



## John Anthony Cirola, Sr

August 21, 1954 - August 29, 2025

John Anthony Cirola Sr., a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, son, brother, uncle and friend, entered his eternal rest while surrounded by his loving family, who lifted their voices in worship as he peacefully passed into the presence of the Lord. He was the proud patriarch of his family, holding true to family values and traditions. His life will forever be remembered for his faithfulness to God, to his family, friends, and to all who knew him.

For 52 years, John was devoted to the love of his life, Nita. Together they built a beautiful family he was endlessly proud of. He especially cherished being a grandfather and great grandfather, finding joy in watching his family grow and in being such a big part of their lives. Everyone knew and loved him as Nonno. As the family's keystone, John made it a priority to have his family in church and proudly lead the prayers around the table. Sundays were made sweeter by the aroma of his homemade spaghetti sauce - a cherished tradition and family favorite.

John grew up in a musical family, where the home was filled with song from a young age. John found his passion for playing the drums and singing, a joy he shared throughout his life with family and friends. His father formed the Big Band Orchestra The Rythmairs, which started his musical career in many multiple genres. The love of music carried on from his childhood home to the

home he built with his hardworking hands, where he shared the love of music with his own children that gathered them together. John formed a Christian band “Fiat” with his children, Tony, Brynn, Ryan and friends, to worship the Lord. A fun memory that many will forever treasure is how he often carried a harmonica in his pocket, ready to play a tune at any moment and bring smiles to those around him. John could turn any object into a percussion instrument and encourage others to join in on the groove.

During his career journey, John worked as a dedicated coal miner before pursuing his dream of becoming a pilot, a true testament to his determination and courage. He owned and operated his own flight school “Eagle 1 Aviation” where he trained civilians and military personnel to obtain their flight license. John’s perseverance and drive to learn more, he went on from flying a Cessna to private jets. John was admired for his wisdom and dependability, building lasting relationships with everyone he worked alongside.

John was proud of his Italian Heritage. One of his favorite memories was traveling to Italy with his Nonno and Nonna, staying at the Cirola Family Home in Prignano Cilento. He was a faithful member of the Knights of Columbus, 3rd degree Counsel in Elkton, FL and a 4th Degree Assembly in Carmichaels, PA. Volunteer Firefighter/EMT of Company 67 of Nemaquin, PA. Drummer for the Local VFW Band in Uniontown, PA where he had the honor to perform for President Nixon. He was a member of the Historic Florida Militia, as a drummer alongside his son, Tony, where they participated in living history events. Together, they were also members of the 46th PA Regiment Band. John also loved reading and discovering history, traveling, and living out his faith with strength and devotion. John was full of integrity and was a faithful servant. He loved capturing candid moments with his camera, leaving behind photos and videos his family will treasure forever.

As a pilot, John hand selected his crew members throughout his life that was

part of his story and journey. John gained his wings and the Lord prepared a clear runway for his flight to glory bound. Throttle up to his final destination, Heaven. "GOD IS GOOD, ALL THE TIME. Glory be to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.

John is survived by his wife of 52 years, Nita Ciota of St. Augustine; daughters, Jen Krivanek and her husband Danny of Bridgeville, Pa., Brynn Himes and her husband Josh of Summerville, SC; sons, John Anthony "Tony" Ciota, Jr. of St. Augustine, Ryan Ciota and his wife Andrea of St. Augustine; his mother, Trudy Ciota of Clarksville, Pa.; sisters, Tina Adamson and her husband Dan of Waynesburg, Pa., Nancy Faieta and her husband Randy of Rices Landing, Pa., a brother, Vince Ciota of Clarksville, Pa.; grandchildren, Colton Henry and his wife Erica, Brett Henry, Travis Krivanek, Gavri Himes, Civana Himes, Ryanna Ciota, Acio Himes, Rayna Ciota, Giovanni Himes, Gianna & DJ Krivanek, and great grandchildren, Josie, Callum and Nash Henry.

† Services for John Anthony Ciota Sr.

A viewing will be held on Monday, September 1st at St. John's Funeral Home in St. Augustine, FL.


- Family viewing: 4:00 – 5:00 PM
- Public viewing: 5:00 – 7:00 PM

A Vigil service will be held at 6:30.

A Funeral Mass will take place on Tuesday, September 2nd at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Elkton, FL at 10:00 AM, with burial to follow.

Following the burial, dinner will be provided at the St. Ambrose Community

Center, and all are welcome to join the family in fellowship and remembrance.

