



## John Robert Baker

July 31, 1999 - March 30, 2020

John Robert Baker, age 20, of Gurnee, IL passed away on Monday, March 30, 2020.

John is survived by his parents Ted & Libby (Tonske) Baker; brothers Forrest (fiancée Donna Dahm) and Thomas Baker; Jocelyn Barajas, his greatest friend and adventure partner; grandmothers Nancy Tonske and Melaine Baker, as well as several loving aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandfathers Robert Tonske and James (Ed) Baker, as well as his aunt Dr. Lory (Tonske) Schults.

John attended St. Patrick's School in Wadsworth, Warren Township High School in Gurnee, as well as Michigan Tech University. John loved the outdoors and fishing, especially at the family cabin in Eagle River, WI and on Loon Lake in Antioch. John was an accomplished water and downhill skier. He hiked and backpacked on many trips, including the Grand Canyon, Isle Royale, and an ascent of Half Dome this past summer after lung surgery and between chemo treatments. He developed a passion for travel and explored in Norway, Morocco, the Bahamas and Ireland. He continued to pursue these activities while battling osteosarcoma for nearly two years.

John met Jocelyn after his initial diagnosis. They enjoyed adventures, hiking, camping, and fishing. They also enjoyed cooking together, watching The Great British Baking Show and discovering new coffee shops. Jocelyn was by his side until the end.

John and his family are forever grateful to all the wonderful friends, family and neighbors who have helped throughout this time and to the nurses, doctors, and staff at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital and the JourneyCare hospice nurses who provided such wonderful care and compassion to John.

A memorial service will be scheduled at a future date.

In lieu of flowers donations may be directed to:

The Ronald McDonald House - <https://rmhccni.org/>

Lory's Place - <https://www.spectrumhealthlakeland.org/lorys-place/lory's-place>

The Purple Plunge - <https://www.purpleplunge.org/donate-now>

# Tribute Wall



“ *John Robert Baker*

October 04, 2023 at 02:13 PM



“ *John Robert Baker*

December 31, 2022 at 11:36 AM



“ *Libby, Ted, Forrest, Thomas, Jocelyn et al,*

*As the light box you made for us illuminates its perch on the 17th floor, I am drawn to the memories we have shared. I feel privileged that I was able to share a part of your journey and to have been taken in by your light.*

*You all have been so strong, thoughtful, vulnerable and kind throughout this process. You made every right decision along the way and the love you have for John surely lives on forever. My heart goes out to you during this difficult time. Wishing you all comfort and peace. May John's memory be a blessing.*

*Warm Regards,  
Yali*

Yali Derman - April 14, 2020 at 02:16 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Robert Baker.*



April 08, 2020 at 12:23 AM



“ *A great young man! Many prayers and memories of St. Patrick school years. Love, Julia , Maureen and Wesley Ward*

Maureen O'Brien-Ward - April 07, 2020 at 03:29 PM

LM

“ Libby, Ted and family, no words can express my sorrow for you. You so bravely endured so much through the past few years taking such good care of your little boy. While nothing can take away your pain, embrace all the love and comfort surrounding you. Take comfort too knowing you gave John the best life. He lived it well. I'll always remember Libby calling me after John was born saying, " I have my own Johnny B!" And, of course, one wonderful day he made Kayla's day so special by showing her how to fish--and she happily remembers that day and John. Thinking of you daily. And remembering Johnny B. Love to you all, Lyn

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**Lynette Merrell** - April 07, 2020 at 09:57 AM

ME

“ I met John hiking the Raven Glen Forest Preserve Trail last Spring. I was very impressed by his commitment to enjoy the outdoors. Frankly, I didn't believe him when he said he was training for an accent on Half Dome after just getting back from lung surgery. He had a very positive attitude which impressed me. He made big impression on me in the short time we talked. I'm so sorry for your loss.

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**Mel Ellingsen** - April 07, 2020 at 08:54 AM