



## Dr. John J. Brennan

August 20, 1933 - August 25, 2024

Dr. John J. Brennan, a beacon of inspiration and a paragon of faith, passed away peacefully on August 25, 2024, at the age of 91 in Monroe Township, New Jersey. Born on August 20, 1933, in Brooklyn, New York to the late John Brennan and the late Bridget (Rooney) Brennan, John's life was a testament to the power of kindness, tolerance, and unwavering conviction.

John's story is one of profound impact and heartfelt devotion. His journey from the streets of Brooklyn to the halls of academia was fueled by a deep-seated belief in the goodness of people and a personal faith that was as much a part of him as his own breath. Friends and colleagues remember John as the "holiest man" they'd ever met, a sentiment echoed by many who were fortunate enough to cross paths with this gentle soul.

For over 53 years, John served at St. John's University with an unyielding passion for education and community service. As assistant vice president and associate dean of Notre Dame College on the Grymes Hill campus, he played an instrumental role in the college's growth and success. John's joy was palpable as he anticipated the 25th anniversary of Notre Dame College's integration into St. John's University, a milestone that celebrated the institution's evolution and the thousands of lives it touched.

John's influence extended far beyond his administrative duties. He was a

trusted mentor to students and faculty alike, dedicating his time and energy to nurturing young minds and guiding colleagues through the complexities of academia. His commitment to the Mission of the Immaculate Virgin at Mount Loretto, where he served as board president, was a reflection of his deep-seated desire to contribute to the betterment of society.

A scholar of modern European history, John's intellectual pursuits were as diverse as they were profound. He earned his doctorate degree from Fordham University with a dissertation that explored the nuances of foreign policy in the early 16th century. Yet, his intellectual appetite did not overshadow his love for the simple pleasures in life, such as enjoying a classic film or cheering on his favorite sports teams with his grandchildren.

John's personal life was as rich and fulfilling as his professional one. He was a devoted husband to his wife, Geraldine, for 49 years, a loving father to their three children John Brennan and his wife Joanne, Anne Gonzalez and her husband Stephen Gonzalez, and the late Mary McGrann and her husband Michael McGrann, and a doting grandfather of 10 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren and was excitedly awaiting the birth of his newest great grandchildren a set of twins joining the world shortly, who instilled the virtues of hard work and compassion into all of his family. Dearest brother of Mary Gorman, Patricia Rogers and the late Eileen Warde. His parents' influence was evident in his actions and beliefs, especially his mother's wisdom that "There are good and bad in all kinds."

Despite early aspirations to the priesthood, John found his calling in education, a path that allowed him to touch countless lives. His accolades were many, including the St. John's presidential and administrative medals, recognition by the National Science Foundation, and listings in "Who's Who in Education." Yet, it was his day-to-day interactions, his ability to inspire and uplift those around him, that truly defined his legacy.

John's unwavering faith and commitment to his community were evident in everything he did. Whether it was his involvement with the Knights of Columbus, his tenure on the Community Board, or his thoughtful contributions to the field of education, John's life was a living example of service and integrity.

As we bid farewell to John J. Brennan, we remember a man whose life was a testament to the transformative power of faith, education, and kindness. His memory will continue to guide and inspire all who were blessed to know him, and his legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of generations to come.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 11:00 AM on Thursday August 29, 2024 at Holy Child Church located at 4747 Amboy Road Staten Island, New York 10312. Interment will follow in Resurrection Cemetery, Staten Island, NY.

The family will receive friends from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, at John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc., 28 Eltingville Blvd, Staten Island, New York.

# Cemetery Details

## Resurrection Cemetery

361 Sharrot Avenue  
Staten Island, NY 10309

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 28. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

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

## Visitation

AUG 28. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

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

## Service

AUG 29. 11:00 AM (ET)

Holy Child Church  
4747 Amboy Road  
Staten Island, NY 10312



# Tribute Wall

CN

“ With deep sympathy, I also express utmost gratitude to Dr. Brennan, for meeting with me and my beloved mother when I was seeking admission to St. John's University. Dr. Brennan took the time to meet with us and encouraged me to embark on the greatest journey in my life, attending St. John's University Staten Island Campus.

Catherine E Napolitano - October 17, 2024 at 02:31 PM

RH

“ Dr Brennan was a very special advisor and educator at St John's Staten Island campus. I enjoyed our talks and I was thankful to be added onto the Honors faculty professors list, and work with the program. He was a sincere and kind soul.  
Professor Roberta Hayes

Roberta Hayes - August 29, 2024 at 03:04 PM

MK

“ Beginning in 1992, I had the privilege of working with Dr. John on the Staten Island campus and saw firsthand his dedication to the life of the mind in the liberal arts. We were just a few offices apart on DaSilva 3 until his retirement. One day, near the mailroom, he paused in the middle of our otherwise light kibbitzing and said how very, very proud he was of his sons. A moment of crystalline clarity in a life well-lived.

Mark Kiley - August 28, 2024 at 07:00 PM

KE

“ My condolences - Dr. Breenan, a most kind and gentle man, started me along my collegiate path in the pioneering days of St. John's SI campus, heading the innovative Honors Program. His leadership of the First Friday luncheon events was inspirational.

Kevin Elford - August 28, 2024 at 01:06 PM



“ Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Dr. John J. Brennan.



August 27, 2024 at 10:42 PM

PF

“ Picciano family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. John J. Brennan.

Picciano family - August 27, 2024 at 10:42 PM

TF

“ The Rogers Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. John J. Brennan.

The Rogers Family - August 27, 2024 at 02:50 PM

TF

“ *The Rogers Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Dr. John J. Brennan.*



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**The Rogers Family** - August 27, 2024 at 02:50 PM

TF

“ *The McGarry Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. John J. Brennan.*

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**The McGarry Family** - August 27, 2024 at 10:17 AM

TF

“ *The McGarry Family purchased the Your Light Shines for the family of Dr. John J. Brennan.*



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**The McGarry Family** - August 27, 2024 at 10:17 AM

KM

“ *Pop used to call me Cary Grant every time he saw me. I loved listening to his stories over and over. I never got tired of hearing them. He was such a kind soul and he was soooo loved by his family! Can't wait to see him again some day...rest easy my friend.*

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**Kari A McGuiness** - August 27, 2024 at 09:30 AM

RI

“ *Richelle purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dr. John J. Brennan.*



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**Richelle** - August 26, 2024 at 05:01 PM

TF

“ *The Gorman Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. John J. Brennan.*

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**The Gorman Family** - August 26, 2024 at 04:33 PM

TF

“ *The Gorman Family purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Dr. John J. Brennan.*



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**The Gorman Family** - August 26, 2024 at 04:33 PM

TS

“ *The Branleys from East 58th ST purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Dr. John J. Brennan.*



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**The Branleys from East 58th ST** - August 26, 2024 at 03:55 PM

CA

“ Claire A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John J. Brennan.

Claire A. - August 26, 2024 at 02:24 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. John J. Brennan.



August 26, 2024 at 02:24 PM