In lieu of flowers, our family would love meaningful keepsakes to pass down as lasting reminders of the love John brought into our lives. Thoughtful gifts such as something musical (like wind chimes), a religious token reflecting his faith, or a comforting blanket would be especially cherished. More than anything, your love, prayers and memories shared with us will continue to be the greatest gift 

All keepsakes may be delivered to:

53 Fox Water Trail,  
St. Augustine, FL 32086

St. Johns Family Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

**St. Ambrose Cemetery**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

SEP 1. 5:00 AM - 7:00 AM (ET)

St. Johns Family Funeral Home  
385 State Road 207  
St. Augustine, FL

### Vigil Service

SEP 1. 6:30 AM (ET)

St. Johns Family Funeral Home  
385 State Road 207  
St. Augustine, FL

### A Mass of Christian Burial

SEP 2. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Ambrose Catholic Church  
6070 Church Rd  
Elkton, FL 32033

## **A Reception will follow the Service**

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SEP 2. 11:30 AM (ET)

Moccasin Branch Fellowship Hall at St. Ambrose  
6070 Church Road  
Elkton  
Elkton, FL 32033

# Tribute Wall



“ *St. Johns Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John Anthony Cirola, Sr*



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - August 31, 2025 at 02:01 PM



“ *Nikki and Mike purchased the Garden Accent Stone - "If love could have saved you" for the family of John Anthony Cirola, Sr.*



Nikki and Mike - September 04, 2025 at 09:29 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Anthony Cirola, Sr.*

September 03, 2025 at 04:16 PM

DD

“ Tony your father's obituary shows his devotion to The Lord, his family, and to his Italian heritage. Even though I did not know him I feel grateful for his work as a first responders in Greene County. We miss you Tony. You're in my prayers and we know your dad drove right through heavens gates. He sounded like a wonderful father. Rest easy sir your family and friends will take it from here. RIP

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**Denise Desmet** - September 03, 2025 at 01:03 AM

C&

“ Cyndee &. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Anthony Cirota, Sr.

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**Cyndee &.** - September 02, 2025 at 01:05 PM

NI

“ I have known John since he and Nita first met around 1971. From that day on, they were a perfect match. Together, they built a beautiful life and a wonderful family, who I know will miss him dearly. John's family was everything to him, and they adored him just as much as he adored them.

*RIP, John. Heaven has gained another angel. You will be deeply missed.*

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**Nikki** - September 01, 2025 at 10:18 PM

NI

“ 4 files added to the album *With the Smiths in the 80's*



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**Nikki** - September 01, 2025 at 10:01 PM

NS

“ *"Do not stand at my grave and weep. I am not there, I do not sleep. I am a thousand winds that blow, I am the diamond glints on snow. I am the sunlight on ripened grain, I am the gentle autumn rain. When you awaken in the morning's hush, I am the swift uplifting rush of quiet birds in circled flight. I am the soft stars that shine at night. Do not stand at my grave and cry, I am not there, I did not die."* - Sioux Proverb

*RIP, dear friend. You will be missed.*

*Nikki & Mike*

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**Nikki Smith** - September 01, 2025 at 09:18 PM

KM

“ Kevin and I are so very sorry for your great loss. We both treasured the times we got to hang with John . Too few for sure. What a talented musician! What a great father and grandpa. I know he will be missed by so many. What an impression he left here. He lived and loved well.

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**kelly miller** - September 01, 2025 at 08:23 PM

SJ

“ Suzie and Joe purchased the "On Angel's Wings" Sympathy Gift Wind Chime to Send for Funeral Or Memorial for the family of John Anthony Cirola, Sr.



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**Suzie and Joe** - September 01, 2025 at 06:23 PM

RT

“ Tony, on behalf of myself and your team members from the SAFO/ Household staff at FSDB, I would like to express deepest sympathy to you and your family on the loss of your loved one. May God grant each of you the strength to be of comfort to each other during this difficult time and the times to come.  
May the memories of years pass also be a source of comfort and the reminders of a love that will never diminish. God Bless

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**Rhoda K. Thomas** - September 01, 2025 at 03:02 PM

SH

“ Sally Fellows and Mike, Nickye Howard purchased the "Angels' Arms" Picture Perfect 30" Chime for the family of John Anthony Ciota, Sr.



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**Sally Fellows and Mike, Nickye Howard** - September 01, 2025  
at 01:01 PM

SH

“ Sally Fellows and Mike, Nickye Howard planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Anthony Ciota, Sr.

