of John M. Valdiserri.



Bob & Mary Ann Melani, Frank Melani & Angela Zody -  
January 08, 2020 at 05:34 PM

LS

“ I too knew John as "John The Carpenter" from the WPU. For years, John would visit my office where we would talk and laugh. John did numerous side jobs for my family and he generously taught my husband a few tricks of his trade over a beer.

John shared with me all the details of the garage he was building behind his home. He was so proud of every phase of the project, the pouring of the floors, installing the cabinetry and all the clever features he added to make it his custom dream garage. I left the University in 2014, so I am hopeful that John was able to spend countless hours enjoying his family, friends and hobbies in that garage. My sincerest sympathies during this most difficult time.

*Lynnett Van Slyke & Dave Anton*

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**Lynnett Van Slyke** - January 08, 2020 at 12:51 PM

MR

“ John was not just a friend, or even a good friend; he was a brother. He was always there whenever I needed, whether it be for help, or to talk through a problem and get some advice, or just to BS and laugh. He was there for me during some very dark and troubled times. He never judged. He always supported and helped. A very rare commodity in people, especially these days.

*I've known John since our days at Whitehall Jr. High, through high school at Baldwin and beyond - 45 years, give or take. What can I say about this man that hasn't already been said hundreds of times over by his family and hundreds of his friends? Words seem so inadequate. John loved life; his family and his friends. He was a good, decent and funny man. He was patient, honest and fair. John was the life of the party - no matter what the party was for. No matter how bad you may be feeling, he could always make you smile. John was one of those rare souls who could make you feel wanted and loved. As I sit here writing this, I can still see that quirky, wry little smile of his.*

*Did John and I agree on everything - not by a long shot, but we respected each other's point of view and he never belittled or berated anyone that didn't share his opinion or perspective. He could always present his point of view in a rational, objective and level-headed manner and whether you agreed with him or not, you had to respect his position and how he presented it.*

*As for the Baldwin Class of 1975 Reunion Committee, John was its heart and soul. When the committee lost Dan Flaherty (ironically 5 years to the day of us losing John), John stepped up and took the reins. He will be sorely missed and is leaving the committee with a void that will never fully be filled. The Addam's Family will never be the same without our beloved Uncle Fester. I'm sure that he will watch over us though and in his own special way continue to guide and direct us.*

*To sum it up, John was the finest person that I have ever known. It*

*was an honor and a privilege to have him as my friend and to be considered a friend by him.*

*Heaven may have gained an angel, but we here on earth have lost a beloved, cherished friend and a good, decent man and beautiful soul.*

*John is no longer physically in our presence, but he will always be with us as long as we remember him.*

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**Michael Ross** - January 08, 2020 at 12:27 PM

AM

“ *Like many others, I knew John as "John the Carpenter" at Pitt. But he was so much more than that. He was a kind, familiar face that everyone looked forward to seeing. He always had a bit of mischievous look too - as if he was always about to say something to make you laugh. And he did! A playful spirit and so young at heart, it is difficult to believe he is really gone. I never had the pleasure of meeting his wife, but I would like her to know that he spoke of her often. I remember him showing me pictures of custom stationary he planned to buy for her -- he was so precise in what he wanted and the design with her monogram had to be just right. John will be missed an always remembered. My sincerest sympathies to all of his family and friends. - Amy Vaught*

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**Amy** - January 08, 2020 at 10:39 AM

MV

“ *3 files added to the album Memories Album*



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**Mike Valdiserri** - January 08, 2020 at 08:38 AM

BR

“ The entire Rampolla family is deeply saddened by John’s passing. I can speak for everyone in recollecting our fond memories of John and the good times on Sagebrush Drive. What a fantastic person we all had the privilege to know. John was always asking about my family and I know he would have done anything to help if I had asked. I make the same offer to his family and extend our deepest sympathies.

*Brian and Debby Rampolla*

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**Brian Rampolla** - January 07, 2020 at 10:24 PM



Pamela Swauger

“ Donna and family. My deepest sympathies to you and your family. Lots of hugs and God bless.  
*Pamela Meyer (Rihn) Swauger*

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**Pamela Swauger** - January 07, 2020 at 06:01 PM

MC

“ Mark, Bernadette and Christopher purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of John M. Valdiserri.



