



John Matthew Plant

July 25, 1997 - April 9, 2022

From Dad....

About 25 years ago we learned that my wife Karen was pregnant with a boy. What would we name him? I wanted to name him "John" but she liked "Matthew". We went back and forth on it, sometimes with "extra energy". I would say JOHN, but she more loudly would reply MATTHEW! One day when we she retorted with "Matthew" I quickly and loudly yelled "Bless you" (get it, Matthew sounds like "Atchoo", a sneeze). That caught her off-guard. Then I explained that she could name him whatever she wanted to but I would call him Johnny. Soon thereafter Johnny Matthew Plant was born.

It turns out that "Bless You" was very appropriate...

We have been blessed to have this beautiful soul in our lives for almost twenty five years. He was "different" and that worried us at times, but we soon learned and now know that it was an amazingly beautiful "different". His Mom Karen and I believe that we had been chosen to care for this special one and we are profoundly honored and thankful. We pray that God approves of our efforts.

Along the way there have been countless friends and professionals loving and helping us. So many. You know who you are, and so does God, and we thank you! And of course our family... thank you all!

Johnny, our son, I sob (part sadness, hopefully more with joy) when I think about how we cuddled at night, held hands when we walked, and you told me how much you loved me – every day. You are my teacher and the most courageous and loving person that I have ever met. You filled all of our lives, everyone's. I love you. Words cannot begin to describe this nor will I try. I will do my best to care for your Mom while you are away.

Karen, my wife, everything Johnny was is because of you. Literally "24/7" you were there, no matter what. Simple as sleeping together or as serious as months in the hospital – you were ALWAYS there. After Johnny graduated high school the two of you became best buds, traveling and shopping. Clearly he was your life as well. I pray that you can remain strong now. You and Johnny were alike in so many ways and I need you. I will do my best to try to fill his shoes while he is away and am looking forward to the day when we are all together again.

Friends, everyone who knew Johnny and Karen is nodding their head in approval right

now. I know it. So many. Please forgive me at this difficult time for not mentioning your names. We know too that Johnny's transition is very hard for you as well. We hope that you will long remember him, and his lessons, and feel a reassuring sense of accomplishment and gratitude for what you have provided this beautiful young man. God, we know that you have provided us with the blessing of Johnny. You have carried us all through many journeys together with him. Some were very difficult, countless were amazingly wonderful. He has taught and positively affected us all as you intended and we are thankful. Please, I pray for all of us, please give us the strength, courage, and faith to accept Johnny's new journey and keep his blessing in our hearts.

John Plant

Cemetery Details

Van Orsdel Crematory

3333 NE 2nd Avenue
Miami, FL 33137

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 14. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Van Orsdel Kendall Chapel
11220 N. Kendall Drive
Miami, FL 33176

Funeral Service

APR 14. 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM (ET)

Van Orsdel Kendall Chapel
11220 N. Kendall Drive
Miami, FL 33176

Reception

APR 14. 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Van Orsdel Kendall Signature Event Room
11220 N Kendall Drive
Miami, FL 33176

Tribute Wall

HB

“ *Dearest Johnny Cakes,
My deepest sympathy to you and Karen, and to all who were lucky enough to know and now miss Johnny.
I only met your Johnny one time, but will be forever grateful for my memories of him, especially of his curiosity and sense of humor, and for the obvious devotion and affection you all shared.
I am equally grateful that I can count such an amazing dad and husband as a friend.
Thank you for allowing me (and many others) the honor of meeting Johnny and witnessing firsthand a family that embodies the joy, truth, and permanence of unconditional love.*

Heather Barmore - April 16 at 04:01 AM



“ *I am so sorry to hear about Johnnys passing...He is and always will be 100% a part of our costa family. My prayers and condolences go out to you and your family in these hard times. Rest in paradise my friend.*



Giovanni Feliciano - April 15 at 04:38 PM

GF

“ *Dean John and Karen,

I am heartbroken to hear this news.. I will always remember Johnny's sweet face and kind heart. He came to my son Alexanders' skating party and I remember how joyful and happy he was. He was so loved at Leewood and you were so fortunate to have him in your lives. Cherish the wonderful memories of this very special boy who touched the hearts of everyone he encountered. He will always remain in our hearts... Sending heartfelt sympathy to your family.....*