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**Sally Fellows and Mike, Nickye Howard** - September 01, 2025 at 01:01 PM

JS

“ My heart is breaking for Nita and the family on their huge loss of my cousin Johnny's passing. But, I know we will see him again! His dedication to God and family is a true inspiration for all. When I think of Johnny, I have many memories but just to mention a few, I remember watching him play drums in his Dad's band, going swimming with him at the city pool and watching all the girls flock around him and walking out of his bedroom awakened by the smoke and calmly putting out a small stove fire before going back to sleep. I loved Johnny, even tho we were states apart, I kept up with him and his beautiful family through Facebook. Many prayers of comfort for all. Love and Prayers, Joi Stephenson and family

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**Joi Stephenson** - August 31, 2025 at 11:48 PM



“ *Footprints Tribute Blanket was purchased for the family of John Anthony Ciota, Sr.*



August 31, 2025 at 09:23 PM



“ *Nita and family,*

*I was so sorry to hear of John's passing. May your beautiful memories help to heal your hearts~*



**Lori Hawker** - August 31, 2025 at 08:26 PM



“ *John was a pilot for our air charter company for several years. He was also a good friend. He will be missed. Our sympathies to all.  
Tom and Bonnie Gilbert*

**Tom Gilbert** - August 31, 2025 at 07:36 PM



“ *I knew John from the Nemaocolin VFD he was a great friend and dedicated member to the community and to his family. John may you rest in peace. god bless you my brother.*

**Robert Bregan** - August 31, 2025 at 05:39 PM



“ *I met John thru Tony back in 90s...he was a good guy. We had good times together. I will miss him. RIP SIR*

**Derrick Utley** - August 31, 2025 at 05:38 PM

RB

“ Robert Bregan lit a candle in memory of John Anthony Cirotta, Sr



Robert Bregan - August 31, 2025 at 05:30 PM



“ Some of the best memories of my life were spending the night over at the Cirotta's house. Ryan, Friends, and I be up all-night swimming or playing video games. In the morning John would always greet us with a smile and some fresh pancakes. We would ask him for advice, or he would lend us an ear just to vent. He and I would always talk about something aviation related. I am so thankful for all the encouragement, love, and kindness he has shown us all of these years.

Now, when my kids have their friends over to spend the night. I will greet them with a smile and pancakes every morning. John will live on through the love and kindness he's shown me, which I will continue to pass on to the next generation.

-Stu Swann-

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,  
for I have put my trust in you.  
Show me the way I should go,  
for to you I entrust my life.  
Psalm 143:8

Stu Swann - August 31, 2025 at 04:31 PM

PB

“ I met John at St Ambrose Church about 4 years ago. He told me then that he had cancer and he truly believed that God would watch over him. He was a Benedictine, a kind and gentle soul. We said we would pray for each other, as I did every day. I will miss his faithful presence at church. I will continue to pray for his family, as I know John would like me to do that. May he rest in the peace of the Lord, our God. Hope to see you again in heaven. Blessings to the family  
Patricia Budd TOC

Patricia Budd - August 31, 2025 at 02:50 PM



“ "On Angel's Wings" Sympathy Gift Wind Chime to Send for Funeral Or Memorial was purchased for the family of John Anthony Ciota, Sr.



August 31, 2025 at 01:56 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Anthony Ciota, Sr.

August 31, 2025 at 01:56 PM



“ 87 files added to the album Life Tributes



St. Johns Family Funeral Home - August 31, 2025 at 01:44 PM

L(

“ I am so very sorry for John’s passing. I knew him as we grew up in SW PA and were altar servers together. Sending prayers for the family.

LtCol Ernest D’Antonio USMC (ret) - August 31, 2025 at 12:46 PM

LB

“ My sincere condolences for the loss of John. He will always be remembered for his love of his family, his faith in God the Almighty, and the huge smile he always walked into a room with. I was blessed to know John and to watch the beautiful family that grew from the love John & Nita shared  
There is no doubt John Senior was waiting at the pearly gates singing and dancing with a Big Welcome Home Son!!  
Sincere Condolences 🌸

Lisa Covato Balint - August 31, 2025 at 12:08 PM

JA

“ I’m really sorry for your loss and he was great guy with his kids and grandkids and friends, sure will be missed and will keep in prayer for family! RIP John!

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**Jennifer Allman** - August 31, 2025 at 11:45 AM

DM

“ Nita, Brynn, and family I am so sorry to hear about John. He was a good man and I remember being a part of his interview process at Mylan. He had the biggest , kindest heart and would do anything for anyone. I am so glad we kept in touch all these years. We spoke last in April of this year and I got a thumbs up picture. Sending much love your way !! Diane

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**Diane McCartney** - August 31, 2025 at 11:34 AM

GK

“ My favorite memory was when he played drums with the guys. So many people claim to be drummers, so I was skeptical. He BLEW us away. Wow. We were in awe.

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**Gary (Big Daddy) Kiernan** - August 31, 2025 at 11:00 AM