



John L. "Jay" Murtaugh

June 13, 1950 - October 5, 2023

John L. "Jay" Murtaugh, 73, of Mentor, died October 5, 2023 at his home with his family by his side. He was born June 13, 1950 in Cleveland.

Jay was a police officer and SWAT officer for the City of Cleveland for 26 years, and a fireman with the Mentor Fire Department for 15 years. After retiring from Cleveland, he went on to work for the Chagrin Falls Police Department for 18 years, and with Mentor Police Department until his illness. His hobbies were socializing with numerous police officer friends and maintaining and enjoying his 1949 fire truck. Jay enjoyed watching NASCAR races with his sons, spending time with his family and being a loving Papa to his four grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife, Audra; sons, John (Jennifer) Murtaugh IV, and Paul (Lauren) Murtaugh; grandchildren, Gracelyn, J.J., Brendan, and Breeanna; sisters, Rene Sell, and Midge (Rick) Agnello; and his brothers, James (Louise) Murtaugh, and David (Cristine) Murtaugh.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John III and Irene Murtaugh.

The family will receive friends to celebrate Jay's life from 4-8 p.m. Monday, October 16, 2023 at the Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060.

A funeral mass to honor his life will be held 10 a.m. Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, 8560 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060 (please meet at the church.)

Interment will be in Mentor Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made in John's memory to the John Murtaugh Benevolent Association, 21 West Washington Street, Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022. The John Murtaugh Chagrin Falls Police Benevolent Association is a 501 (c)(3) organization that was formed to help safety forces personnel who serve the Chagrin Falls Community in times of need.

Please offer condolences at www.brunners.com.

Cemetery Details

Mentor Cemetery

6881 Hopkins Rd.
Mentor, OH 44060
(440) 974-5733

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **16.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center
8466 Mentor Avenue
Mentor, OH 44060
(440) 255-3401
ajs@brunners.com
<https://www.brunners.com/>

Funeral Mass

OCT **17.** 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Mary Of The Assumption Church
8560 Mentor Avenue
Mentor, OH 44060
(440) 255-3404
<https://stmarysmentor.org/>

Tribute Wall

“ Goodbyes, oh how I hate goodbyes there is always and will be that lingering presence of until we meet again. And until you meet again to those many that new him as (Jay), but to me and my brother and cousins he’s known as much more are Papa. He has been there for me since day one starting with how he had slept in a van in the hospital parking lot. Waiting for me to be born even beating my grandma there. That’s when you know you’re going to be loved for the rest of your life. There isn’t enough words to describe how amazing he was. Every room he walked into the energy instantly became better, he would always greet people with a big smile. It was the simple things that turned into the huge ones. Things like how my grandparents would take us out every Saturday. We would go to all the places kids would dream of going to. From the movies to trampoline park and water parks and just spending quality time together. Along with the simple things like making sure we had enough leg room in the car and that we weren’t too hot or cold. But im sure you all got to experience his love at some point and you and I are so lucky for that because that kind of love is rare these days. But even though I knew this dawning day was approaching there was nothing that could have prepared me for this loss. Prepare me for the day when I was planning on having him walk me down the aisle with my dad. But of course first I would have had to get him to approve of a guy first he would always tell me (remember to tell any guy that’s interested in you that papa always carries a gun with a big smile .) I laughed when he told me that till I realized he was serious. But as hard as this is going to be, I hope you were reunited with your lost family and found peace. It’s gonna be struggle especially on holidays without you and making your sweet chill for us on Halloween and having left over strawberry pretzels jello with you not claiming it as your own. But on this sad day I will try and remember that your in a better, happier place we’re you won’t have to struggle any longer and have freedom to roam. And we promise to look after grandma just like you had asked us before. Last but not least Papa I just want to let you know that I love you, and it’s just a goodbye for now; until we meet again.

—Gracie Murtaugh

Gracelyn - October 16, 2023 at 02:51 PM



Gracie... You just made me cry. You were blessed with the best Grandpa anyone could ever wish for. God Bless you and your family.

Sheri Graham-Childs - October 18, 2023 at 06:24 PM

JM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jennifer Murtaugh - October 16, 2023 at 12:54 PM

JM

Dedicated officer and Papa!

Jennifer Murtaugh - October 16, 2023 at 12:55 PM

RK

It is memorial Day.I remember Jay .He was my best man at my wedding and life long friend.I loved him and miss him.Bob Kehoe

Robert Kehoe - May 20 at 10:40 PM

JM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jennifer Murtaugh - October 16, 2023 at 12:50 PM

JM

“ Dear Jay,
Thank you for being the dad I never had. A loving and kind father, always there to listen and never an unkind act or word. You have spoiled me with compassion and kindness and I will never forget your love. I am missing you terribly, but am so grateful to have had you in my life for the last 23 years. May you rest in peace my wonderful father. You are a rare find and we all miss you immensely.



Jennifer Murtaugh - October 16, 2023 at 12:45 PM

EF

“ Jay, your getting there before I do. So, save me a place at the table and I hope and pray that it's as advertised. Knowing you and the rest of the guys from SWAT made me somewhat of a better person than I was before SWAT. At least I think so. For that I thank you and all the others we served with.