Gail Johnson and family - April 15 at 10:20 AM

LL

“ I am so sorry to hear about Johnny’s passing. The kid was pure joy for myself and others at Costa D’Este. Even on our crappiest days- he was sunshine in a Florida afternoon thunderstorm. We will miss him dearly. He will always be a part of our costa family. Sending you all love and light. □



Logan Lauger - April 15 at 08:36 AM

JR

“ Hi John & Karen, I read with great sadness about Johnny’s passing. Please accept my deepest condolences. May the memories of love, laughter and the happy years you shared together, and the blessings he brought to your lives, be a comfort in the days ahead. Sincerely, Jeffrey Roth

jeffrey Roth - April 15 at 07:05 AM

DT

“ A tribute to Johnny, one of the sweetest souls I’ve ever known! I looked forward to FCAT testing every year when I was asked to monitor Johnny and sit with him one-on-one while he took the test. He was allowed to read parts of the test aloud to me and I was so impressed by his oral reading, although comprehension came a little harder for Johnny! Johnny was always generous and sweet, excitedly bringing gifts to school for us teachers on every holiday or occasion. I didn’t know Johnny,s dad very well,but I knew his remarkable mom! There was not another mom as terrific as she was. Always had a smile on her face, and that attitude carried through to precious Johnny! Unfortunately I am in New York visiting my kids and granddaughter or I would surely be at Johnny’s Memorial Service! I was truly shocked to hear about Johnny’s passing. His beautiful life was way too short!
Diane Tables

Diane Tables - April 14 at 04:39 PM

LS

“ Dear John and Karen,
Smile on Johnny's face is what I remember the most. He loved you so much. My mom... my dad... and he would tell stories... His first little crush, his determination when he came to karate classes at Kia Kidz. We have his pictures on the wall in the little dojo. Looking at him and his friends brings us smiles and beautiful memories. God blessed you and everyone who met Johnny and we pray you find peace and acceptance in this tough times.

Sensei Lana, Sensei David, Sensei Christian, Sensei Timothy, Sensei Julian, Sampai Alexis and Kia Kidz Martial Arts Center for Students with Special Needs



Lana Smirnova - April 14 at 11:32 AM

LN

“ 2 files added to the album Johnny Party Memories



Libby Navarrete - April 14 at 09:26 AM

LN

“ 4 files added to the album Johnny Party Memories



Libby Navarrete - April 14 at 09:17 AM

MM

“ Johnny was bigger than life at our office. When he was here.....everyone knew he was here. We will miss him very much....what a beautiful soul.

Mario Martinez - April 13 at 10:09 PM

AJ

“ I really thought of Johnny like a little brother. I had the pleasure of training Johnny for close to 10 years. 3 days a week. Every Monday he'd come in with a big smile and ask "Am I still your #1 client?!" I'd always answer back, "of course!!" He really was though.

I think the phrase, "he lit up a room" probably gets overused, but it was made for Johnny. It was like his super power. In a world where people take energy from you, or give it, Johnny was a giver of energy on steroids. His default mode was just Joy. He instantly made everyone smile and feel better. I don't think he realized how much of an impact he had on most of the people he came in contact with. He was routinely the best part of my day.

At least once a session he'd catch me off guard with something he'd say and leave me cracking up. He also did physical therapy with my gf Katie and liked to tell me "I really like working with you, but there's nothing I love more than seeing Katie." With that Johnny grin. Who could be mad at that.

I used to break up the session with walks up and down the shopping strip by the gym. Several shop keepers would leave their customers, mid sentence, to come to the door to greet Johnny and give him a high five as we passed by. He knew everyone! I used to call him the mayor. I told him I was going to run his campaign one day. He told me he would pay me \$800k for it! We both agreed that was a good deal.

John and Karen, I'm so sorry for your loss. But thank you for allowing us to be a part of your sons life. He gave me way more than I could ever give him back. I loved him a lot.

