



## John C. Chamberlain

February 10, 1947 - July 18, 2013

John C. Chamberlain of Grand Ledge a loving husband, father, son, and brother passed unexpectedly July 18, 2013. He will be greatly missed by all of his family and friends. John was born February 10, 1947 in Lansing, Michigan to Claude and Jean (Stolz) Chamberlain. John was a true entrepreneur and started young by delivering newspapers for the Lansing State Journal. However, John's vision and drive moved him from newspapers to be involved in numerous endeavors and ventures such as: concert promotions, co-owner of the Lansing All Stars semi-pro football team, he was an indoor sun tanning pioneer and formed the company TanFaster, owned Metro Ice Arena in Lansing that hosted the Lansing Lancers, he developed racquetball facilities, owned and operated Sub Villa restaurants. Most recently many people would recognize him as "Captain John" owner of J & K Steamboat Company. John was an avid sailor and snow skier and enjoyed being active in Grand Ledge, the community where he lived and operated J & K. He is survived by his wife of over 35 years Karla (Mathiasen); children, Christopher and Laura Chamberlain; mother, Jean; brother, James (Sandy) Chamberlain; sister, Julie (Tony) Foust; niece, Danielle (Dustin) Derethik, nephews, Blair Foust and Allen (Dana) Mackey, and sister-in-law Karen Mathiasen. John was preceded in death by his father, Claude. A funeral service will be held Tuesday, July 23, 2013, 10:00am at Grace Lutheran Church 528 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Lansing, Michigan 48915 with Pastor Dan Johnson, officiating. The family will receive friends Monday from 2-4:00pm and 6-9:00pm at the Holihan-Atkin

Funeral Home, Grand Ledge and Tuesday from 9-10:00am at the church. Memorial contributions may be given to the Grand Ledge Opera House, P.O. Box 264, Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837, Grace Lutheran Church Memorial Fund, 528 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Lansing, Michigan 48915, Friends of the River Organization, P.O. Box C, Grand Ledge, Michigan 48837 or the charity of the donor's choice.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 22. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
406 N. Bridge Street  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
(517) 627-2531  
jasonbarclay@holihanatkin.com  
<https://www.holihanatkin.com>

## Visitation

JUL 22. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Holihan-Atkin-Barclay Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
406 N. Bridge Street  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
(517) 627-2531  
jasonbarclay@holihanatkin.com  
<https://www.holihanatkin.com>

## Service

JUL 23. 10:00 AM (ET)

Grace Lutheran Church  
528 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard  
Lansing, MI 48915

# Tribute Wall

BS

“ John was an exceptional fraternity brother, always there to help a brother and the Lodge. in the mid 70's Connie and I went to homecoming and our hotel room was so bad we couldn't stay there. John put us up without any hesitation. that is when he had the Red Cedar canoe livery business and was developing snow making equipment. this guy was so much fun to be around. never a dull moment.  
and Julie, all these years I never knew you were brother and sister. it's a small world.

LOLove to the entire family.  
we will miss a truly great guy.

Bob Sfire EN 70

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**Bob Sfire** - August 23, 2013 at 07:08 PM

MT

“ Deeply saddened to learn of John's passing. He was a terrific brother of Psi Upsilon and was untiring in his drive to improve the chapter house. He will be missed.

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**Matt Turnbull** - July 25, 2013 at 01:53 PM

RS

“ In memory of Capt. John, cousin of my cousins the Chamberlains of Mt. Pleasant. Phenomenal fellow, that John! Always in good cheer, and a blessing wherever he went.  
Rob Schofield



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**Rob Schofield** - July 23, 2013 at 08:56 PM

JA

“ *Jonie Angell-Manley lit a candle in memory of John C. Chamberlain*



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**Jonie Angell-Manley** - July 23, 2013 at 07:28 PM

BB

“ *Big Purple Bloomers lit a candle in memory of John C. Chamberlain*



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**Big Purple Bloomers** - July 23, 2013 at 08:29 AM

