

Obituary for John Thomas Sheehan (1953 - 2026)

John Thomas Sheehan, age 73, passed away at his home in Chelsea, Alabama, on Saturday, August 29, 2026, after battling Parkinson's for several years. He was born on April, 25, 1953, to George "Harold" Sheehan, Sr. and Patricia Ann (McEvoy) Sheehan in Jacksonville, Florida. He grew up alongside his sister Kathy and brothers, Harold Jr. and Bob; growing up, John enjoyed frequently taking them to concerts and the beach. He was such a loving brother that when they attended the Christ the King Halloween carnival, he would slip Kathy a couple of dollars that he had earned mowing lawns so she could play the carnival games. After graduating from Terry Parker High School, he attended Florida Junior College, where John met the love of his life, Ana De Leon, whom he would later marry on September 30, 1978. John was persistent, asking Ana out several times until she finally gave in; the two of them were inseparable after that. They moved to Tampa, Florida, where John attended the University of South Florida and received a degree in chemical engineering. While here, John and Ana rented a house in Lutz that backed up to an orange grove; they would let Bob and Kathy spend the weekend sometimes, a compassionate act that not many college-aged men would show to their younger siblings. After college, John's career with Union Carbide Linde/Praxair spanned several decades and saw him promoted several times including multiple plant management assignments, senior purchasing, and plant maintenance positions; it was a career that found him moving his growing family to various locations including Gadsden, Alabama; Big Springs, Texas; Baltimore, Maryland; Buffalo, New York; Detroit, Michigan; and Kingwood, Texas, before settling in Chelsea, Alabama. Along the way, John and Ana had three children: Justin, Drew, and Lesly.

John enjoyed participating in several activities with his family, treating them to various vacations and experiences. He could often be found taking Justin to concerts, practicing golf with Drew, and cheering on Lesly as she performed for Chelsea High School's danceline. Once their children grew up and had children of their own, John and Ana became Papa John and Abuela, the grandparents who spoiled their grandchildren with love and affection. Papa John helped care for his oldest two granddaughters when they were young and still lived in Chelsea; he would pick them up after preschool and buy them a treat at the gas station or take them to explore Bass Pro Shop. When they were older, John would share his love of hunting with them, taking them to stay for a night or two at his hunting club. John also enjoyed working on automobiles and helping his family fix items around their houses, even if that meant traveling some distance to do so. His skills as an electrician, carpenter, and taxidermist were always appreciated. Although he enjoyed helping his children and their families, the last years of his life were spent doting on his wife. John was Ana's rock, especially when she received her diagnosis of Alzheimer's; and Ana was John's comfort, caring for and loving him through his Parkinson's diagnosis. His family is trying to find comfort in knowing John is no longer in pain and will carry on his legacy of loving family, working hard, and enjoying life.

John was preceded in death by his father, George "Harold" Sheehan, Sr.; his mother, Patricia Ann (McEvoy) Sheehan; and his brother, George "Harold" Sheehan, Jr.

John lovingly left behind his wife, Ana Rosa (De Leon) Sheehan; his sons, Justin Thomas Sheehan (Heidi) and Drew Allen Sheehan (Hillary); his daughter, Lesly Sheehan Horton (Hunter); his grandchildren, Anne Marie, Avery, Abigail, Ethan, Charlotte, Olivia, Finn, and Eleanor; his brother, Robert Patrick Sheehan (Kathi); his sister Kathy Sheehan Meissner (Kenneth); and several nieces and nephews.

The family will hold a private Celebration of Life on Saturday, September 12, 2026. In lieu of flowers, they ask that donations be made in John's name to Parkinson's Foundation (<https://www.parkinson.org>).