



## John T. Galvan

March 27, 1939 - July 5, 2015

John T. Galvan, 76, passed away Sunday in a local hospital after a brief illness. He was born in San Jose and had lived in Benicia since 1947. John was a graduate of Benicia High School in 1957, earned his Bachelor's degree from San Jose State in 1961 and finally his Masters degree from University of Nevada-Reno in Education and School Administration.

John worked in Education for more than 33 years. He was a coach, teacher and administrator at both Benicia High School and Liberty High School during his career. He also coached football and baseball for many years. Whether he was teaching or coaching, the high school was his passion. He loved the City of Benicia, its history and serving the community. He loved helping troubled kids and working with high school athletes to make them better. For the past 15 years, John has poured wine. He worked at BV Cellars early in the 2000s, but most recently he worked at Cakebread Cellars. John loved to chat and get to know people, so pouring wine was a perfect pairing.

John was a member and financial secretary for the Native Sons of the Golden West; he was an avid supporter of Relay for Life; was a member of the Solano County Board of Education; former member of the Benicia Rotary Club; enjoyed playing golf; and was a huge fan of both the Giants and 49ers.

John is survived by his children Jennifer (Jeff) Galvan-Trezza, Nikki (Elana

Edelman) Galvan, Gigi (Dave) Hansell and Tammy (Brian Houston) Galvan; sister Arlinda (Larry) Watson; his grandchildren John Thornburg, Danica Green, Zoe Edelman and Cooper & Kaylee Hansell; and his nephews Rick, Brett and Jim Watson. He was preceded in death by his wife Mitzi in 1994.

Vigil services will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 9th at Passalacqua Funeral Chapel, with visitation starting at 2:00 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, July 10th at St. Dominic's Church, located at 475 East I Street, followed by a reception at the BDES Hall, located at 140 West J Street. The Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, the Family prefers donations be made to the Benicia High School Athletic Department.

# Tribute Wall

ZE

“ *Ziggy Edelman lit a candle in memory of John Galvan*



Ziggy Edelman - December 14, 2022 at 05:41 PM



“ *John T. Galvan*

November 29, 2022 at 08:20 PM

AS

“ *Ann Stokman lit a candle in memory of John T. Galvan*



Ann Stokman - December 14, 2016 at 11:53 AM

CC

“ *Sorry to hear of John's passing, he was a good friend. An "old school" administrator that demanded accountability for one's actions. Always perceived to be "hard nosed" but he really cared about his students and their future, including my daughters. John was a golfing buddy, good friend and attribute to Benicia High and the community. God Bless John and his family.*

Charles Clausen - July 14, 2015 at 11:49 AM

KF

“ Back in April, Mr . Galvin attended my Aunt Marilyn Mitchell's funeral service. I saw him and made it a point to go say hi to him when we were both freed up from our own conversations. When the opportunity came, he apparently had already left. I was upset with myself for not butting in just to say hi. John was a great person while roaming this world. He was my principal at liberty from '79-82. I know I must've added some of them gray hairs on his head. I attended his funeral services yesterday, which showed just a fraction of his character. We never know when the last time we'll see someone is going to be. We often times take time for granted. Never really knowing if there will be a tomorrow. I believe I will see Mr. Galvin again one day. Until then...

Kevin Foy

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kevin foy - July 11, 2015 at 04:27 PM

JP

“ The service was a beautiful tribute to a man who was very much loved by his family and many, many friends and former students. I didn't know John that well, but I wish I had. After today, I feel I know him better. A great man that is leaving a great legacy not only to his family but to many others. RIP, John, you will be missed. Joanne Preston



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Joanne Cordice Preston - July 10, 2015 at 08:35 PM

