



## John Prather

March 11, 1956 - May 19, 2025

John Claud Prather, "J.P.", 69, of Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood, passed away May 19, 2025.

Born in Kansas City, MO, graduated from Rockhurst High School and studied Business Administration at the University of Missouri - Kansas City. In 1985 he studied for the priesthood and earned his M.Div from Mount St. Mary's Seminary & School of Theology. It was at final vows that John realized that perhaps the priesthood was not his calling.

John's retail career began at Neiman Marcus in Boston, before moving to the Chicago store in the spring of 1989. John was always so very organized. During the early days at Neiman's Men's Furnishing, his boss talked about the perfection of his tie case. She joked that John would look up at the customers from the glass case and, with his impish smile, convince them they needed that very lovely and expensive tie to complete their look. He then joined Van Cleef & Arpels before branching out to office management with an independent mortgage company and commercial real estate management companies. His final position was as Floor Manager for Goodwill in Evanston.

Raised Catholic, John saw signs of God everywhere. He was attracted to the Franciscan order, as they lead with their hearts, more than their heads. John liked to sew, loved tradition, and ran a balanced fusion between the old and

the new. He was emotional and caring, kind and generous. He also enjoyed following the British Royals and was proud that his mother had been a personal assistant to Bette Davis.

He loved his family and community and did all that he could to make things better. He was awarded the Volunteer award at the Leather Archives and Museum for the countless hours he put in helping LAM transform into the well-respected museum that it now is. John also worked with International Mr. Leather (IML) as a Contestant Handler. He was a client, volunteer, and donor to Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) and Howard Brown Health Centers. He was known for manning the Glogg pot at the annual party T.P. Party for Grocery Land at Broadway AIDS Pantry (originally Open Hand). John and his former partner Dean opened their home to raise funds and personal care items at this annual holiday event. John also worked at the Center on Halsted in a variety of roles, including assistant to the Executive Director.

John was the dear brother-in-law of Cathy Prather, uncle of Joe (Viviana) and Christopher (Melissa) Johnson, and great-uncle of Kayla, Nico, Mia, and Lucas.

John knew no strangers and will be missed by many friends, but particularly by Bob Scarano, Bryan Cardenas, Raymund "R.J." Voltin, Matthew Schomburg, James Halley, Tony Morono, and former partner Dean Ogren. John loved Bombay and Natasha, the pets he shared with loved ones.

Preceded in death by his parents Claud John Prather and Martha Francis Johnson Prather, brother Joseph, niece Chastity, and his beloved Great Danes.

A Celebration of Life is being planned. Please check back to this website for information.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to TPAN: <https://viventhealth.org/tpan/>.

Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-318-1305 or [www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com](http://www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com).

# Tribute Wall

CP

“ I want to share photos, memories, so much of the John that such a kind, soft spoken, generous. And thoughtful brother in law and most of all a much loved friend. I've spent the last 2 weeks thinking about the suddenness of loss. Flip of a switch. The blink of an eye. And someone who's been a part of your life is gone. We talked about this. But you are never prepared and when it happens to you, you don't know. I will get pictures together, he knows how many I have.. I miss him and as always I wish for that one more chat, I hear his soft voice. I can read his kind, supportive words. I hope if you were a true friend of John's, you honor his life, his memory. As he would you. Love, Cathy

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**Cathy Prather** - June 04, 2025 at 12:25 AM



*The best tribute to date*

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**Dean Ogren** - June 17, 2025 at 07:52 PM

RF

“ John was the most amazing person. He made me feel comfortable when hotel tried to boot me out during interview. We continued to chat from 1997 on.

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**R Forbes** - May 27, 2025 at 03:57 PM



“ I worked with John at Center on Halsted. He was a friendly and outgoing man who had the rare talent of being able to get along with anyone - even people as cranky as me.

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**Tom Hartman** - May 25, 2025 at 07:07 PM

DO

*Your not cranky unless necessary. thank you for remembering John*

Dean Ogren - May 26, 2025 at 10:33 AM

NP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Nico Prather - May 24, 2025 at 04:26 PM



*Nico, although we have never met, I know that your Uncle John is looking after you and loved you and the whole family. I send you my thoughts at this time of great loss*

Dean Ogren - May 25, 2025 at 11:51 AM

CP

*I love this photo to much Nico*

Cathy Prather - June 01, 2025 at 08:54 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Team Inclusive Funeral Care - May 24, 2025 at 03:26 PM

CP

*Love and miss you so very much John 💔*

Cathy Prather - June 01, 2025 at 08:56 PM