



John Martin Demagone

May 10, 1934 - May 18, 2025

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A life of quiet strength, deep love, and the American dream — all while wearing black and gold

John Martin Demangone passed away peacefully at home in Towanda, Pennsylvania, surrounded by his loving family and devoted caregivers.

Born on May 10, 1934, John was the embodiment of the American dream.

The grandson of immigrants from both Italy and Slovakia, he grew up in a modest home. His father, also named John, graduated from the eighth grade; his mother reached the fourth. But they instilled in him a drive to learn, and he became the first in the family to graduate from college — earning a degree in physics with a minor in mathematics from Duquesne University, where he also played collegiate tennis.

John was a gifted athlete — especially on the tennis court. In the 1950s, he played on an unusually diverse team for the time, where several of his teammates were African American, including All-American basketball star Sihugo Green. John was deeply disturbed by the racism his teammates faced, and the injustice stayed with him for the rest of his life. Fairness became a quiet but unshakable principle that guided him — in how he treated others, how he raised his children, and how he saw the world.

In the 1950s, he moved to Towanda for what would become the only job he'd ever have — a long and loyal career at Sylvania. There, he served as a

quality control engineer in the phosphors division — the team responsible for the chemicals that made your television light up in color. It was a job that required precision, focus, and care — all qualities John had in abundance. In 1960, he married the love of his life, Mary Alice Burchill, a registered nurse with a heart as strong as her will. Together they built a life, moving into the home they constructed in 1970 and never leaving it. As John's health and memory began to falter in later years, Mary Alice cared for him with tireless devotion, making it possible for him to remain in the home they had filled with love and laughter.

John was the first to admit that he married up — way up. Mary Alice was, by all accounts, out of his league. He never stopped being amazed that he got to spend his life with her — and anyone who saw them together understood why. John was driven by his faith, his family, his friends, and his community. And — let's be honest — also by the Steelers and Pirates. His devotion to the Steelers was sacred, and the shared bond around Black and Gold gave John and his family countless memories.

John never stopped helping people. And on road trips, John simply didn't stop. For anything. John never wanted to stop — not for a bathroom break, not for a snack, not to stretch, not even to smell the roses or enjoy the view. Much to the lifelong chagrin of Mary Alice. He was a man on a mission whenever four wheels were involved.

A proud Catholic, John was devoted to Saints Peter and Paul Church in Towanda. His faith wasn't just a belief — it was how he lived. He served as a lector, altar server, and visitor to shut-ins. He never knew how to say no when the church asked — and he never missed Mass, even on vacation. (Much to the dismay of his kids, who learned quickly that arguing was pointless.)

John and Mary Alice enjoyed rich friendships through work, church, and the schools their children attended. Their calendar was full of cocktail parties, dinner gatherings, and spontaneous visits with the many people who were lucky to be in their circle. They built a warm, welcoming home and a life surrounded by laughter, conversation, and connection.

He was deeply community-minded, always showing up where he was needed. John kept the book at Little League games, ran the scoreboard at St. Agnes basketball games, drove carloads of kids to practices, and cheered from the stands at countless track meets, football games, baseball tournaments, volleyball matches, and high school band parades. If his kids or grandkids were there — playing, marching, performing — so was John. He never once complained.

After retiring, John found peace in two of his favorite places: the trails of Bradford County and the shores of any beach where his family gathered. He became an enthusiastic member of the Barkley Mountain hiking crew, spending countless joyful hours exploring the woods with close friends. And he adored the beach — sitting in a chair, toes in the sand, smiling as he watched his children and grandchildren laugh and play in the surf.

He wasn't perfect. He had a short fuse. And a thin skin. For much of his life, he saw the world in black and white — right or wrong. But with age came wisdom, and slowly, John began to see the beauty in life's shades of gray. The firm authoritarian became a teddy bear around his grandchildren — much to the wide-eyed amazement of his children.

John Martin Demangone was a man of his word. They won't build a statue of him — but they should. He was successful in all the ways that truly matter: in faith, family, friendship, and marriage.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 64 years, Mary Alice Demangone. (née Burchill)

He is also survived by his children:

- John Demangone and his wife Marcy Demangone, of Reading, Pennsylvania
- Concetta Oglesby (née Demangone) and her husband Robert Oglesby, of Greenville, North Carolina
- Michael Demangone and his wife Karen Demangone, of Phoenix, Arizona
- Julie Friedrich (née Demangone) and her husband John Friedrich, of Elmira

Heights, New York

• Anthony Demangone and his wife Mandy Briggs, of Arlington, Virginia

He was the proud grandfather of eight:

Nicholas Demangone, Nathan Demangone, Adam Oglesby, Marisa Benulas, Michael Demangone, Kelly Oglesby, Kathryn Demangone, and Briggs Demangone.

