



John Shovlain

November 1, 1978 - July 24, 2019

John Shovlain, 40 of Grand Island passed Wednesday, July 24, 2019 at the Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. John was honored with the Donor in Spirit Award from UNMC.

Celebration of life service will be at 2 PM Sunday, July 28th at All Faiths Funeral Home. Daniel Naranjo will officiate. Family will be greeting friends an hour before service time. A memorial fund will be established in memory of John.

John was born on November 1, 1978 at Grand Island, the son of Gary and Linda (Kroeker) Shovlain. He was raised in Grand Island, graduating from Grand Island Senior High class of 1997. While at GISH, John was a 3-Sport Letter Winner in football, basketball and track and field. He broke five meet records in the shot put and also broke the Senior High shot put record at the time with a toss of 61'. He won the All-Class Gold Medal in the discus throw at the Nebraska State Track Meet. He also won the Class A Gold Medal in the Shot Put that same year. He was also an Eagle Scout.

He attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and was a member of the UNL Track and Field Team, throwing the discus and shot put. He was a 4-time letter winner. He graduated with Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Bachelor of Art Psychology in 2002.

John lived in St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands the past 17 years. He was a manager at Magans Bay Concessions for many years. He was a disc-jockey for weddings, celebrations, and charitable organizations with his company, Soundwave Productions. He was a boat captain and guided fishing and scuba diving tours. He was an Advanced Open Water Diver and CORE Foundation Certified Responder. His many aquatic enjoyments included cliff diving, spear fishing, and free diving. His happiest moments were spent with a fishing pole in hand, especially if there was a big fish at the end of the line.

He cared deeply about the environment, particularly the ocean. He loved the sea and all of the native creatures within. He has worked with the World Wildlife Fund, was a strong supporter of Sea Sheppard. He lobbied against confining dolphins on the island and actively used an Invasive Lionfish Extraction Permit to help remove this invasive species.

John's most pronounced quality was his magnetic charm. He had a way of lighting up a room with his wit and humor. Once you were a friend to John, you were family.

Those left to cherish his memory include his parents, Gary and Linda Shovlain of Grand Island, a sister, Amie Shovlain of Dillon, Montana; a brother, Jason Shovlain of Lincoln; grandma, Norma Kroeker and aunts, uncles, cousins and friends from all over the world.

He is preceded in death by grandparents, Harold Kroeker and Bernard and Thelma Shovlain.

Tribute Wall



“ *John Shovlain*

October 08, 2023 at 11:02 PM



“ 🕊️ *We gonna miss seeing you around John especially Dennis !!
We all work together at Magens Bay with
John he was the coolest bartender ever !!continue to Rest In Peace
🕊️
Your for forever friends
Dennis and Anita Maynard 🕊️🕊️🕊️*

anita & dennis maynard - July 31, 2019 at 05:04 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss. John was a kind and gentle soul .*

Nusa Dimopoulos - July 31, 2019 at 09:28 AM



“ *My deepest condolences goes out to the family and friends of John.*

stephanie (wrked with John at Magensbay) - July 29, 2019 at 09:27 PM



“ *John and I were teammates at UNL. I roomed with him on the road
a few times my sophomore year. I have talked to several
teammates and we are all in shock. My thoughts are with his family.
UNL T&F '99-'04.*

Colin Damas

Colin Damas - July 28, 2019 at 12:47 PM

GA

John was an amazingly talented gentle soul. He could have done anything with his life and he spent it doing what he loved every day. How many of us can say that? He will be missed by all who knew him. Rest In Peace.

gary - July 28, 2019 at 10:14 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John Shovlain.



July 28, 2019 at 12:29 PM

TF

“ The Nuschke Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John Shovlain.



The Nuschke Family - July 27, 2019 at 08:50 PM

SK

“ Susan & Fred Scarborough & Rachelle Warneking Koch purchased the Tranquil Seas for the family of John Shovlain.



Susan & Fred Scarborough & Rachelle Warneking Koch -
July 27, 2019 at 04:25 PM

K(

“ It was fun growing up next to John. I have lots of memories of playing many games in the backyard from SPIT to soccer. When I think back to my childhood, John will be remembered fondly.

Kelli Wilke (Denne) - July 27, 2019 at 02:00 PM

CB

“ Class Act!! I greatly admired John as a student, athlete and person. Smart, witty, compassionate, personable, dedicated and competitive are inadequate descriptors to understand the total man. I was fortunate to coach John in the shot and discus. From the outset he was dedicated to perfecting technique and maximizing his potential which he eventually realized as a state champion and University of Nebraska athlete. Several times when he came back to Grand Island he would seek me out and we would talk about a wide variety of things. I was impressed by his choice to live life on his terms. His sense of adventure and commitment to making a better world were central to his vision of a good life. The world mourns a worthy life that was way to short!!

Craig Burchess - July 27, 2019 at 12:02 AM

TB

“ Great memories of growing up in GI with John as a kid into high school dominating on the b-ball court with him to being his Roomie for a college semester at UNL. He loved this Australian spread called Vegimite which grossed us out but he would eat it right out of the jar. John was a brilliant guy and great athlete. You left us way too soon my friend. Trent Broers

Trent Broers - July 26, 2019 at 10:38 PM

DA

“ *DOC & DORIS ST THOMAS & ALASKA purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of John Shovlain.*



DOC & DORIS ST THOMAS & ALASKA - July 26, 2019 at 10:27 PM



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



July 26, 2019 at 09:27 PM



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



July 26, 2019 at 07:56 PM

RM

“ I was a teammate of John's on the Nebraska Track and Field team. John was a great teammate and a better person. He treated everyone with respect and was the kind of guy that could be friends with and get along with everyone he came in contact with. I remember a time in college when there was a campus boxing event and John entered. I think the entire track team was there to support him which made for a good home ring advantage. We were all interested in supporting him and that speaks to the kind of guy he was.

Russ McHenry - July 26, 2019 at 02:59 PM



“ Sentimental Dreams was purchased for the family of John Shovlain.



July 26, 2019 at 02:33 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of John Shovlain.



July 26, 2019 at 12:19 PM