



JOHN M. PICHITINO

October 11, 1952 - April 18, 2018

John M. Pichitino died April 18, 2018 in Grass Valley, CA. Born October 11, 1952 in Waseca, MN, John lived in MN, NY, FL, NJ, VA and for the last 30 years with his family in Nevada City, CA.

He worked in the television industry for more than four decades in broadcast, post production and manufacturing. His work took him to two Olympic Games, at least 15 countries and hundreds of events in Las Vegas and Orlando.

John was married to his best friend, Sylvia, for 34 years. His heart also belonged to his daughter, Lisa. They travelled to Thailand and Australia and shared adventures on snow, underwater, in the air and on the road.

John brought energy and passion to each of his many interests, immersing himself into scuba diving, skiing, motorcycles, playing music, officiating family weddings and being Travis' Big Brother. He relished learning new skills and improving the old. John readily took on challenges and adventures. He was community minded, enjoyed talking about social and political issues, especially with friends, scotch and cigars.

Many knew him as a pilot and flying enthusiast. John loved to defy gravity with family, friends and students. This is where he could share, instruct, and skillfully, safely navigate his kingdom in the sky.

John mastered the art of work, play, compassion, understanding, respect, empathy, joy, and unconditional love to all of those he encountered in his life.

His smile, laugh and hugs will continue to resonate with all who knew him.

John "Pich" is survived by Sylvia and Lisa, his brother Jim and his wife Kathy,

extended family, many friends and colleagues.

A gathering to pay tribute to Pich will be Saturday, April 28th 2:00 p.m. at St. Canice Center 236 Reward St. Nevada City CA

For everyone who has been inspired by Pich to live life to it's fullest, love and respect everyone (finding ways to make them feel special), pursue your passions and both work and play hard, we hope you will help me out with him by making a donation to Golden Empire Flying Association for a scholarship in his name. The goal is to raise \$5,000 for flight training for one individual in 2019. Below is the address where you can send your donation. For more details about the scholarship, please visit GEFA's website or read about the purpose here.

Checks made out to GEFA.

In Memo: John Pichitino

Mailed to P.O. Box 375 Grass Valley CA 95945

Previous Events

MEMORIAL SERVICE

APR **28**. 2:00 PM (PT)

St. Canice Center
236 Reward St.
Nevada City, CA 95959

Tribute Wall

DW

“ Johnny, I'll miss our late night scotch and cigar conversations on the deck solving the world's problems. Love ya man!

David Williams - May 19, 2018 at 12:12 PM

KW

“ On Saturday nights, our music group gets together and jams out as many songs as we can get through in an evening. Stock full of laughter, hugs, scotch and wine 🍷🍷 . Sometimes it takes forever to get to the next song so, while waiting I just privately started picking a song on my guitar. John heard me and pulled up his chair and mandolin and played with me. It lasted about 4 or 5 minutes! After we ended the song, we looked at each other, laughed and embraced. I loved it! now I cherish it...



Kat Wilson - May 16, 2018 at 02:54 PM

JB

“ My most sincere love to Sylvia & Lisa and family on losing John. He was an inspirational force in my young life when he taught me about teaching and all things TV. He was a joy to know, a visionary to us all, and a light with a warm glow. My favorite (of many) Pich memories was the story of his Japanese visa!! I smile when I think of it now. You will live through all of us Pich. Your warmth and committed excitement to life was infectious. I am so much a better human being for knowing you. May you fly unbounded always. ❤️

Janice Bowen - May 05, 2018 at 02:48 AM

BC

“ My heartfelt condolences to the family - while we saw each other only occasionally, it was always with that infectious smile - we shared a great deal more than the Pilot's love of the sky and all things flying. What an amazing soul; compassionate, patient and heartfelt. In words attributed to another Renaissance man, Leonardo da Vinci: "Once you have tasted flight, you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward. For there you have been, and there you will always long to return."
And he has - from one pilot to another: Gone West!
You are & will be missed greatly John

Bruce & Tracy Cameron

Bruce Cameron - May 04, 2018 at 10:41 AM

CR

“ I just heard about what happened. I was fortunate to grow up next door to John in Armonk. Even then, that infectious laugh was John's trademark. As a child, I honed my life-long ability to throw snowballs by throwing them at John – while he appeared not to mind, his dog had a different attitude! I know that family was deeply important to John, and Syliva and Lisa were his bedrock. I hope they find comfort within their great memories and with their friends and family during the service today.