JG

“ *On behalf of the Eaton County Parks Commission, staff and the entire County Commission, we send our deepest sympathy and condolence to the entire Chamberlain family. His contributions to community remains a legacy for all to enjoy and continue. He was more than a businessman, as his commitment to sharing and supporting his many diverse interests. We have lost a legend, unmatched.*

*John Greenslit, Eaton County Parks.*

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**John Greenslit** - July 22, 2013 at 04:36 PM



“ *Heavenly and Harmony was purchased for the family of John C. Chamberlain.*



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July 22, 2013 at 11:49 AM



“ *We are so sorry to hear about John. May he rest in peace. Our deepest sympathy to his family. He will be missed by many! Richard & Terry James*

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**Terry James** - July 22, 2013 at 11:14 AM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of John C. Chamberlain.*



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July 22, 2013 at 09:22 AM



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



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**Steve Paradiso** - July 22, 2013 at 08:47 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John C. Chamberlain.*



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July 22, 2013 at 08:38 AM



“ *We're deeply saddened by the news that Captain John Chamberlain, owner of the Michigan Princess and J & K Steamboats has died. John, Karla, Christopher and Laura as well as all of the family and great many friends are in our thoughts and prayers. Terri and I spent literally hundreds of hours on their boats performing, entertaining audiences, giving those passengers a couple of hours of freedom from the problems we all face day to day. John was many things including an entrepreneur. But, when it came to the boats John was also a showman. He knew how to show his passengers a great time! We are proud to have been a small part of it! Terri and I feel a true sense of loss as if John was a part of our family....because it seems that the Chamberlains have always been a part of our entertainment family for nearly 25 years. We pray that our loving God wraps his angels wings around all those who knew John and give them comfort!*

*The Fords  
Regan & Terri*



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Regan Ford - July 21, 2013 at 07:36 PM

JW

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you. John will be missed. The Max (Red) Van Vleck family.*



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**Joan Winans** - July 21, 2013 at 05:35 PM

“ *Blow your Horn Captain:*  
- A Sailors song of remembrance -

*The Guests are aboard,  
The lines are released.  
The party is ready,  
Captain John gives the speech...*

*“This Riverboat’s steady  
So sailing we’ll go,  
Your Captain is ready,  
Good times you will know.”*

*We sailed on your river,  
We sang on your seas...  
We listened to stories,  
Your tales stay with thee ...*

*We heard you were weary,  
Some ports that were missed ,  
Tonight our prayers sail with;  
The Michigan Princess.*

*Stand by the park shore,  
on a clear Summer night,  
You’ll still hear the laughter, see her glimmering lights.  
“Sweet music and memories, all the children delight,  
Her fine weddings, the parties, and smiles through the night.”*

*So blow your horn Captain,  
We bid you farewell.  
All the lives you have touched,  
with the ring of your bell!*

*We’ll miss you dear Captain,*


*Old Man River... he knows,  
So blow the horn Captain,  
Sail on now – you're Home.*

*by: Christopher B. DeVine*

*- Inspired by Captain John*

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**Chris DeVine** - July 20, 2013 at 09:43 AM

 Jenny  
Ross-  
Houston

“ *You will truly be missed!*



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**Jenny Ross-Houston** - July 19, 2013 at 07:53 PM

DA

“ *We are so sorry to hear of the passing of this great man. We enjoyed many cruises down the Grand River with Capt. John, narrating the stories of the river boat and his love for the river. We used to take our church's Senior Adult group on these, and how we enjoyed the food, music, and the beautiful sights along the river. But now we are pretty sure that Capt. John is taking a good look at that beautiful River that flows through the city of God and wondering, "Where could we put a paddle wheeler on this one? Our deepest sympathies to you his family. He will certainly be missed.  
Rev. & Mrs David Ames*

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**David Ames** - July 19, 2013 at 03:36 PM