

John Brown, a proud graduate of the State University of New York Maritime College at Fort Schuyler in the Bronx, Class of 1986, passed away tragically on Saturday, May 2, 2026, in a house fire at his home in Delaware. He was 64 years old.

Born on December 11, 1961, in Rockville Centre, New York, to the late Arthur and Kathleen Brown, John lived a life defined by service, leadership, faith, patriotism, and deep devotion to family and tradition.

A distinguished graduate of New York Maritime College, John earned his Bachelor of Engineering degree in Nuclear Science and Marine Engineering. During his time at Fort Schuyler, he earned the respect and admiration of his classmates, ultimately serving as Class President for the Class of 1986. His pride in Maritime College and the lifelong brotherhood formed there remained central to his identity throughout his life.

John dedicated 33 years of distinguished service to the United States Navy through his work with NAVSEA at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, where he contributed his expertise to vital naval engineering programs until his retirement in 2023. His professionalism, intellect, and steadfast commitment to his country earned him the admiration of colleagues and friends alike.

Deeply rooted in his faith and Irish heritage, John was a proud Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus, exemplifying the organization's principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. He was also a former member of Division 4 of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and proudly served as a member of the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee in Manhattan, honoring and preserving the traditions and spirit of the Irish-American community he loved so dearly.

John was predeceased by his parents, Arthur and Kathleen Brown, and by his nephew, Ryan Brown.

He is survived by his three brothers: Michael Cavanagh Brown and his partner, Carol Perrone; Christopher Sidney Kielstrom Brown and his wife, Joan Mahoney; and James Kane Brown and his wife, Margaret (Gaccione) Brown. He is also survived by his beloved nieces, Erin Brown and Kathleen Ann McCarthy Brown, and his nephews, Patrick Brown, Sean Brown, and Liam Brown as well as many loving cousins, extended family members, lifelong friends, and fellow Maritime brothers whose lives were enriched by his kindness, loyalty, and enduring friendship.

To his family, John was more than a brother and uncle – he was a loyal friend, trusted advisor, and constant source of strength, humor, and compassion. His presence brought comfort and stability to those around him, and the void left by his passing will be deeply felt. A lifelong New Yorker at heart, John will be brought home to Wantagh, New York, for his final farewell. Family, friends, classmates, colleagues, fellow Knights, and members of the Irish-American community are invited to attend the following services:

Visitation Friday May 15, 2026 2:00 PM – 8:00 PM
O'Shea Funeral Home
603 Wantagh Avenue
Wantagh, NY 11793

Funeral Mass Saturday May 16, 2026 9:30 AM
St. Francis de Chantal Roman Catholic Church
1309 Wantagh Avenue
Wantagh, NY 11793

Interment will immediately follow at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne, New York.

John's integrity, leadership, patriotism, and quiet generosity touched countless lives. He will be profoundly missed by his family, his Maritime brothers, fellow Knights, colleagues, and all who had the privilege of knowing him. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages those who knew John to honor his memory by sharing stories and remembrances in celebration of his remarkable life.

May he rest in eternal peace.