Alex Jamison



Alex Jamison - April 13 at 09:24 PM

MV

“ John and Karen,

We all always enjoyed Johnny's visits to the PPP office. He was always so excited to walk with me to go get the mail or to give me any coupons that he had recently found. He always told us how he was going to be our boss one day. Every time I saw him walk into the office I couldn't help but smile. He brought so much happiness and pure joy to so many. I am so thankful that I had the privilege of knowing your special boy. He will be missed.

We love you both and are here for you through this very hard time.

Michelle Valdes

Michelle Valdes - April 13 at 02:07 PM

JK

“ John and Karen,

Everyone at Vetio mourns the loss of your sweet boy (that's how my wife referred to my stepson Colton, who passed in October). I never met Johnny, but I knew he was a very special person by how you spoke so fondly of him. He had some pretty amazing parents, who loved him very much and provided him a wonderful life. He is now your Angel in Heaven watching over you and always with you in your hearts. I sincerely hope that you can soon find peace that he is now with God.

*Our deepest condolences,
John and Angie Kane*

John Kane - April 13 at 08:37 AM

LB

Dearest John and Karen, It is with profound sadness of hearing of Johnny's passing. Our family is heartbroken for you..He was a great young man and will be greatly missed



LAURA BUCKLEY BORK - April 13 at 01:10 PM

EC

“ John and Karen,
You are blessed to have such a special boy. He brought a smile to everyone he met and I know how proud you guys were of him and all he had accomplished. You are the best parents that any child could ask for. I pray you find peace and guidance at this tough time.
Eddie and Carmen

Eddie and Carmen - April 12 at 10:43 AM

GL

“ Johnny was such a wonderful young man! Even though life was tough for him at times he never let that rob him of his joy. He was always happy and smiling. Johnny always made a lasting impression on everyone he met and he will be sorely missed by all of us that knew and loved him. Our lives will be a little less happy without him in it. My deepest condolences to the most loving and caring parents a child could ever have, John and Karen.

Gus Leyva - April 12 at 08:24 AM

LR

Dear Karen and John,
I am so sorry to learn about the loss of your son Johnny. I will never forget the first time I met you walking through the Leewood parking lot to attend a meeting with me and several other staff from Miami-Dade Public Schools. Johnny was going to begin kindergarten at Leewood, and I was going to be his teacher. As we all walked toward the building after parking our cars, Johnny dropped his mom's hand and ran ahead and held my hand! What a nice surprise that was for me! Johnny was a sweet, loving child, and he was always smiling. He seemed happy to see his classmates everyday, and Karen was the best mother ever! Whatever was needed, Karen made sure we got it (all tied up with a pretty bow!). I have many fond memories of Johnny's year in kindergarten. He also taught me some important lessons full of kindness and caring. I wish peace of mind and comfort to the Plant Family.
Sincerely, Linda Rosenfield

Linda Rosenfield - April 12 at 06:10 PM

JP

From Dad... Thank you all for the comforting words. While I (fortunately) do not know much about this process I will comment from time to time when I have the strength. I hope it is appropriate.

Linda - This was almost twenty years ago, but I remember that day well and will never forget it. There were many like it, all blessings.

We had a difficult time finding a school placement for Johnny. We had never met you and Johnny did not know you either. Yet, he ran up to you with his lovely open heart, grabbed your hand, and gleefully exclaimed "Let me show you my new school!". Quite a first impression - yes?

Thinking... for someone who was considered "different" he did know a lot and surely did have a way of connecting with people. He has always been our "Goodwill Ambassador" - even at the age of only 5 years old. That day is hard to explain, but it was truly amazing.

His gifts are immeasurable. We pray that they are long-lasting and we can all carry them in our hearts always and always.

Linda - you exemplify what we hope for in the teachers of our children. Karen and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

We love you, and may God bless you!

John Plant - April 13 at 07:44 AM

ML

Karen and John, I have no words to express what I felt when Karen called me. I met Johnny in first grade and fell in love. Throughout the years I not only was part of his life in school but also at home. I not only have great memories of him when succeed in what he was learning, but also funny moments with him. Karen you were an amazing mom, dedicating your life to make his the most joyful. My prayers are that God grant you and John the peace that only he can give you. Love you, Maria Llanes

maria llanes - April 13 at 07:53 PM