



## John Mark Soja

August 29, 1961 - September 25, 2015

John Mark Soja, 54, Bloomfield, NJ passed away on September 25, 2015 surrounded by his loving family. John is survived by his dedicated, soul-mate wife, Anita (nee Stock), 2 cherished children, Alexander and Aniela, his loving parents, Stanley, Sr. and Christine, and loyal older brother, Stanley. The Incredible Mr. Fix-it, Johnny could fashion a repair for just about anything. He was a proud member of the IBEW, Local 3, in New York City and loved his profession and his brethren. Johnny was a tremendous fan of live music in a variety of genres, including jazz, blues, country, progressive rock, rock & roll, bluegrass, Irish, classical. He was a railroad buff, especially of the Lehigh Valley Black Diamond line. Muscle cars held his interest and he enjoyed going to car shows and exhibits. His children were his greatest source of joy and he enjoyed spending time with them playing games, biking, fishing, doing jigsaw puzzles, and sometimes just sitting around doing nothing in particular. Visitation will be on Wednesday, September 30, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM-7:00 PM at Van Tassel Funeral Home, 337 Belleville Ave, Bloomfield, NJ 07003.

# Cemetery Details

**Private**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

SEP **30**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

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

### Visitation

SEP **30**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall

AS

“ *Johnnycakes! You are one month gone from us, already and only. Not a day goes by, sweet love, when we don't talk of you, Alexander, Aniela, and I, with laughter, tears, smiles, and hugs, and wistful looks all around. You left us too soon but you left us with strength and humor, by the way you lived and the way you died. Thank you for the many years, although they are not enough, of your presence, your character, your talents and foibles. A loving wife and "help mate" misses you beyond words and hums many a tune every day as a tribute to our relationship and the life we built together. Build one we did and filled it with two remarkable children. A fantastic legacy for a beautiful man, husband, and father. We love you!*

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**anita soja** - October 25, 2015 at 08:58 AM

LR

“ *Dear Anita, You don't know me but I attended your fantastic Vegas Wedding as a part of the British contingency who Johnny and yourself made so welcome. You didn't know us but you let us take part in such a wonderful joyous and fun wedding. We still watch the video and talk about you both when we all get together. Bless you for giving us such wonderful memories. We are all so very sad at the tragic painful premature loss of our friend Johnny..... From Lesley Rogers and The Brits*

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**Lesley Rogers** - October 05, 2015 at 12:28 PM

AS

*Thank you, Lesley! You helped make our Vegas wedding extra special. We loved having "The British Contingency" take part in our celebration. Johnny always recalled that aspect of the day with an extra wide smile. Thank you so much for taking the time to comment and for thinking of us!*

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**Anita Soja** - October 07, 2015 at 04:13 AM

PH

“ Pamela Hodges lit a candle in memory of John Mark Soja



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**Pamela Hodges** - October 04, 2015 at 09:46 PM

PH

“ Dearest Anita, My deepest condolences to you and your family. I am so very blessed to have attended "the best wedding ever"! I witnessed such deep love and joy between you and Johnny. I will never forget Johnny's big smile and his roaring laughter! He lit up the room! His laughter contagious! Even Elvis couldn't keep a straight face! I remember when Elvis added to the vows and asked you if you would promise to never step on Johnny's Blue Suede Shoes; Johnny was the leader of the pack as he burst out with laughter! And you Anita, trying so hard to be serious and repeat your vows...and you did...but barely! I don't think that Johnny ever got a pair of Blue Suede Shoes, but the one thing I know for sure, Anita...you never stepped on his shoes at all! You and Johnny were beautiful together, so gracious, so kind, so funny; two beautiful awesome children completed the picture of happiness. May Johnny rest in peace and may you and your children and family find strength at this very difficult time. Johnny's laughter will forever echo in all of our memories.

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**Pamela Hodges** - October 04, 2015 at 09:33 PM

AS

*Pamela! What a beautiful tribute. I will always be grateful that you were able to attend and be a part of our crazy, wonderful happy day. Johnny was a happy soul, and is still, I do believe. Love you!*

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**Anita Soja** - October 07, 2015 at 04:15 AM

LS

“ Anita, so sorry to hear about Johnny's passing. Out deepest condolences to you and your family, from Elvin, Kayla, Karina, & Cristian.

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**Luisa Silva** - September 30, 2015 at 04:55 PM

SR

“ Anita, we were so sorry to hear of Johnny's passing. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers. sue and jim

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**susan rzeminski** - September 30, 2015 at 11:27 AM

SF

“ My condolences to the family, may he rest in peace. I had the pleasure to work and know john , one of the greatest I had the pleasure to know !

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**samuel flores** - September 30, 2015 at 11:13 AM

SF

“ Sissy and Edgar Depaz and family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Mark Soja.



