



John Edgardo Aponte

August 14, 1947 - April 2, 2026

John Edgardo Aponte, PsyD

John Edgardo Aponte passed away peacefully at home on April 2nd, 2026. He was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico, to Juan Aponte and Maria Santiago Aponte and moved with his family to New York City during childhood. He was a talented singer and sang in his early teens in a doo wop group and later as Lead singer in a young salsa group whose band leader would later become known as the legendary Willie Colon. He graduated from DeWitt Clinton HS and after graduation, John joined the NYPD. While serving his community as a police officer, he also continued in his collegiate studies. John earned his B.A. degree in Psychology from Herbert H. Lehman College and his M.A. degree in Community Psychology from New York University. He was awarded his doctorate in clinical psychology from the Long Island University/C.W. Post Campus Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program.

John is survived by his devoted wife, Paula, his beloved two children, Jasmine (John) Basil and John Paul, his brother Dixon (Sonia), and his sister Vivian (Vincent) Harris as well as other cherished family members and friends.

John's interests and hobbies were varied. In his early 20's, he loved to ride his Peugeot bicycle all over the five boroughs. Later, he became an avid motorcyclist and loved to ride his bike on the open road living the Biker's

motto of "Two wheels, One engine, No limits." He was also a talented handball and paddle ball player participating in tournaments in Orchard Beach in the Bronx. He was a phenomenal dancer who was always light on his feet. John was a voracious reader and especially loved Sci Fi genre like Dune and fantasy classics like The Lord of the Rings. His love of Sci Fi also manifested itself in his love of movies like The Lathe of Heaven, Star Wars and Star Trek, to name a few. He loved to swim and found it was the best exercise. He practiced Tai Chi which he did as part of his spiritual health and in later years as an additional form of physical therapy that he shared with others who also were impacted by Parkinson's.

John served as an adjunct professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in both the Psychology and Special Programs departments. In addition to serving as a Police Officer in the New York City Police Department, he later became Staff Psychologist in the Psychological Services Unit.

John joined Victim Services (now known as Safe Horizon) and developed a program focused on intimate partner and family violence. He worked closely with organizations such as Connect: Safe Families, Peaceful Communities. John was a trailblazer, known for his fierce advocacy on behalf of children and families, who touched many lives. People have spoken about his generosity in mentoring them and the role that he played in their lives.

John had many different roles in life, but his most beloved were those with his closest family and friends the role of son, husband, father, brother, best friend. These were the roles that defined him.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made in John's memory to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, donations@michaeljfox.org or Visiting Nurse Services, <https://www.vnshealth.org/>.

Cemetery Details

Rosedale Cemetery

355 East Linden Avenue
Linden, NJ 07036

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 10. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc.
28 Eltingville Blvd
Staten Island, NY 10312

Visitation

APR 10. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc.
28 Eltingville Blvd
Staten Island, NY 10312

Service

APR 11. 10:00 AM (ET)

Holy Child Church
4747 Amboy Road
Staten Island, NY 10312

Tribute Wall



“ *John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc. created a Webcast in memory of John Edgardo Aponte*



John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc. - April 11 at 07:41 AM

GF

“ *Georgine F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Edgardo Aponte.*

Georgine F. - May 10 at 04:12 PM

MA

“ *He was such a kind person and such a good friend and neighbor. He will be sorely missed by everyone that knew him*

Marianne Alyea - May 09 at 01:38 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Edgardo Aponte.*



April 09 at 10:49 PM

AM

“ Arnet McKinney-Crespo lit a candle in memory of John Edgardo Aponte



Arnet McKinney-Crespo - April 09 at 02:09 PM

AM

“ Dr. Aponte, indeed an amazing man. It's 18 years ago, but how clearly I remember him coming to instruct at CONNECT. Regardless of his challenging disability, he taught with passion! I attended the classes "Understanding Men Who Abuse and Batter". He dared you to analyze the attitude and behavior of oneself instead of hastily judging the abuser. All the while, acknowledging and supporting the trauma of an abused survivor. I enjoyed his sternness woven lightly with humor. His teachings full of wisdom are woven in how I advocate for non violence today. I am grateful for the time he was here on this plane. The world is a better place. May he rest, may he journey on in peace. My deepest sympathy to his family, friends and colleagues.

Peace be with us all. Arnet McKinney - Crespo

Arnet McKinney-Crespo - April 09 at 02:08 PM

VV

“ Vivian & Vynnie purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Edgardo Aponte.



Vivian & Vynnie - April 09 at 12:09 PM

VV

“ Vivian & Vynnie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Edgardo Aponte.

Vivian & Vynnie - April 09 at 12:09 PM

LF

“ Luis Matos & family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of John Edgardo Aponte.



Luis Matos & family - April 09 at 08:04 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Edgardo Aponte.



April 08 at 09:26 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Edgardo Aponte.



April 08 at 07:19 AM

FH

“ From your friends at Safe Horizon purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of John Edgardo Aponte.



From your friends at Safe Horizon - April 07 at 10:08 AM

FH

“ From your friends at Safe Horizon planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Edgardo Aponte.

From your friends at Safe Horizon - April 07 at 10:08 AM

JL

“ John was a friend and a colleague. Always quick with a smile - you stepped into his office that he had re-made into a warm and inviting room - and you felt welcome. He had that ability to exude warmth, energy and exuberance that helped me feel renewed in our challenging work at Victim Services. His skill, work ethic and genuine caring for families experiencing abuse was inspiring and uplifting to all who worked with him. I will miss his generous spirit, his calmness in the face of great trauma and his laughter. After prolonged physical struggles, may he rest in the palm of God's hand now.

Janet Lee - April 07 at 07:07 AM

WC

“ *With love from Paula's DYCD Colleagues purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of John Edgardo Aponte.*



With love from Paula's DYCD Colleagues - April 06 at 04:13 PM

WC

“ *With love from Paula's DYCD Colleagues planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Edgardo Aponte.*

With love from Paula's DYCD Colleagues - April 06 at 04:13 PM

CM

“ John was my boss (ATV), My mentor, and especially my friend. His knowledge and wisdom guided me for many decades. Together with my partner, Detective Lydia Martinez, they guided me over my lifetime in our specialty of Domestic Violence and helping families and children. I hope the NYPD will remember John's loyalty, dedication and commitment to the NYPD and all the members of NYC family. My heart is shattered, but I know John would have wanted us to focus on each other now and in the future. And always feel our responsibility both to NYC and our NYPD Family, of which I too served as an Auxiliary Police Officer. Godspeed John! Your light will always ✨ shine ✨ in our hearts forever! And we'll carry YOUR LIGHT into the future with the same grace, love and sense of the brotherhood of man!

Major Jacob Saver, MSEd

Former Jewish Chaplain

State of Maryland Military Department

C: 443-204-7400

Email: jacob.saver@outlook.com

Chsplain Major Jacob Saver, MSEd - April 06 at 02:45 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Edgardo Aponte.



April 04 at 01:00 PM

FM

“ From. Joan Miller purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of John Edgardo Aponte.



From. Joan Miller - April 03 at 09:28 PM

FM

“ From. Joan Miller planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Edgardo Aponte.

From. Joan Miller - April 03 at 09:28 PM