*Like Sgt. Thomas Horan always said, "all Policeman go to heaven".
So, again, save me a place at the table my friend.*

Edward L Futchko - October 16, 2023 at 10:08 AM

BO

*It wad a true honor and privilege to know and work with you in SWAT so many years.
Your dedication and humanity are an inspiration to all of us.
Rest in Peace.
God Bless.*

Bob O'Brien - October 16, 2023 at 11:37 AM

AM

“ I am everything I am because you loved me.
Audra

audra murtaughl - October 14, 2023 at 02:40 PM

GK

“ I was very sad to hear of Jay's passing, we have known each for a number of years when he was with CPD SWAT, I was with Cuy Cty SO SWAT. Jay was the type of guy who would do anything for anyone he was not only a good Police Officer. he was a great person. I am going to miss you Jay Murtaugh may God Bless you and take you into his arms. My Condolences to the entire Murtaugh Family and may God Bless you all. Gary Kral retired Lt / Swat Commander Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office.



Gary kral - October 14, 2023 at 09:12 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John L. "Jay" Murtaugh.



October 14, 2023 at 06:40 AM

GK

“ Gary Kral lit a candle in memory of John L. "Jay" Murtaugh



Gary kral - October 13, 2023 at 05:58 PM

DC

“ I met Jay in 1968, we were Cleveland Police Cadets, (they called us Kiddie Cops) ...we went to college full-time and worked part-time at Police Headquarters on Payne Avenue. He was in the Record Room and I was in the Warrant and Suspect Unit 50 feet away. Once we were 21, took the police test he went to the Fourth I went to the Fifth District. And eventually the big transfer was to the SWAT Unit. You become very close working with a man eight hours a day sitting in a police car, back of a SWAT van, or in an armored vehicle. It didn't take me long to realize he was an excellent Police Officer plus a gentle soul. One minute our unit could be kicking in a door and when we were back on patrol we would be repairing a flat tire for someone who had broken down on the freeway! He never passed up anyone who needed help! If we were assigned a special beat or festival or at a parade route it was hard pressed for us to walk no more than 200 yards without him knowing somebody. Even after we both retired Jay and Audra always reached out and made arrangements for us to go out to lunch or dinner with Buzz and Luann Ober and Sheri and Myself. I sure will miss all his phone calls which always started with 97 this is 91! I'm not only going to lose a Brother in Blue, but a close family member. Going to miss you JAY!

Dave Childs - October 13, 2023 at 05:21 PM

AM

It was where I met Jay. He came to my rescue also as my car was blocked in and I had to leave for class. He promptly freed my car and asked for my phone number. The rest is history! ❤️

audra murtaugh - October 14, 2023 at 12:33 PM

AM

The rest is history! Audra

audra murtaugh - October 14, 2023 at 12:35 PM

BL

“ *Murtaugh Family, I became aware of Jay before I even knew him while detailed to the CPD Personnel Unit doing background checks. From the information I received from various interviews I knew he was a very good applicant. From my several years in the Street Crimes Unit and Jay in the SWAT Unit working many “call ups” Jay proved to be an excellent officer, additionally he was a true gentleman, treating all people with respect. My sincere sympathy to the family on your loss. Safe Home Jay. Rest in Peace.*
Bill Leonard, Avon, Oh.

Bill Leonard - October 12, 2023 at 09:31 PM

PJ

“ *Phil & Nancy Aloi, Bruce & Gerry Juergens purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John L. "Jay" Murtaugh.*



Phil & Nancy Aloi, Bruce & Gerry Juergens - October 12, 2023 at 02:57 PM

AM

“ *My dear husband:
Last night when we were young, love was a star, a song unsung.
Life was so new, so real, so right, ages ago last night.
Today the world is old. You flew away and time grew cold. Where is that star that shine so bright? Ages ago last night? (Frank Sinatra)*

audra murtaughl - October 12, 2023 at 10:51 AM

Jl

“ Dad back in 1973 with his first new car.



John murtaugh iv - October 12, 2023 at 10:42 AM

Jl

“ Dad with the chagrin falls 57 chevy police car.



John murtaugh iv - October 12, 2023 at 09:40 AM

Jl

“ Here's dad (John iii) with his grandson (John v) appx 8 years ago.
R.i.p. dad.



John murtaugh iv - October 12, 2023 at 09:28 AM

SC

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



SHERI CHILDS - October 11, 2023 at 06:50 PM

RK

“ Outstanding in all he did. It was an honor to have been assigned to the same car as Jay!

Bob Klimak

Robert Klimak - October 11, 2023 at 05:57 PM

MR

“ My first impression of the big bulldog strolling through the door was he’s seen it all and done it all. You think tough old school cop but Jay was so much more. A shift with Jay was filled whistled tunes, hilarious stories, and gourmet meals served on the back of the cushman in the middle of the night. He was one of a kind. I will never forget the night there was a mouse in dispatch and I called Jay back to the station. I’m standing on the center console Jay walked in shook his head and asked what I was doing. I pointed under the desk and said mouse! That big man got down on his hands and knees pulling everything out from under the desk. The mouse ran up his arm over his back and out the door, I screamed. Jay got up brushed himself off, said call me if Mickey comes back and strolled out the door. He had your back no matter what and never made you feel bad about it.