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**Sissy and Edgar Depaz and family** - September 30, 2015 at 10:27 AM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of John Mark Soja.*



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September 30, 2015 at 09:47 AM



“ *Anita, Alex, and Aniela I am so sorry to hear the news of Johnny's passing. I have such great memories of the time we got to spend together at the Cape; in just a few summers you guys grew from being the friendly neighbors in the next door cabin to friends with whom we looked forward to spending our vacation. I loved in particular nights spent with Johnny around the fire talking about music--as many people have noted here, he had such a love and appreciation and knowledge of it. He was well-versed in lots of extremely esoteric jazz and rock arcana--a whole bunch of my very favorite music I only ever discussed with him, because no one else had ever heard it! Johnny, and those times spent with him, will be greatly missed but fondly recalled. All of you are in the thoughts of the McBride family.*

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**Dan McBride** - September 30, 2015 at 09:35 AM



*Thank you so much, Dan, for the beautiful tribute! I enjoyed listening to the two of you talk music. We so missed you all & Wellfleet this summer. We will be back again & hope to see you, Nichole, and the boys. We'll stay in touch. XXOO*

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**anita soja** - September 30, 2015 at 09:04 PM

TF

“ *The Aranzamendez Family purchased the Secret Garden Basket for the family of John Mark Soja.*



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**The Aranzamendez Family** - September 30, 2015 at 08:14 AM

BP

“ *Its easy to think of happy memories of this loving man. Two of my favorites are the sweet tooth he had and the pleasure he took in pressing you to have just another bakery treat, and when you were full he packed you a goodie bag for the trip home-- his high energy made it possible for him to enjoy those treats and still stay slim! That same energy was obvious when Anita and Johnny and the kids came to visit me in CT and i was trying to plant a garden around the crop of rocks in my yard. He grabbed my little red wagon, put a child in the back and filled it with rocks to dump in the river--- back and forth for hours, the kids had a ball riding, and pitching rocks and at the end of the day i had a garden bed ready to plant. And Johnny wasn't tired!! A special man ....i feel lucky to have known him...🍀💕*

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**betsy phelan** - September 29, 2015 at 02:46 PM

RP

“ *Don't cry because it's over.  
Smile because it HAPPENED.*



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**Rob Pappas** - September 29, 2015 at 01:54 PM

BM

“ *Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for awhile and leave footprints on our hearts. And we are never, ever the same.*



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**Billy Munroe** - September 29, 2015 at 01:22 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of John Mark Soja.*



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September 29, 2015 at 12:02 PM

BA

“ *Anita,*

*So sorry for your loss. I hope time will bring you peace. God Bless You.*

*Barbara Avitable  
Kearny Board of Education*

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**Barbara Avitable** - September 29, 2015 at 11:10 AM





“ I host a weekly rock radio show. John was always one of my first callers. We chatted about the music and would reminisce about performances and concerts from the past. He would always enlighten me regarding radio and television events that were related to "our" music. He loved his progressive rock and I tried to quench his musical thirst with the selections I played on the show. I will remember him as a loyal listener and a friend. I will pause for a moment each and every Sunday between 9:20 and 9:40, which is usually the time he would call. I know he will still be listening ! "All The Best" ! Peace, love and comfort to the Soja family. "After the song is over, the dance goes on, so dance away. When all is said and done, remember what's been given, not taken away" (from the song "Never The Same" by the band Echolyn).



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**Greg Melofchik** - September 29, 2015 at 09:18 AM

BP

*Well said! Johnny was "all the best" and brought much joy to many ... His dance will live on.*

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**betsy phelan** - September 29, 2015 at 01:30 PM

CW

“ Anita, Alex and Aniela, we are so very sorry for your loss. Our hearts and prayers are with all of you. Johnny was a vibrant, loving man with the warmest smile and heart and twinkling eyes that showed his good humor. May his memory be eternal. Love, Chuck, Cheryl, Catina and Sophia

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**Cheryl Wipper** - September 28, 2015 at 09:28 PM

MA

“ 4 files added to the album *New Album Name*



**Melissa A.** - September 28, 2015 at 05:00 PM

MA

*I will so miss Johnny's raunchy but charming jokes, his ready smile, his unfailing ability to keep my friends and family at ease. Thank you, Johnny, for such wonderful memories of Musical Box, the Genesis reunion, and Tom Jones concerts! You even lent me your Incredible Mr. Fix-It talents when repairing my dryer and my car when I was a struggling single mom! Our family will be forever grateful to you, Anita, for making it possible to have met Johnny and enjoyed his warmth, kindness, generosity, and humor.*

**Melissa A.** - September 28, 2015 at 05:19 PM

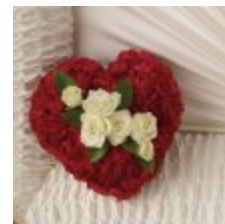
AS

*Thank you, Melissa. Beautiful memories. You are an integral part of our family!*