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**Mark, Bernadette and Christopher** - January 07, 2020 at 05:25 PM

WI

“ John was a kind soul, always had good stories to share that could put a smile on your face and firm in his conviction. His professionalism and skill showed in everything his hands touched. I was blessed to be a part of his life and to have known him. I wish him a safe journey. His legacy and footprint will always be with us.



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**Will** - January 07, 2020 at 04:50 PM



“ With Distinction was purchased for the family of John M. Valdiserri.



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January 07, 2020 at 04:41 PM

KF

“ I had the pleasure of working with John over the past few years. I always looked forward to going to the Union to meet with him. We always exchanged stories of our Italian traditions and heritage, which he was so proud of. He was always so kind and his smile was contagious. He lived by my family and when he would go for a walk would always stop and talk to my 96 year old grandfather. I am deeply sadden and want to extend my sincerest sympathy to his family during this tragic time. May he rest in peace with the Lord. -  
Karissa Fonzi

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**Karissa Fonzi** - January 07, 2020 at 04:39 PM

JV

“ *All Italian family express its sympathies for Donna, Mike and all the family for this unexpected terrible grief. John, We will always remember the nice time we spent in pittsburgh 20 years ago when we met, as well as the time spent in Italy and following contacts and calls. Your approach to life makes you a person to remember and an example for us all. I think you lived your life appreciating every single moment, and this is such a rare gift that you were able to transmit to every person around you. Rest In Peace my friend, your curiosity about family origins made us close, we will keep you in our hearts. Forever. Juna, Rosa, Raffaella*

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**juna valdiserrk** - January 07, 2020 at 02:53 PM



“ *Bill O'Kain purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of John M. Valdiserri.*



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**Bill O'Kain** - January 07, 2020 at 02:28 PM



“ *We want to express our deepest sympathies to Donna and John's entire family and those who loved him. He will be truly missed.*

*Bill and Betty O'Kain*

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**Bill O'Kain** - January 07, 2020 at 01:51 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of John M. Valdiserri.*



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January 07, 2020 at 01:00 PM



“ *My sincere condolences to Donna, Meg and the family. Earth has no sorrow, that Heaven cannot heal.* 🕯️

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**Alexander Nichols** - January 07, 2020 at 12:46 PM



“ *I was so happy that John retired at 62 so he could travel and enjoy his retirement. John was truly a wonderful person and always gave the best he had to Pitt and went above and beyond to help us at PITT ARTS. I loved seeing him almost every day. We even spoke Italian now and then together. I send my condolences to the family, and please know how much he meant to me personally and to the Pitt family.*

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**Annabelle Clippinger** - January 07, 2020 at 12:23 PM



“ *John was truly the sweetest, nicest man. We always chatted sports and life at Pitt. We even found out that we had mutual friends. He will be so missed...always smiling...ready with or for a good joke. My condolences and prayers for his family.*

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**Peggy** - January 07, 2020 at 11:49 AM

LS

“ John and I shared many laughs and deeper conversations on politics and more throughout the years of his tenure in the William Pitt Union. We shared a love of good wine, travel and more. He was a true Renaissance Man and while we miss him in the Union, I can only imagine what his wife, family and friends must feel. My deepest condolences to them. Leslie Ann Smedley, University of Pittsburgh

Leslie Ann Smedley - January 07, 2020 at 11:46 AM

SU

“ John always had a smile on his face at work and truly made everyone feel like they were a good friend. He always made sure to stop to say hi and ask how you were doing. I recently saw John at the mall over Christmas and he hugged me and we talked for a while. He will be missed! My deepest sympathy and prayers to his family.

Suzanne - January 07, 2020 at 10:52 AM



“ Bright and Beautiful Spray was purchased for the family of John M. Valdiserri.



January 07, 2020 at 10:16 AM

MB

“ My deepest condolences for Chrissy, Mike, Donna and John's entire family and countless friends. John was the epitome of a family and friend. He cared so deeply. It's been a few years since I've talked to John my memories of him are many and special. We have lost a dear soul



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**Mary Butler-Everson** - January 07, 2020 at 09:32 AM

PS

“ Our deepest sympathy to Johns family, He was an amazing man who loved his family and friends first and foremost. I will miss your smile and your ready wit. You always had time to stop and talk even when you were walking your beloved dog Meena. You were my best FB friend. We had many laughs over the crazy posts on FB. Sagebrush Dr lost one of the best yesterday. You are all in our thoughts and prayers  
Jim.nd Phyllis (Kappert) Schmitt

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**phyllis schmitt** - January 07, 2020 at 09:26 AM

DM

“ John was a man that when you walked into the room were he was working, even if you did not know he always had a smile, we used to joke that I was his Donna at work even though I never met his wife I use to tell John, please tell Donna I said hi. Once John retired the William Pitt Union never felt the same without him here, John will be missed.



