



## John Rooney

September 3, 1934 - August 24, 2024

IN MEMORY OF:

John Rooney

Serving Location:

CRAIN FUNERAL HOME – ANNA

135 West Vienna Street, Anna, Illinois

John Rooney, age 89, of Anna, passed away on Saturday, August 24, 2024 at his residence.

John was born on September 3, 1934 to John and Evangeline (Willett) Rooney in Maine. He was married to Charlotte Rooney and she preceded him in death.

He graduated from Boston College with a degree in History. He later moved to Southern Illinois where he ran a very successful business, Pizza Villa. John was an icon of the pizza business in Anna and Vienna. He enjoyed his grandchildren and community sports and was an avid contributor to local youth sports.

Survivors include his daughters, Bonnie Rooney, Louella Snyder; sons, William Joseph Rooney, Kenney Demerie, John Bailey; grandson, Gary

Morrison; granddaughters, Amanda Morrison, Katie Wright, Jordan Bailey, Mandy Morrison; great-grandchildren, Jayda Rooney, Evan Rooney, Serenity Sutton, Mason Sutton, Sutton Wright, Avery Wright, Lane Wright, Kendra Morrison, Dylan Morrison, Summer Spradling, Lane Spradling; daughter-in-law, Tara Newhart; and sister, Pat Quirk.

Along with his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by his sister, Jean Willett.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, August 29, 2024 from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM with funeral service to follow at 7:00PM with Doug Bridgeman officiating at Crain Funeral Home in Anna.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions be made to the donor's choice. Memorial envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

The cremation of John Rooney will be personally handled by the staff of Crain Funeral Home.

Crain Funeral Home, Anna, Illinois is in charge of arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **29**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (cst)

Crain Funeral Home - Anna  
135 W. Vienna St.  
Anna, IL 62906  
(618) 833-2176  
crain@crainsonline.com

## Funeral Service

AUG **29**. 7:00 PM - 7:30 PM (cst)

Crain Funeral Home - Anna  
135 W. Vienna St.  
Anna, IL 62906  
(618) 833-2176  
crain@crainsonline.com

# Tribute Wall



“ Bonnie, Bill, and the rest of the family; I am so sorry for your loss. John was truly a great man. He was one of a kind, someone who genuinely cared about people and always had something good to say to those of us who frequented Pizza Villa. He will be missed. May he rest in peace.

---

**Jon Hiller** - August 30, 2024 at 09:48 AM

GD

“ Much love, hugs and prayers to John's family and friends. I can say I had the pleasure of knowing John when he first came to Anna with Pizza Villa on Main Street. I as well had the opportunity to work for John and Charolette for several years. What an awesome man and friend. You will be missed.

---

**Gayle Davis** - August 29, 2024 at 05:58 AM

RD

“ As a kid who who grew up in Anna and I remember many times going there for lunch or dinner and always seeing john in the back doing what he loved and doing it with great skill. His food was amazing my fav being the Italian beef. I have since moved away but still on a occasion get back there in the area and I always have to go back to pizza villa for a Italian beef and pizza. I been all over this great country and I will always try a Italian beef sandwich somewhere and my first bite I always say it's not like John makes. Nothing compared to his food. He was such a nice guy. RIP sir!

---

**ronald dunston** - August 29, 2024 at 12:09 AM

DC

*He sure could make a pizza! Go rest high on the mountain*

---

**Diana Cargill** - August 29, 2024 at 04:56 PM

JF

“ Joe Willett & the Willett Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John Rooney.



---

**Joe Willett & the Willett Family** - August 28, 2024 at 12:18 PM

AA

“ John Rooney is one of those rare individuals that you meet in life who truly deserves being referred to as a great man.. for that is exactly what he was.. no question.

He was my Dad's best friend which is how I came to know him.. he'll always be family to us.

I can still remember all of the endless time and effort he put into perfecting his now legendary sauce waaaaay back in the days of his original place.. The Goldmine.. on 8th St. in Cairo.

Culinary expertise aside.. John was a genuinely brilliant man as well.. whenever he would visit there were always many interesting discussions over endless cups of coffee at the dining room table.. it was always so much fun and something our entire family enjoyed immensely.

John remains one of the most solid people I have ever known.. they just don't make'em like that anymore.. he was old school.

God Bless you John.. please give Mom.. Dad.. & everyone else a hug for me.

Rest in peace.. rise in glory old friend.



---

**Andrea Aden** - August 27, 2024 at 11:39 AM

AA

“ John Rooney is one of those rare individuals that you meet in life who truly deserves being referred to as a great man.. for that is exactly what he was.. no question.  
He was my Dad's best friend which is how I came to know him.. he'll always be family to us.  
I can still remember all of the endless time and effort he put into perfecting his now legendary sauce waaaaayy back in the days of his original place.. The Goldmine.. on 8th St. in Cairo.  
Culinary expertise aside.. John was a genuinely brilliant man as well.. whenever he would visit there were always many interesting discussions over endless cups of coffee at the dining room table.. it was always so much fun and something our entire family enjoyed immensely.  
John remains one of the most solid people I have ever known.. they just don't make'em like that anymore.. he was old school.  
God Bless you John.. please give Mom.. Dad.. & everyone else a hug for me.  
Rest in peace.. rise in glory old friend.



Andrea Aden - August 27, 2024 at 11:37 AM

GD

*Beautifully spoken.*

Gayle Davis - August 29, 2024 at 05:47 AM

AA

*Thank You.  
When the subject is John speaking from the heart comes easily.  
He was one of a kind.. God rest his soul.*

Andrea Aden - August 29, 2024 at 09:15 AM

SB

“ John always was the same, full of advice and opinions. He gave so many young kids in this area a start to the working world with caring and a big dose of reality. Gods speed John, Charlie is waiting to make dough with ya. I'll always love you both.

---

**Sheryl Bryant** - August 27, 2024 at 09:27 AM

MW

“ So sorry to hear this. Prayers for the family. RIP. We think about you every time we eat Pizza Villa Pizza.

---

**Matt A Wettig** - August 27, 2024 at 08:28 AM

YB

“ You were my first job back in the 1980's and were so good to me, I have so many memories of those days that I still talk about them today. Rest in Peace Boss.

---

**Yvonne Lessar Birk** - August 26, 2024 at 11:35 PM