



## John Martin Gehl

January 22, 1937 - August 14, 2020

GEHL, John Martin

After a brief, cascading illness, John M. Gehl passed away peacefully on August 14, 2020, in Canton, GA. His life was filled with laughter, family and friends.

John Martin Gehl described being born, much to his own surprise, “howling” on January 22, 1937 in New York City. After a long subway ride, his parents Anthony “A.J.” Gehl and Evelyn Barrette Gehl raised him in their modest 4th floor walk-up in the South Bronx with his older siblings Mary and Bob. His oldest brother Eddie had already gotten married and worked as a homicide detective for the NYPD.

John attended his treasured St. