



## Mr. John F. Rogers

June 3, 1952 - September 10, 2022

The family of John F. Rogers is saddened to announce that he passed away unexpectedly of an apparent heart attack at his home in Lenox on Saturday, September 10, 2022.

John was born on June 3, 1952, to the late Dr. Donald B. and Jean F. Rogers at Edwards Air Force Base in California. He came to Northampton as an infant and was educated in the public schools there, graduating from Northampton High School in 1970 as class president. John received his undergraduate degree from Yale College in 1974 and his law degree from Georgetown University three years later.

Whip smart, charismatic and witty, John was a trusted advisor and a beloved friend to many throughout his life. He came to the Berkshires in 1978 to join the firm that is now Cain, Hibbard & Myers, PC. He spent 22 years in private practice advising healthcare organizations on business, transactions, regulatory matters, and litigation before becoming General Counsel at BHS. He joined Berkshire Health Systems in 2000 as Vice President and General Counsel after many years of serving as outside legal counsel. John was a dedicated advocate of patients' rights, 'health systems strengthening,' and an avid protector of Berkshire Health Systems. He constantly strove to ensure the organization was strong and thoughtful and best served the community's needs.

John also worked tirelessly to accompany and strengthen community organizations through his many volunteer efforts, such as serving on the

YMCA board. The loss of his foster brother Henry Singleton inspired his passion for working on drug-related harm reduction. One of the first in the country to raise a red flag about opioid over-prescription, he worked tirelessly to advance local efforts to combat the opioid epidemic in partnership with local municipalities, the Berkshire County District Attorney, and the Berkshire County Sheriff's Office. His deep insights and forward-thinking enabled BHS and other community organizations to succeed in ways that were not always visible but were crucial in navigating complex legal issues and shaping them into the programs they are today.

John was entirely devoted to his family, especially his daughters and grandchildren. John married Judith Woods Rogers of Lenox on December 30, 1994. He is survived by his wife; his siblings Susan Rogers of Northampton, Richard Rogers (Deborah) of Glendale, WI., Peter Rogers (Paige Carter) of Williamstown, MA., and Laura Rogers of Dorchester, MA.; children Lindsay Rogers of Pasadena, CA., Caitrin Rogers (Thomas Hill) of Pasadena, CA., and Lydia Rogers of Lenox; stepchildren Rebecca Kelly of Lenox, Shannon Backstrom (Jonathan) of Georgetown, MA.; grandchildren Isla and Cleo Hill; step grandchildren Ella Kelly and Samuel Backstrom; and several nieces and nephews.

Burial will be private. There will be a celebration of John's life at a later date. In place of flowers, donations in John's memory may be made to the Cancer Treatment Center at BMC Pittsfield, the YMCA, or Partners in Health, in care of the Roche Funeral Home, 120 Main Street, Lenox, MA 01240 or to a charity of your choice.

# Tribute Wall

BE

“ My family was so sorry to hear that John had died! Reuven (Robert) and I remember what an impressive, bright, funny, and talented guy John was in high school. We knew he was destined to do great things, and the obituary in the Gazette made it clear that he did do great things--both in his work and in his personal life--and that he was admired and appreciated by so many people. We are deeply saddened that he died well before his time, and we want you to know what good memories we have of John and of your parents. Warmly, Barbara, Susan, Sara, and Reuven Elkins.

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**Barbara Elkins** - September 25, 2022 at 06:25 PM

JL

“ My condolences to the family.

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**janice loux** - September 22, 2022 at 01:51 PM

CH

“ My memory of John is he was a smart, caring and funny teenager. Sorry that I didn't get na chance to see him at our class reunion.

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**Colin Hebert** - September 22, 2022 at 11:36 AM

MK

“ For those of us who were fortunate enough to know John in high school, there was no doubt he would do great things. Kind, compassionate, engaged and fun! It was wonderful to see John at our NHS reunion in June. Condolences to family, friends, colleagues, Suzi and everyone who cared about John.

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**Marilyn Kozak** - September 21, 2022 at 03:01 AM

DK

“ It was an honor to have recorded the life stories of both of John’s parents, the beloved Dr Donald and Ms Jean Rogers, and in doing so to have had the opportunity to know John as their living and devoted son. With condolences to Susan Rogers and family.

Donna Kenny  
Boston

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**donna Kenny** - September 20, 2022 at 06:35 PM

JC

“ Dear Judy and girls: I was very saddened to read of the passing of John. Having worked with him at CHM&C for many years and then seeing him occasionally at the hospital it was always a pleasant chat and a few laughs about old times. My warmest condolences to all of you and will keep you in my thoughts and prayers. Fondly,  
Judy (Paquette) Condron.

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**Judy (Paquette) Condron** - September 20, 2022 at 05:05 PM

AT

“ We are deeply saddened by the loss of our longtime friend and colleague John Rogers. It was a privilege and honor to work with John. Not only was he incredibly gifted with a sharp intellect, but also he was innovative, forward-thinking and always planning for a bigger and brighter future. His devotion and passion for Berkshire Health Systems and the community he served are truly inspiring. We feel lucky to have been among those who knew and worked with John and will miss him tremendously. – Tom Peisch, Johanna Matloff, Alexis Theriault, and all your friends at Conn Kavanaugh

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**Alexis Theriault** - September 20, 2022 at 01:25 PM



“ *Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Mr. John F. Rogers.*



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September 20, 2022 at 11:34 AM



“ *Rest in Peace old childhood friend! Condolences to the family.*

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**Edward Mair (Northampton)** - September 20, 2022 at 09:49 AM