



John E O'Connor

August 13, 1943 - December 9, 2025

John E. O'Connor, PhD, 82, of Bloomfield, NJ passed away peacefully on December 9, 2025. John is survived by his beloved wife of 60 years, Mary O'Connor (nee Bruno), two children, and many close friends. John was predeceased by his parents, William and Florence O'Connor.

John received his doctorate from the Graduate Center of City University of New York. He was a distinguished Professor of History at NJIT and authored and edited many books in his field, including *William Paterson, Lawyer & Statesman*, a respected biography of a Founding Father and New Jerseyan.

He was the co-founder and editor of the academic journal *Film & History*, which since his retirement has been published by the University of Wisconsin.

John's passion for local history fueled his mission to protect and preserve Oakeside, Bloomfield's Cultural Center, where he also served as the President of its Board of Trustees for many years.

He is the namesake of the John E. O'Connor Award, given every year by the American Historical Association to a film or documentary that teaches about history.

John also demonstrated his passion for his Irish-American heritage in many

ways, including as a member of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh in West Orange, NJ.

He will be missed by many for his warmth, affability and good humor.

In lieu of flowers please donate in John's memory to the Alzheimer's Association: <https://www.alz.org/>.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 11. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Van Tassel Funeral Home
337 Belleville Avenue
Bloomfield, NJ 07003
(973) 743-1234 or (973) 743-1761
<https://www.vantasselfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Mass

DEC 12. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Valentine Church
125 N. Spring Street
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

Tribute Wall

AR

“ On behalf of the entire Queens College Community, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the entire family.
May he Rest in Peace,

Anna Rossini - March 05 at 10:52 AM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of John E O'Connor.



December 11, 2025 at 12:26 PM

ND

“ Neal D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John E O'Connor.

Neal D. - December 11, 2025 at 12:12 PM

DM

“ Deepest love & condolences, Adam & Mo purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John E O'Connor.



Deepest love & condolences, Adam & Mo - December 11, 2025 at 11:32 AM

DM

“ Deepest love & condolences, Adam & Mo planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John E O'Connor.

Deepest love & condolences, Adam & Mo - December 11, 2025 at 11:32 AM

JC

“ My brother and his son grew up together and remained good friends all these years. John was the nicest man I had ever met. Didn't know him well but I am still so very sorry for the loss and wishing and sending to will, Annie and mom O'Connor

jennifer bennett cabral - December 11, 2025 at 09:54 AM

DA

“ Please accept my heartfelt sympathies. May Johns soul find eternal rest, and may you feel surrounded by love as you navigate this difficult time. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.



Desiree Antonucci - December 11, 2025 at 09:36 AM

FF

“ From Mike and Helen Fogarty planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John E O'Connor.

From Mike and Helen Fogarty - December 10, 2025 at 05:28 PM

FF

“ From Mike and Helen Fogarty purchased the Fair est of All for the family of John E O'Connor.



From Mike and Helen Fogarty - December 10, 2025 at 05:28 PM

SF

“ Sophie and Manuel Weinen & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John E O'Connor.

Sophie and Manuel Weinen & Family - December 10, 2025 at 11:25 AM

SF

“ Sophie and Manuel Weinen & Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John E O'Connor.



Sophie and Manuel Weinen & Family - December 10, 2025 at 11:25 AM

FF

“ From Natalie Fernandez and family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of John E O'Connor.



From Natalie Fernandez and family - December 10, 2025 at 09:54 AM

CP

“ Craig & Lauren Peden planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John E O'Connor.

Craig & Lauren Peden - December 10, 2025 at 06:52 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of John E O'Connor.



December 10, 2025 at 06:52 AM

DG

“ John is the punniest person I have ever met. I will miss him and his razor sharp sense of humor.

Debbie Graham - December 09, 2025 at 04:28 PM