KE

“ I wasn't a close friend of Johns. Maybe that makes this easier for me to do, but I encourage everyone who was close him to speak about John and what he meant to you. I have been around John and his family for a few years now and to me he was a man with a purpose. He was about his family. He had a goal or felt a duty or had a drive to shape the people he had brought into the world and to prepare them to succeed. However you want to say it, it didn't seem to me that he ever lost that focus. He also felt a responsibility to his community. In his chosen field of education it is impossible to know how many lives he influenced but suffice it to say; more than most. And it's likely a similar story in his later work with the 'viticulturally challenged'. I think that if a person comes into the world, makes it a better place, creates and shapes other people who will do the same, there is little else you can ask of them. John had succeeded at life. You, his family, by being who you are gave him that success. While it is truly tragic that John didn't get enough time to admire his good works, I think that the most important thing to him was that he accomplished his mission. In the end, John left this world with his strength and courage and grace intact. His body was failing him but not his mind. He knew that he had succeeded at life. He could see it right there in the faces of his family. That is cause for celebration. RIP John.

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**Kenny** - July 10, 2015 at 05:15 AM

JB

“ I have many fond memories of times spent with you, John. I always enjoyed going to those Niner games and the fun tailgate parties before the games. I will miss FaceBook messaging with you during Giants games. Thank you for all the years we were friends. I will always remember you and will miss you.  
Janet Bailey

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**JANEt Bailey** - July 09, 2015 at 11:20 PM



“ I'll always call Mr. Galvan "Coach" he was was JV football coach and High School baseball coach! Thur all these years as Benician's who love our town and never left and see each other often ... It's "coach"... he liked his title! Hate to see him go on, but that's what the good man upstairs has planned for coach, gonna miss you!

**Gary Pettigrew** - July 09, 2015 at 08:33 PM

MW

“ Coach will be missed by many. He was my first football coach when I was finally allowed to play the sport. He taught me much more than football over the years. I guess maybe God needed a teacher/coach. I will miss him, Mike W.

**Michael Wilson** - July 09, 2015 at 06:17 PM

LC

“ John and looked for to the weekends when we could banter back and forth about Breakfast at 907 Grill. Even the morning after the recent earthquake we met to have a hot cup of coffee at none other than OUR favorite 907 Grill, the only place in town to open that morning. Really missing you John and I will never stop fighting for a cure to this horrible disease.

**Leeann Cawley** - July 09, 2015 at 04:54 PM

NL

“ I was lucky to have known such a kind, respectful, young man for 50 years. RIP John G. You are loved and will be so missed by all of Benicia.



**nancy lewiscore** - July 09, 2015 at 04:21 PM



“ John was and is a great friend who will be certainly missed by all who knew him, in school, about town and the Native Son's. RIP my great friend, God will cherish you as all of us will do.

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**Dennis Adams** - July 09, 2015 at 04:04 PM



“ Mr Galvin.. Always smiling, always proud, whether it be his city, his teams, his children, the amazingly delicious meals he was fond of taking pictures of.. He was one of those people that made you feel heard, respected, and valued. Every time I saw him, either in high school, about town or here on Facebook he always had uplifting words if I needed them. A joke to make me laugh. A shoulder to lean on when my own father passed away... Not many people can be called an icon, but I believe he was to many of us who knew him. Rest in peace brother.. ill look for you in the birds. Soar free beyond the veil till we all meet again. Much love to your girls.

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**Theresa Bernard** - July 09, 2015 at 09:45 AM



“ Mr. Galvan was instrumental in helping me find my path at BHS. His office door was always open for me. He was always one sentence away from a laugh or a joke to lighten the mood. He supported me when the going was rough when I was in college and then in the Army. Just because I had graduated from high school didn't mean he stopped caring or asking about me. BHS has had many fine teachers and administrators, but only one Mr. Galvan. He was the best. I will miss him and will keep the Galvan family in my thoughts and prayers. RIP Mr. G.

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**Duncan Larkin** - July 08, 2015 at 08:50 PM



“ 136 files added to the album LifeTributes



Passalacqua Funeral Chapel - July 08, 2015 at 02:35 PM

NS

“ MR G was one of a kind. He was my football coach. And my teacher We had good times and bad times. It turned out as I got older I must say he was a great man of Benicia and all that crossed his path learned something . And to his nephew Dennis It was football and we carried MR G in the showers It was his first win in football .

