



## John Galnares

August 29, 1938 - May 7, 2024

“He lived. He died.”

The above is what John requested his obituary to be. We thought it prudent to add a little more.

John was the youngest of ten born to Jose Maria and Maria Galnares in New Braunfels, Texas.

John proudly served his country in the 16th Infantry Regiment of the United States Army. He

went on to obtain a bachelor’s in education from Adrian College with a minor in history. On

June 3rd, 1967, at Saint Mary’s Catholic church in Charlevoix, MI, he married Artis Lee Geer, who survives.

They moved to Traverse City in 1968 when John accepted a teaching position at Traverse City

Senior High School. He taught there for 31 years. John quickly amassed a community of friends

and family. For years he worked as an administrator with the Educational Migrant Program and

was an active member of the local American Legion. He was a devout patron of the Carmelite

Monastery and an avid reader of history. John was a lifelong University of Michigan football

fan. Go Blue! Most of all he enjoyed going on “ventures” with his grandchildren. He is survived by his children Larisa Galnares (Hans VanSumeren) granddaughter Ava VanSumeren; Maria del Pilar Galnares, granddaughters Maria Isabel, Lilah (fiancé Rett Graham) and Adeleine Fiebing; son John P. Galnares (Kelly Carnahan) grandchildren Renzo and Lily Galnares. John is also survived by his sisters Maria Guadalupe Berridge, Simona Rozo Bueno, and many nieces and nephews.

Honoring John’s request, cremation has taken place.

In lieu of flowers please direct donations to the Carmelite Monastery in Traverse City, Holy

Family Parish- Adrian, or the Father Fred Foundation.

Arrangements provided by Wolfe-O’Neill Funeral Home, our family serving yours.

# Tribute Wall

SF

“ *Spence Brothers Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John Galnares.*



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**Spence Brothers Family** - June 17, 2024 at 12:20 PM

DJ

“ *The Senor was my Spanish teacher in fall 1970-1971. A little puzzlement on his face, so many students when we would meet at Summerfield parties where Artis was the physical therapist and my wife Jeanie supervisor. He was great teacher. Our sympathy to Artis and their children. Dana and Jeanie Anderson*

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**Dana and Jeanie** - May 20, 2024 at 07:39 PM

SD

“ *As a former student of Senor Galnares', I not only learned the Spanish language and culture, but a confidence and sense of self so mordant to a teenager in the 70's. My condolences to his family and friends.*

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**Shelley Grueber Duke** - May 14, 2024 at 08:37 PM

KN

*Gracious intellectual ,” Señor!”*

*After returning from a year abroad as a foreign exchange student ,  
Juan challenged my intentions of ACING 4 th year Spanish , having  
spoken Spanish for a year in Venezuela.*

*He executed his own 4 th year class for my lonesome , which included  
literature, and Art history of famous Mexican and Spanish artists and  
writers .... ! No easy street with a teacher so respectable!*

*Loved him to the core ! Konnie ( Kuemin) Novak class of 1979*

*We are the champions m friends! Class song*

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**konnie Novak** - May 16, 2024 at 01:53 PM

VH

“ To the family of Señor Galnares:

*This wonderful man was my Spanish teacher in 1975 and 1976. He  
instilled a love of this language in me. To this day, while I am not  
fluent, I can use what he taught me to somewhat converse with  
Spanish speakers in my community. I enjoyed his classes so much,  
that when my younger sisters had him for Spanish, he often called  
them by my name. Please accept my heartfelt condolences at your  
loss. May your memories keep him alive in your hearts.*

*Vicki (Piehl) Hall*

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**Vicki Hall** - May 13, 2024 at 06:02 PM

SH

“ Sarah Helsel sent a virtual gift in memory of  
John Galnares



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**Sarah Helsel** - May 11, 2024 at 07:13 PM

SC

“ So sorry to hear of John's passing. I've been thinking of you all every day and am sending my condolences and keeping you in my thoughts and prayers. Suzette (aka Dorothy S.).

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**Suzette Corbit** - May 11, 2024 at 02:58 PM

DS

“ Dorothy S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Galnares.

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**Dorothy S.** - May 11, 2024 at 02:54 PM

ME

“ Excellent Friend and Excellent Neighbor and Excellent Human Being!! He Gets an A+++!!!

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**Mister Ed** - May 11, 2024 at 07:08 AM

DS

“ Senor Galnares was my favorite teacher in high school. I have thought of him many times throughout life with fond regard. My sincere condolences to his family.

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**Deb (Wilson) Sexton** - May 11, 2024 at 12:57 AM

JH

“ *Artis - We just learned of John's passing. Our love and prayers go out to you and your family. As a student I had Senior Galnares for two years. I always appreciated the delight he took when one of his students attended UM, though back in high school taking his class was viewed as a necessary evil. He was a good teacher, but my best memories of John are from our conversations and time spent together as adults. I'm most thankful that my children also got to know him and to enjoy our annual adventures. Our lives have all been enriched by your friendship. Hugs and love to you! - John, Megan, Maggie, & Jack*

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**John Haeussler** - May 10, 2024 at 11:47 PM

MG

“ *What can I say about a cousin that influenced me far more than I could have imagined. John was the cousin that I always admired, his accomplishments were inspiring to me. He knew how to get things done, and he would do it.  
Thank mi primo.*

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**Mac Gutierrez** - May 10, 2024 at 07:21 PM

JM

“ So many memories over 53 years. John was the person who had the most influence regarding my life trajectory. He was my mentor teacher when I first came to Traverse City in 1971 to do my student teaching. I ended up working for him in the migrant program while receiving credit for student teaching. This was the era of the Vietnam war and I was called up for a physical and possible induction. John wrote a letter which delayed me going for my physical for a couple of months. When I finally did they ended the draft shortly after. Saved!! I expressed a strong desire to return to TC as a full time teacher. Two years later that happened because of John. I never filled out an application or created a resume but he made it happen. The next years were eventful with many trips to football game being a highlight. We went to every game one of the championship years traveling as far as Toledo and Escanaba and everywhere in between. In 1988 I needed a female chaperone as I was taking a group of students to Mexico. He kept insisting I should take Patsy so I did. Even though nothing happened during the trip, a few people would disagree, we got married six months later. He has always been uncle John to all our children whether by blood or for just being part of our lives. There are so many other events and memories along the way that it is impossible to share. Suffice to say we never got in trouble. Descansa en paz hermano. Nunca te olvidaré.

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**Jack Metz** - May 10, 2024 at 12:32 PM

DB

Senor Galnares. Thank you for all you did for your students. I was one of them. Because of you, I am conversing with all of the Spanish speaking persons that I encounter in South Florida. Your lessons stayed with me for over fifty years. I remember your easy going nature, your soft spoken ways, and your great sense of humor. Vaya con dios.

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**Duane Beeman** - May 15, 2024 at 07:28 PM