



## John Henry Cornelius

April 22, 1948 - April 21, 2019

John Henry Cornelius passed away at his home on Easter Sunday morning, April 21, 2019. John was born on April 22, 1948 in Lamesa, Texas to Margie and Eugene R. Cornelius. He graduated from Thomas A. Edison High School in 1966. Received an Associate Degree in Heating and Air Conditioning Design. He married the love of his life in August 24, 1968. John began his career designing Air Conditioning Systems but his true passion was magic. He soon was able to make a living solely doing what he loved. As a magician, John traveled the world doing lectures and performing his magic. Some highlights of his career were winning a World Prize at F.I.S.M. (International Federation of Magic Society) as well as being the only American to win the World Championship of Magic in two different categories and the only person to win the International Brotherhood of Magician Creativity Award three times. He was an inspiration to young magicians such as David Copperfield and many more. He was a true creative genius hailed by his peers as a performer and an inventor. John loved his pet and enjoyed fishing at Medina Lake with his wife and friends. He is loved by many and will be missed by everyone whose life he touched. He is survived by his loving wife, Linda, who has been by his side for more than 50 years. He is also survived by his aunt, Virginia Matthews; uncle, Ray Brown and numerous nieces and nephews. Visitation will be held on Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church with a rosary to be recited at 7:00 p.m. Funeral mass will be held on Friday, April 26, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. at Our Lady of

Sorrows Catholic Church with the interment to follow at San Fernando Cemetery #3.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **25.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Our Lady Of Sorrows Catholic Church  
San Antonio, TX

## Rosary

APR **25.** 7:00 PM (CT)

Our Lady Of Sorrows Catholic Church  
San Antonio, TX

## Funeral Mass

APR **26.** 10:30 AM (CT)

Our Lady Of Sorrows Catholic Church  
San Antonio, TX

# Tribute Wall

RK

“ Dear Linda, I'll NEVER forget John! Or you. As kids, we were mesmerized with his magic! I'm sure he was bored having to entertain us kids, always begging him to show us tricks all the time?!? ... I was able to catch up with him around 10-15 yrs ago on social media, and, of course, he remembered me! I think of him from time to time, always wondering what happened to some of my Dad's friends, so, I googled him, and sadly discovered he passed in 2019! I am very sorry. My Dad died in 2017. Please know that we will never forget John, as he left a lifetime, lasting, impression and memories in our hearts. May he Rest in Peace. God bless you Linda.

Respectfully, Roxanne (Ransom) Kotara

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**Roxanne (Ransom) Kotara** - June 12, 2025 at 01:32 PM

PR

Dear Linda; My parents were Walt and Johnny Stephens and were close friends of Margie and Gene, us kids were Donald , Brenda and Patricia. I have always wondered about John Henry . I have a memory of being in their house over close to Playland Park and finding Johns scarf trick and playing with it , I was probably 8 . So sorry to hear of his passing , I have always thought he must've went big time and glad to find that was true . Rest In Peace John Henry . And Linda I always connected with you in that we were both 'quiet , maybe shy' .

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**Patricia Stephens Robison** - January 19 at 09:56 PM

LZ

“ Hi Linda, I just saw the obituary for John . I am so sorry for your loss. He was a wonderful person. So sorry it's so late. I live in Wisconsin now. God Bless you. Your friend from long ago. Linda

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**Linda Zivicki** - June 10, 2025 at 04:28 AM

DC

“ I first met John when he was a young man performing magic in San Antonio. We were in the same Linking Ring (magician) organization together, and working alongside others, produced one of the Texas Association of Magicians Conventions ever. John was a bright, talented, and very capable young man who became one of the best idea men in the 'magic fraternity.' He remained a very good friend over the years that followed, and it was with deep sadness that I learned of his altogether premature passing. God blessed us by giving him to us for a few short years, and I am sure that He is blessing John now.

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**Dr. Warren Chaney** - July 31, 2023 at 02:52 PM

CN

“ John, you always had the best smile on your face, a very kind and gentle soul and will always remember the times shared in school. Sorry to hear of your passing but now you are at peace and entertaining all those that have gone on before. God rest your soul and give your sweet wife, Linda, peace and comfort.

God bless,

Carolyn Montgomery Nunn

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**Carolyn Montgomery Nunn** - April 26, 2019 at 02:57 PM

BE

“ Bill and I got to know John through his wife Linda and our mutual love for Arabian horses. Through the years - omg, 33 years, he was always supported Linda and her horse crazy friends and was generous with his talent. We will miss him. Love, Linda, Rose Marie and Bill



Bill & Rose Marie Eash - April 25, 2019 at 05:29 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of John Henry Cornelius.



April 25, 2019 at 10:57 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Henry Cornelius.



April 24, 2019 at 08:37 PM

NP

“ John you will be greatly missed; all the years we have known each other - back in the day when Linda and I were at Providence High School!

*Throughout the years, I have always known you to be a kind, decent, humble and generous person.*

*I will always remember your smile and humor - knowing you will have a trick or two up your sleeve for St. Peter and the Angels in Heaven!*

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**Nita Portela** - April 24, 2019 at 02:18 PM

BG

“ Bonnie (my wife 52 years) went on our first date with John and Linda. Even in high school John would amaze anyone that would watch his wonderful magic. Our careers made it hard to keep in touch but in high school he was one of my closest friend.  
*Buddy Goodwin*

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**Buddy Goodwin** - April 24, 2019 at 11:54 AM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of John Henry Cornelius.



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April 24, 2019 at 11:45 AM

PS

“ I remember John working at the Magic Shop at Hemisfair 68. I bought a deck of magic cards from him. He was always eager to show the family new tricks that he developed at gatherings. I recall how generous he was with his time to talk about his magic. He was a truly gentle soul.



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**Paul Smith** - April 24, 2019 at 11:23 AM

LK

“ My memories of Uncle John are of everyone begging him to perform magic tricks at our family get togethers. And I remember everyone always being amazed and wanting to see more! I was always proud to tell people about my uncle the magician. Not many people can do that! Love, Lisa Kopfer

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**Lisa Kopfer** - April 23, 2019 at 06:20 PM