**Anita Soja** - September 29, 2015 at 06:11 AM

RL

“ *Robert, Maritza, Isabella, and Sophia LLANES purchased the A Devoted Heart Casket Insert for the family of John Mark Soja.*



**Robert, Maritza, Isabella, and Sophia LLANES** - September 28, 2015 at 04:36 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Mark Soja.*



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September 28, 2015 at 03:26 PM



“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



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**Joe Jarde** - September 28, 2015 at 02:34 PM



*You always brought a smile to my face Johnny.*

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**Joe Jarde** - September 28, 2015 at 02:37 PM



*Beautiful!! XXOO*

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**Anita Soja** - September 29, 2015 at 06:11 AM



*Didnt Johnny have the best smile?! It lingers in the heart's memory ...*

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**betsy phelan** - September 29, 2015 at 02:22 PM

FP

“ *Frida and Oh Pramoch purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John Mark Soja.*



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**Frida and Oh Pramoch** - September 28, 2015 at 10:36 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Mark Soja.*



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September 28, 2015 at 10:24 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Mark Soja.*



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September 28, 2015 at 09:32 AM

YS

“ *Your friends from 70th ST. purchased the Finest Farewell Spray for the family of John Mark Soja.*



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**Your friends from 70th ST.** - September 28, 2015 at 06:55 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of  
*John Mark Soja*.



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September 27, 2015 at 05:40 PM

RJ

“ To a man who was more than a friend to my dad Joe Jarde.. He was your brother. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers IBEW Local 3. It is truly a brotherhood of workers and friends. Rest easy John

*Lifelong Bonds*

*More than the blood of my blood. He is my friend,  
my rock...my brother.*

*Brother, in times of need, never judging, always there.*

*My Brother, could, would, always make things right.*

*Brother, never made much ado, about the task at  
hand...he just did it.*

*Brother, who lifted me, when I was down.*

*Brother, who brought the laughter, amid the pain.*

*Brother, the word he never spoke...was 'no'.*

*Brother, who had the answers, to my questions.*

*Brother, who by example, did walk the path of right.*

*Brother, in all my years...in all my life, never have  
I met another...like my loving brother.*

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**Richard Jarde** - September 27, 2015 at 01:08 PM

AS

*Beautiful, Richie. Your dad and Johnny were indeed brothers. Thank you!*

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**anita soja** - September 28, 2015 at 07:07 AM

RO

“ When you worked with John or you were working in an area where he was, he made it fun. You almost didn't realize you were at work! I had the privilege to also watch a great journeyman create beautiful work. Most of all, I will always remember the way John would ask me about my family, which would show his concern about others. He was not only kind, he was generous to others who needed an extra hand when they were in a bind at work. Christina and I will always remember him fondly. Thank you John for all the happy times you gave us and for you making work fun though sometimes we didn't realize it. We will never forget you. Rich and Christina Olearick

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**Richard Olearick** - September 27, 2015 at 12:43 PM

KO

“ Anita,Alexander,Aniela and all extended family-I just want to extend my deepest sympathy to all of you on the death of Johnny. I will always remember his bright happy smile and his love of life and family.  
May he rest in peace-Kathleen

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**Kathleen O'Reilly** - September 27, 2015 at 09:22 AM

Laura Stock

“ 7 files added to the album New Album Name



Laura Stock - September 26, 2015 at 03:55 PM

Laura Stock

“ 9 files added to the album New Album Name



Laura Stock - September 26, 2015 at 03:31 PM



“ With Deepest Sympathy Gift Basket was purchased for the family of John Mark Soja.



September 26, 2015 at 01:21 PM



RM

“ Dear Anita, Alex, Aniela and the rest of the Soja family,

*We are heartbroken at the news. He was such a warm, sweet man. And his love of music was contagious, and I will always remember fondly how much I enjoyed his excitement as he would regale me with the latest concert he and Anita attended, or the terrific program he recently listened to on the radio.*

*Please know we are here for you for anything you need.*

*With love and sincere condolences,  
Russ, Yuka, Luke and Jesse Miller*

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**Russell Miller** - September 26, 2015 at 12:16 PM

AS

*Thank you, Russ and family. That was a lovely tribute. Johnny was, and I am, so glad you are our neighbors!*

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**anita soja** - September 27, 2015 at 06:05 AM



“ 6 files added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Heather Christy** - September 26, 2015 at 12:11 PM



*Most memorable wedding ever! So much love, so much joy.*

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**Heather Christy** - September 26, 2015 at 12:13 PM

AS

*We're so glad you were there to be with us! Thank you for sharing those terrific pics!! XXOO*

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**anita soja** - September 26, 2015 at 12:56 PM