Colleen Rumsey - April 28, 2018 at 10:08 AM

ML

“ John was so kind, warm, open and giving of himself to others. As a young man newly arrived in Grass Valley, he took me under his wing at Immix, mentoring me and taking me up in his plane to see my new home town from the air. We will miss you my friend. -ML

Mark Lemmons - April 27, 2018 at 08:22 PM

JB

Xxx

Janice Bowen - May 05, 2018 at 02:49 AM

 Scott
Frank

“*Pitch was my first Mentor at Channel 68, where I ran camera at age 17 for the Uncle Floyd show. Later, when I was on my way to Washington D.C. to finish my first documentary, I found that John had been hired by Capital Video (a company my family owned in part) as an editor. He worked with me to complete the film, offering ideas for fixes and doing his part to make everything work.*

I kept in touch with John, contacting him from time to time, just to see what he was doing.

Recently, I ran into a colleague in a business deal who also worked at Channel 68, but just after my tenure, he told me of his memories of the place and mentioned Pitch. It was Kevin who let me know of John's passing.

I send my sentiments and prayers to the family. The stories about John, Lydia, Jamie, Mark and Whips never left the building, but I've been writing about them ever since, changing the names to protect the guilty.

Safe Journeys old friend.

Scott JT Frank

Scott Frank - April 27, 2018 at 04:28 PM

AL

“ I was visiting in around 2011. Sylvia was at work, and we were at home, unsupervised. John says, “I need a playmate for a project. I’ve been thinking about building my own M80s (big fire crackers).” I say “Let’s do it.” He had most of the supplies already, but we needed gunpowder. So for the one and only time I ever went to a gun store. We buy gun powder. Back at home, we set up in the back yard. He is in the far back corner of the back yard, with his supplies and a fresh pumpkin. I am on the deck with a video camera. First try fizzles. Some technical adjustments are made. John takes cover. BOOOOM. The pumpkin disintegrates. Pumpkin pieces are pummeling the house and dropping on the deck like hail. Success! The best part was we laughed and laughed and laughed.

Johnny. Thank you for the memories. We will all miss you.



Al Latimer - April 27, 2018 at 03:43 PM

BP

“ Back in the old days, a local tv station in Washington DC used to play a video of airplanes dancing through the clouds while a voice boomed out this poem, as its late night sign-off. It was corny and scratchy but John loved it!

High Flight

*"Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth,
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed and joined the tumbling mirth of sun-split
clouds -
and done a hundred things You have not dreamed of -
wheeled and soared and swung high in the sunlit silence.
Hovering there I've chased the shouting wind along
and flung my eager craft through footless halls of air.
"Up, up the long delirious burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace,
where never lark, or even eagle, flew;
and, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
the high untrespassed sanctity of space,
put out my hand and touched the face of God."*

- John Gillespie Magee, Jr.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loL-KCFblpA>

Barbara Peck - April 26, 2018 at 11:58 PM

BA

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Barb - April 26, 2018 at 10:33 PM

KA

“ *John, Thank you for showing me Heaven on Earth.
Love you,
Kat*



kat - April 25, 2018 at 02:24 AM

MG

“ We heartbroken at the news of John's passing. He was such a special man. He was one of the most kind and thoughtful people I've ever met. We will miss him dearly.

Our thoughts are with Sylvia, Lisa and all those that were close to him.

I went through some tough personal circumstances when I was working with John. He was always kind enough to offer support and guidance during my difficult moments.

He was also a very skilled craftsman at his editing profession. He was the best at what he did. He put all his energy and creativity into every project I worked with him on.

John also shared his passion for flying with me and my children. He made special trips to visit us and take us up in Niner1Mike. Those were very special times that we will never forget.

Jen, Michael & Griffith family



Michael Griffith - April 24, 2018 at 07:41 PM

MH

“ I had the pleasure of working with John for several years. He was such a radiant person, full of life and smiles for all. I will never forget the day we flew over the bay - I got to see our amazing home from a new vantage point, and he made me fly the plane and help him land. He inspired me to do something I didn't even think I should try! Sylvia and Lisa, I just feel so much for you - I can't imagine what you are going through. I love this poem and I hope it helps you too:

Gone From My Sight - Henry Van Dyke

*I am standing upon the seashore. A ship, at my side,
spreads her white sails to the moving breeze and starts
for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength.
I stand and watch her until, at length, she hangs like a speck
of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each
other.*

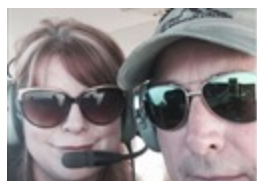
Then, someone at my side says, "There, she is gone."

Gone where?

*Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast,
hull and spar as she was when she left my side.
And, she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her
destined port.
Her diminished size is in me -- not in her.*

*And, just at the moment when someone says, "There, she is gone,"
there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices
ready to take up the glad shout, "Here she comes!"*

And that is dying...



