



John Anthony Raia Sr

November 8, 1931 - October 8, 2018

John Anthony Raia Sr., (November 8, 1931 – October 8, 2018), surrounded by his family, went home to his Lord Jesus Christ, Sunday, October 8, 2018. He is preceded in death by his wife, Rosetta Frances Navarro Raia, and his parents, John Raia and Jennie Triola Raia. He is survived by his children, John Anthony Raia, Jr. and wife Rosemary Raia, Mary Raia and husband J.W. Daubert III, Anthony Raia, his beloved golden retriever Farley. He is also survived by grandchildren John Anthony Raia III, Frank Raia and many cousins. John was born and raised in Houston, Texas and in 1996, he and Rosetta moved to Huntsville, Texas. After her death in 2010, he moved back to Houston and resided at St. Dominic Village.

John attended Holy Name Catholic School and was a 1948 graduate of St. Thomas High School. He attended St. Thomas University for two years and then went on to the University of Houston and graduated in 1953, 8th in his class, with a Bachelor of Science degree in pharmacy. He practiced pharmacy for 60 years. John managed and then purchased Dube's pharmacy on West 18th street in Houston. After he purchased the pharmacy, he changed the name to Jester Village Pharmacy. He had a passion for helping his fellow man in every way possible and he certainly did every day with each prescription that he filled. One of his customers gave him a card that stated, "Just walking in to your pharmacy and talking to you is the best prescription." He kept that card on his counter by his typewriter and read it every day.

He was a wonderful pharmacist and had the ability to retrieve his customers' prescriptions from memory. He compounded prescriptions when needed and offered a delivery service to his customers. He designed the pharmacy and it was truly one of the last of the "neighborhood" pharmacies with a hopping soda fountain, a magazine rack, gift items, cosmetics and those wonderful candied sticks at the front counter.

John was very proud of his family. He was a loving and adoring husband. He would always kiss Rosetta as he left the house for any reason. He was known to circle back from around the block and come back to kiss her good bye if he forgot to when he left. He was an awesome father. He was always present for his children instilling faith, hope, confidence and love in them each and every day. He was a gentle kind soul. John was an only child; however, he grew up with many first cousins. Thanksgiving Day was always celebrated at his parents' house and usually fed 75 plus family members. This was followed by a Christmas Party two weeks later where Santa Claus would show up and distribute gifts to all the children under 12. He shared many stories of growing up around the Bay Area with his cousins fishing and crabbing.

This is where his love for fishing came from and he spent many years at his beloved bay home at Bayou Vista called Raia's Relief where he set out to fish in West Bay and Offatts Bayou bringing in fresh speckled trout and redfish on each expedition. It was this passion to fish and the dismay of live bait not lasting more than 12 hours that drove him to invent and patent The Watermover. His invention would keep live shrimp hoppin' and poppin' for at least 30 hours. He always wanted to live in the country. In 1996, he and Rosetta moved to Huntsville, Texas where they made a beautiful 10 acre homestead with a country home, two dogs, one horse, a pond, a large garden and John's work shed. He loved Huntsville and became very active in The Shrine of the Two Hearts, Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church and was

a member of Stand and Pray for the sanctity of preserving the lives of the unborn. He made many wonderful friends in Huntsville that he considered his family.

John had a love for animals and was considered by his children as a “horse and dog whisperer.” He truly developed the beautiful communication between man and animal that God intended to happen. He could think a direction or action for his horse Topper, and Topper would hear him. His dogs were always the most obedient pets in the family. December 19, 1964, John became a lifetime member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. He was also a member of the Sherriff’s Mounted Posse. He enjoyed representing the posse riding in the HLS&R parade each year and riding in the opening of each rodeo at the Coliseum as they would present the American and Texas flags and perform a serpentine drill. He also rode on the Salt Grass Trail Ride and had many stories to tell about his two week adventure with Topper.

John had a quiet presence. He was a good listener and when he did speak, he usually had something profound to say. John’s garden was always full of beautiful vegetables and fruits. His garden of life was filled with his love for his God, his family and friends, his country and his compassion to help others. He rode on the trail ride of life where Jesus was the only trail boss. He never wavered in his faith. He was a beautiful son, husband, father and friend. He will be forever in our hearts.

Our family would like to thank all of those who have cared for Daddy during his journey in the last 6 years. He loved you all and your commitment to helping those in need comforted him. You are all angels sent from Heaven. Thank you and God Bless You: Dr. Stephanie Coulter, M.C. Devault, RN, Dr. Michael Duncan, the staff at the Belmont Village Hunter’s Creek, Jesus Concepcion, the staff on the 14th floor of St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital in the

Houston Medical Center and the entire staff at Saint Dominic Village.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the following:

Saint Dominic Village, 2401 E. Holcombe Blvd., Houston, TX, 77021

Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, 1603 Avenue N, Huntsville, TX
77340

Good Shepherd Mission, 1005 Martin Luther King Dr., Huntsville, TX 77320.

On Thursday, October 11, 2018 at Saint Dominic Village, 2401 E. Holcombe Blvd., Houston, TX, in the Warren Chapel and Charlotte Hall reception area the family will receive friends from 3:00pm till 8:30pm, with rosary to begin at 6:30pm.

On Friday, October 12, 2018 at Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, 1603 Avenue N, Huntsville, TX, the family will receive friends at 12:00pm, with rosary and Catholic Mass to follow at 1:00pm. Mass of Christian Burial Rite of Committal service will follow at Brooke Cemetery.

Pallbearers are John Anthony Raia III, Frank Raia, Bill Wojtasczyk, Ronnie Rosell, Anthony Romano, and Scott LaPointe. Honorary pallbearers are Billy McPike, AJ McGee, Carl Vento, Charles "Doc" Wagamon, Raymond Kurtz, Anthony Lister, Joe Colonna, Charles Triola, Joseph Raia, Joseph Teraso and Johnny Raia.

Cemetery Details

Brooke Cemetery

672 FM 980
Huntsville, TX 77320

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 11. 3:00 PM - 8:30 PM (CT)

St Dominic Village,
2401 Holcombe Blvd
Houston, TX 77021-2023
(713) 741-8701

Rosary and Vigil

OCT 11. 6:30 PM (CT)

St Dominic Village,
2401 Holcombe Blvd
Houston, TX 77021-2023
(713) 741-8701

Visitation

OCT 12. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM.

Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church
1603 Avenue N
Huntsville, TX

Rosary followed by Catholic Mass

OCT **12**. 1:00 PM.

Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church
1603 Avenue N
Huntsville, TX

Tribute Wall



“ *John Anthony Raia Sr*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *To the Raia Family- Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. My wife, Michelle and I will always have fond memories our times working at Jester Village Pharmacy with your Dad. Michelle working behind the counter and me delivering prescription orders to customers in the area. Learned how to drive my first standard vehicle (Thanks Johnny), the white delivery truck, while working at Jester Village Pharmacy. Seems so long ago but is still fresh in our memories.*

Dan and Michelle Galfione - October 11, 2018 at 02:38 PM



“ *Mary so sad to read about your Dad's passing. We still miss him at the drug store where he treated all of his customers as family. He and your. Mom were wonderful to everyone and never met a stranger.*

Minnette Carrabba - October 11, 2018 at 08:22 AM



“ *HLSR Wine Comp, Events, Sales, Relations & Garden purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of John Anthony Raia Sr.*



HLSR Wine Comp, Events, Sales, Relations & Garden -
October 10, 2018 at 12:45 PM