*Donna McKinley*

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**Donna McKinley** - January 07, 2020 at 09:06 AM

MB

“ OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES TO JOHN'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS. ENJOYED JOHN'S LOVE OF SLOVENIAN MUSIC. GOD BLESS FRIENDS OF THE WESTLMORELAND COUNTY FEDERATION OF SNPJ LODGES  
MARYANN BEBAR

MARYANN BEBAR - January 07, 2020 at 07:33 AM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of John M. Valdiserri.



January 07, 2020 at 07:11 AM

SW

“ I met John through a mutual friend and he was such a nice guy, full of laughs and always fun to be around. I pray for God's comfort to surround his family in this time of grieving. Stacey Wiley

Stacey Wiley - January 07, 2020 at 05:39 AM

BL

“ For you Stric!!! Wherever you are...



Blaz - January 07, 2020 at 05:38 AM

J(

“*"The Carpenter"*  
a poem by G.E. Nordell

*There was once a master carpenter  
and he lived a good life  
for he loved to work, building things of wood.  
He was loved by his family...  
and especially by his wife.  
He was loved by everyone who knew him.*

*And at the end of that good life  
when it came time for him to die  
the old carpenter soared  
into the white light...  
for the white light is where the good souls go.*

*And the white light warmed him and  
nurtured him and  
fed him great peace.*

*And when this carpenter arrived in heaven  
he was expected and  
immediately he was put to work;  
for the Pearly Gates  
were a bit loose  
and St. Peter's desk  
had a couple of drawers that stuck.  
And before long  
the old master carpenter  
began to build  
a new throne  
for God.*

*Rest in Peace, Good John,  
with love and prayers from Janie Mee (Sipp) and family  
You are missed down here.*

**Janie Mee (Sipp)** - January 07, 2020 at 02:31 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John M. Valdiserri.*



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January 06, 2020 at 11:25 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**David Pendel** - January 06, 2020 at 09:16 PM



*The Canonsburg Parade will never be the same without you John. Počivaj v miru moj prijatelj. David Pendel*

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**David Pendel** - January 06, 2020 at 09:16 PM



“ *Heaven gained another angel. My condolences and sympathies to Donna and the rest of his family. I was blessed to renew my friendship with John over the past 7 years since knowing him in high school. He was one of the most caring, kind, sincere, level headed person I've ever known. I'm truly blessed to have had him as my friend. Rest in Peace my friend. I wish we had more time to talk about Italy and woodworking, I'll really miss our chats.*

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**Rico Maddamma** - January 06, 2020 at 08:28 PM

SC

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



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**sandy cheplic, cousin** - January 06, 2020 at 08:05 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of John M. Valdiserri.



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January 06, 2020 at 07:40 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden* was purchased for the family of John M. Valdiserri.



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January 06, 2020 at 07:02 PM

LB

“ *Donna, my heart breaks for you. May you know that you were the love of his life, and he was happier than ever with you and his life. Peace to you and your family in this difficult time. Keep Meeka close, you will need each other.*

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**Laurie Barnett** - January 06, 2020 at 06:22 PM

DB

“ *Donnie Bashaw purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of John M. Valdiserri.*



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**Donnie Bashaw** - January 06, 2020 at 06:10 PM

BW

“ *My condolences to all of John's family and friends, and to his wife Donna. A long time friend and classmate of mine. A gentlemen and a unique soul. There were no dry eyes in my home today. A shock wave of sadness was felt all over the city today. God bless you all and prayers for your comfort during this extremely difficult time*

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**Bob Weingartner** - January 06, 2020 at 06:04 PM

TS

“ *May the peace and love of our almighty God be with you and the light of god always shine upon you and guide you.*



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**Thomas Schulte** - January 06, 2020 at 06:00 PM

JM

“ *John was our neighbor for 30 years on Sagebrush. Always willing to help anyone. Very talented union carpenter of many years. Terrific person who always had something fun to say . We will miss him. Our thoughts and prayers for his wife and family.*

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**JoElla Mang** - January 06, 2020 at 04:32 PM