Norm Shankles - July 08, 2015 at 10:55 AM

KK

“ John has been a mentor in many peoples lives! I have many fond memories that will be with me the rest of my life! God bless the family and John no more pain! RIP my friend!!



karol knight - July 08, 2015 at 10:15 AM

 Sonia  
Lee

“ *Mr. Galvan <3 helped get me My First Job at Raleys <3 back in high school at Benicia High <3 when I was 16 years old. WONDERFUL & CARING Man!! My THOUGHTS & PRAYERS go out to the many FAMILY <3 & FRIENDS <3 of Mr. Galvan <3. RIP. =(*

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**Sonia Lee** - July 08, 2015 at 12:03 AM

MC

“ *Morna Calhoun lit a candle in memory of John T. Galvan*



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**Morna Calhoun** - July 07, 2015 at 08:32 PM

MC

*You told me I was never alone. I lit this candle to tell you I will always remember.....that I' m still never alone. Thank You Mr. Galvin ❤️*

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**Morna Calhoun** - July 07, 2015 at 08:34 PM

LW

“I will always remember "Cousin Johnny" as a role model. I remember my father saying to me "Be like John, make your family proud". I guess I followed my dad's advice because I am still a teacher. I also remember him always being nice to me when I was a kid. He was 12 years older but he still treated me with respect and asked what I was doing (are you playing any sports?). He was very comfortable talking with my parents even though they were deaf (not everyone was comfortable talking to my parents). I remember John and my dad talking about the time the California School for the Deaf in Berkeley played Benicia in some sport. I remember them going back and for the but not who won the game. I also remember John boing Mr. Cool with his sunglasses and a Mustang. Was it a black Mustang? I was thrilled when he and his friend from work, Jose, visited me in Maryland; probably in the 1990's. I consider myself lucky to have John in my family.”

*Dennis Galvan*

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Linda Watson - July 07, 2015 at 06:52 PM

CK

“ Rest In Peace John



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Carol King - July 07, 2015 at 01:09 PM

MF

“ John was a person that he was always there for you when you need something a great human and a friend even been far away we always say hi i will miss you John.

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mariano fernandez - July 07, 2015 at 12:55 AM

MP

“ Someone once said...*"The great teacher is not the man who supplies the most facts, but the one in whose presence we become different people."* That is what John Galvan has done for so many of his students....he worked tirelessly to push his students to become different people. My deepest sympathies to the Galvan family, the community of Benicia and to all that had the great pleasure of knowing John. We have truly lost a hero, someone who cared so much for so many people. I attribute my success in life to this man - he was just as much a pain in the ass to me in High School as I was to him in High School. But his presence definitely impacted me becoming a different person. He made an impact on my life. And I will never forget him, ever. Blessings and condolences to the family and friends, you are in my prayers. ~ Missy Peeler

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**Melissa Simpson (Missy Peeler)** - July 06, 2015 at 06:06 PM

NA

“ This quote by Francois Muriac, *"No love, no friendship can cross the path of our destiny without leaving some mark on it forever,"* is truer than true for me about John. ---Nilda Andrews (Lilijo)

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**Nilda Andrews** - July 06, 2015 at 04:31 PM

KW

“ John was one in a million! We had so many great times working together at BHS. I felt we had a special relationship as I am sure many others feel the same way because he made everyone feel special. He will be greatly missed. What a legacy he has left behind.

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**Kathy Watson** - July 06, 2015 at 03:36 PM

MM

*Family and friends have lost a great, caring man from this earth; but God and heaven has gained a new saint. Thank you John to all of your service to the Benicia community.*

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**Mach Myovich** - July 09, 2015 at 07:41 PM

CH

*John always strived to "give" his best to all of us. I still use the "passwords" he humorous set up for me 25 years ago. He was always so eager to help and make us all better at our jobs. He loved talking about his children with so much pride. Condolences to the Galvan family. He will be sorely missed.*

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**Carole Hiltman** - July 10, 2015 at 09:58 AM