A viewing will be held at Maryott-Bowen Funeral Home in Towanda, Pennsylvania, on Friday, May 30, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

A Catholic funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, May 31, at 11:00 a.m. at Saints Peter and Paul Church in Towanda, with interment to follow at the Catholic Cemetery in North Towanda.

After the burial, all are invited to a funeral reception in the Grotto Hall at Saints Peter and Paul Church.

Later that afternoon, the Demangone family will host a celebratory gathering at the family home — a time to share food, raise a glass, and most importantly, share stories about John.

We'll miss him more than words can say. But we know he's watching the game now from the best seat in the house — probably yelling at the refs, smiling at us, and waiting for Mary Alice to bring him a snack. Or most likely, dessert.

The family suggests that contributions be directed to Saint Agnes School, 102 Third St. Towanda, PA 18848 in memory of John Martin Demagone. Memories and condolences may be expressed by visiting www.bowenfuneralhomes.com.

Cemetery Details

Saints Peter and Paul Cemetery

James Street
North Towanda Township, PA 18848

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 30. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

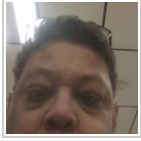
Maryott-Bowen Funeral Home
217 York Ave.
Towanda, PA 18848
(570) 265-2272
info@bowenfuneralhomes.com

Mass of Christian Burial

MAY 31. 11:00 AM (ET)

S.S. Peter & Paul Roman Catholic Church
106 Third Street
Towanda, PA 18848

Tribute Wall



“ Dear Demagone family

*I am so sorry for your loss of John I remember him always saying hi to me when he saw me or when I was talking to your kids at Saint Agnes and ask me about mom and dad
My thoughts and prayers to your entire family*

Michelle Bull

Michelle Bull - July 17, 2025 at 05:58 PM

B&

“ Bo &. purchased the [Southern Magnolia Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=815) for the family of John Martin Demagone.

Bo &. - May 27, 2025 at 10:15 AM

MM

“ Mary Demangone Maher purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of John Martin Demagone.



Mary Demangone Maher - May 26, 2025 at 08:04 AM



“ We are so sorry for your loss. John was a special and dear man and will be missed. Our prayers are with you, Mary Alice and your family. Peace, Bob and Jackie.

Jackie Pyznar - May 21, 2025 at 06:57 PM

MC

“ Reading about John - "Mr. Demagone" - to all of us who grew up with the Sylvania families in the 70s and 80s brings back great family and Towanda memories! He will be remembered as described: A wonderful husband and father to an amazing family we all shared decades of memories with. A generous, supportive and kind man ... who always asked "how's it's going" no matter what stage of life we are in. He will be remembered fondly.

Mike Christini

Michael Christini - May 21, 2025 at 01:19 PM

CM

“ My thoughts are with the family and friends in your loss of John. I remember him fondly. RIP John.



Claire Martin-Lizon - May 21, 2025 at 10:22 AM

SB

“ Sherry B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Martin Demagone.

Sherry B. - May 21, 2025 at 08:34 AM

CA

“ Though I haven't lived in Towanda for decades, Big John left indelible memories with me. His examples, whether observed or related through Little John and others, made it clear I was watching a life well lived.

God bless the paths forward.

Chris Appleton

Christian Appleton - May 20, 2025 at 06:07 PM

TA

“ To the Demangone Family,
It was sad to read this today. I send prayers and love to the family. I have fond memories of coaching John and crew in basketball many years ago.

Tom Abell - May 20, 2025 at 02:58 PM

DD

“ Diane D. purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of John Martin Demagone.



Diane D. - May 20, 2025 at 12:17 PM

DD

“ Diane D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Martin Demagone.

Diane D. - May 20, 2025 at 12:17 PM

BG

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with all of John's family. May God Bless!*

Bob and Mary Getz

Bob and Mary Getz - May 20, 2025 at 07:23 AM

DS

John was one of my favorite people at Sylvania and at the tennis courts - kind, thoughtful, and always with a smile. Even when long periods of time passed without seeing him, I always thought the world was a better place with him in it. Sincere sympathy to Mary Alice and to those who loved him best.

Diane Seymour - May 22, 2025 at 08:42 AM

PB

My heartfelt sympathy to all. My health prevents me from attending but I am thinking of you. Hope to improve by Summer's end so that I can get to Towanda. Love and Blessings.

Patsy Burchill - May 29, 2025 at 09:28 AM