



John F. Cuneo Jr.

August 30, 2019

John F. Cuneo, Jr., 88, died among friends and family in his Sarasota, Florida home on August 30, 2019. Born in Chicago and raised in Lake County, Illinois, he was the loving son of John F. Cuneo, Sr. (1885 -1977) and Julia Josephine Cuneo (1902-1990). Like his parents, John F. Cuneo, Jr. was very successful in business and a respected philanthropist. Married to Herta Cuneo for more than four decades, he is survived by his son, Stefan, granddaughter, Catherine, and nieces and nephews Katharine White, Jamie Middleton, William Browning and John Browning.

John left a magnificent legacy in Illinois and Florida, supporting many educational organizations. John loved animals and devoted much of his life bringing the joys of diverse animals to kids and adults all around the globe. He was also an excellent equestrian and animal trainer.

John was raised by his parents with his sister, Consuela, in the historic mansion in Vernon Hills, Illinois built by the utility magnate Samuel Insull. John later donated this mansion, its 100-acres of prime real estate, along with its collection of fine art and furnishings, to Loyola University. John's last years were spent in his cherished city of Sarasota, Florida, surrounded by his friends and his most beloved animals.

There will be a private wake at John's Sarasota home. The Requiem Funeral Mass will be at St. Martha's Catholic Church, 200 North Orange Avenue, Sarasota, Florida, on Saturday, September 14, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.

A separate wake will then be held on Thursday, September 19, 2019, at John's childhood home, now named the "Cuneo Mansion and Gardens," 1350 Milwaukee Ave., Vernon Hills, Illinois, where John's casket will rest outside the chapel entrance from 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. A funeral Mass of Remembrance will be held on Friday, September 20, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. at Assumption Catholic Church, 323 West Illinois Street, Chicago, Illinois.

After the Mass of Remembrance, friends and family are welcome to process to Calvary

Cemetery in Evanston, Illinois, where John's mortal remains will be buried next to his parents, in the mausoleum established by his father.

Tribute Wall



“ *He is the son of a beach and elephant lover. I hope he stays in the hill*

JjLI Loo - July 29, 2025 at 06:07 PM

MW

“ *To the Family and Circus Family of Mr. John Cuneo Jr. We feel your loss 🙏
We the Young's, Belle's, and Williamson's would like to send our heart felt
condolences.*

*Death in it self is a beautiful end because we who believe in Heaven and God
know that today our loved walks there with our Savior Jesus Christ. Peace to all.*



Marta Young Belle Williamson - September 14, 2019 at 11:30 PM

RR

“ *To the family and friends of Mr. John Cuneo, I wish you peace and to express my
most sincere condolences for your loss.*

*The last time I saw him he was happy and was attending the annual Circus and
Traveling Show Ministries gathering. He spoke to me about my father Buddy
Watkins when he worked chimps in his youth with his father Ira Watkins. He
remembered the chimps and prop hands comedy routines which he enjoyed.*

*From the Watkins family we pray that he rests in peace in the house of the Lord,
Amen*

Rachel Watkins Rogers - September 07, 2019 at 12:21 AM