Mondae Hott - April 24, 2018 at 03:13 PM

MH

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Mondae Hott - April 24, 2018 at 03:05 PM

PM

“ *I am filled with sorrow, and send my deepest condolences to you, Sylvia and Lisa. I met John when I was 15, and we worked on the lighting for BCC plays. He went out and bought green T shirts for the lighting crew! He was an amazing generous loving soul, and he will be greatly missed.*

When we finished the Children's Theatre production, it was late Feb, and John and his brother were going to drive to New Orleans, to visit friends for Marti Gras. He invited me, at 15.5 years old to come along. I got permission from my parents (what were they thinking?), and drove off with 3 lads in a Volkswagen to Marti Gras celebration. I had a wonderful time, although, I had to stand outside the bars and listen to music from there, as I was underage. It is something I will never forget. I will never forget John.

My Dharma Center will be saying prayers for all souls who have passed this week, and John's name will be among them.

Pamela Mara

Pamela Mara - April 24, 2018 at 09:31 AM

JB

“ *My heart is filled with sadness over the loss of my friend.*

Sylvia and Lisa, I share in your grief and send you both love at this difficult time.

The world is a darker place without John's brilliance. Whenever I hear the sound of a single engine flying overhead, I will look towards the heavens, think of him and smile.

John Bettini - April 24, 2018 at 09:11 AM

AL

“ *To a man that took me under his wing, inspired and encouraged me to make the leap into editing, who was kind and inspiring... JOHn pulled me aside when I went a little sideways, he saw the greater in me and pushed me to realize that.... it wasn't until many years later that I heard his words. JOHn, I heard you, Thank you....*

aj leblanc - April 24, 2018 at 06:17 AM

MK

“ *I wanted to write all of you together to let you know how saddened I was to hear of John's passing. I know this has brought nothing but sadness to all of you. My deepest sympathies to John's family and the extended family in Nevada County as you struggle through this period. Mike Krim*

Mike Krim - April 23, 2018 at 10:07 PM

MK

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Mike Krim - April 23, 2018 at 09:09 PM

CB

“ *Johnny Pich. There's a place in my heart that's full of your smile, your laugh, your sweetness. I am so lucky to have grown up knowing you.*



Cousin Barb - April 23, 2018 at 04:38 PM

MH

“ *There is a tear in the fabric of the universe
So small that only the most skilled navigator can find it
So large that it consumes all*

*The skies will not forget
The joy they felt
The clouds will not regret
The time they had*

*There is a tear on the fabric of the universe
Washing away and bathing us in healing waters
So large that it consumes us all*

RIP dear friend

Maury Horn - April 22, 2018 at 08:02 PM

JP

“ I worked with John for many years in corporate video production before John became full-time flight instructor. John was one of those guys that always lit up the room with his infectious smile and laugh. He was such a caring and sharing person always wanting to help his fellow workers. I learned a lot about ending video from John and his work in Grass Valley and nonlinear editing systems, His work was groundbreaking and most of what we do today in video production is due to the work that was done by the development work John did. But even when John’s feet were planted solidly on the ground he always talked about the air and about his love of flying. I sit here today with a tear my eye but a smile in my heart for a man who is all heart.
My condolences to his wife and daughter.



Jeffery Parkes - April 20, 2018 at 03:25 PM

JP

John was a very versatile video editor.

Jeffery Parkes - April 20, 2018 at 03:35 PM

PC

“ Although I have not seen John in 5 years, he popped into my head a few weeks ago. I cut John's hair for several years and enjoyed his company. He was such a loving, smart, funny, and adventurous man! I appreciated the generous person he was. He will forever have a special place in my heart. My thoughts are with you Sylvia and Lisa in this incredulous time. Please let me know what I can do to help. With much love.

Paris Cole - April 19, 2018 at 06:54 PM



“ So many great and funny conversations with John during haircuts. Always upbeat and accepting of the wild and crazy cowlicks and challenges of his hair we had to laugh. Im grateful for the years of smiles and stories and although I have not seen him for a while , John always has a tender place in my heart. He was a champion among men. My heartfelt condolences to Sylvia and Lisa and entire family. Prayers are being said and anything I can do, I'm here for you. I love you and thank John for bring a bright spot in my life. He will soar in all hearts.



lis jackson - April 19, 2018 at 06:33 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jeff Friedman - April 19, 2018 at 01:48 PM



so sad..loved John, a fine, gentle and kind person. RIP

Weenie Friedman - April 19, 2018 at 02:44 PM



"Uncle John" as we called him, since he & I shared the same nephews and niece and his sister-in-law was my sister-in-law John and Sylvia married Jia & I last September in Woodland Ca. We were so happy that John and Sylvia were able to do the ceremony, it just made a special day so very, very special.

Jia & I visited John and Sylvia several weeks ago and were shown around Nevada City. John was going to take my wife for a ride in his plane next time we visited

God speed John, may you always fly with angels. We will miss your sense of humor, your jokes and your ability to launch a old water heater several feet off the ground!

Stuart Williams - April 24, 2018 at 03:31 PM