Michelle Rees - October 11, 2023 at 01:41 PM

MR

My first impression of the big bulldog strolling through the door was he’s seen it all and done it all. You think tough old school cop but Jay was so much more. A shift with Jay was filled whistled tunes, hilarious stories, and gourmet meals served on the back of the cushman in the middle of the night. He was one of a kind. I will never forget the night there was a mouse in dispatch and I called Jay back to the station. I’m standing on the center console Jay walked in shook his head and asked what I was doing. I pointed under the desk and said mouse! That big man got down on his hands and knees pulling everything out from under the desk. The mouse ran up his arm over his back and out the door, I screamed. Jay got up brushed himself off, said call me if Mickey comes back and strolled out the door. He had your back no matter what and never made you feel bad about it.

Michelle Rees - October 11, 2023 at 01:41 PM



“ Dawn of Remembrance Basket was purchased for the family of John L. "Jay" Murtaugh.



October 10, 2023 at 10:12 PM



“ I first met Jay when he started working w me at CFPD. He was a great man and tremendous role model. I learned a lot from him and always enjoyed working w him. His smile lit up the room and I always knew he had my back and would do anything to help me. Rest in peace, brother. Jeff Polak

Jeff Polak - October 09, 2023 at 07:53 PM



“ A terrible loss for all. Jay was a special person. I am proud and thankful that I was able to work with him. Please accept my condolences. God bless

Brian Phan - October 09, 2023 at 04:58 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Paul - October 09, 2023 at 02:00 PM

PM

Jay at NASCAR race with sons Paul and John

Paul Murtaugh - October 09, 2023 at 08:24 PM

LC

*Condolences to
the Family and
Friends. 🙏
ANOTHER BLUE
SOLDIER...GONE
BUT NOT
FORGOTTEN 🇺🇸*

Lawrence Craft - October 09, 2023 at 08:35 PM

RK

Outstanding at all he did. An honor to have been a patrol partner of his.

Robert Klimak - October 10, 2023 at 07:22 PM

JB

“*Jay was a true friend and devoted police officer. I had the honor of working with him for many years when he was with Chagrin Falls PD. I always knew he had my back. His smile 😊 lit the way. Rest in peace my friend-job well done. Sgt. JB (retired) MHPD*

Jan Boehler - October 09, 2023 at 09:49 AM

PC

“*My heart hurts for you Audra, you were the love of Jays life. He talked you and his family all the time. He was such a pleasure to work with and we are all better for knowing him. He always said working with us inChagrin was like being on vacation and he just smiled and waved. We always teased him about the Princess wave. He will be missed by us all. May your memories help you as you go on without him.*

Pat Chambers - October 09, 2023 at 09:13 AM

AM

Jay was the love of my life as well. I will miss him every day of my life.
💔

audra murtaugh - October 09, 2023 at 10:08 AM

AD

“*Jay was a great guy. I met him when he was at Chagrin Falls PD and I worked for Chester. We were on our way to the Cleveland Police Memorial. He was hilarious and really down to earth. R.I.P. brother.*”

Allen Dodge - October 09, 2023 at 07:30 AM



“*A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John L. "Jay" Murtaugh.*”

October 08, 2023 at 09:12 PM

AM

“*This is my beloved husband of 49 years. Our family is heartbroken. The pain of his loss is unbearable. Grief never ends, but it changes. It is a passage, not a place to stay. Grief is not a sign of weakness, not a lack of faith. It is the price of love.*”

Audra Murtaugh - October 08, 2023 at 05:46 PM

KM

And what a love you two shared... as Willie Nelson sang "It's not something you get over, it's something you get through".

kathleen b murtaugh - October 08, 2023 at 08:09 PM

EF

Dearest Audra and all family of Jay Murtaugh, we are so very sorry to hear of his passing and his struggle with cancer. He was (and is) a very beloved person in the Murtaugh family and his awesome booming laugh and the way he looked out for this family will long be remembered.

Eileen Marsal Koch, Karl Koch and family - October 08, 2023 at 09:09 PM

DC

He was my brother, my partner, my friend. I will miss his voice, his laugh, thank you for all the years.

Dave Childs - October 09, 2023 at 12:04 AM

RG

Audra, I know the two of you had a special kind of love. He was there for you and vice versa. Hold on to all of the wonderful memories of the fabulous life you shared with him and all your adventures! 💕💕

Renee Goris - October 09, 2023 at 09:06 AM

CM

“*Jay was such a wonderful, caring man. He always spoke so kindly of Audra & his family. I remember all the wonderful times he joined the 'Pathways' ladies as they had their get togethers,. I always looked forward to seeing him. I have ran into many people outside of this group that knew Jay. They always spoke very highly of him. He will be missed. Love and prayers to his family. God Bless!*

Cathy Mekulsia - October 08, 2023 at 05:40 PM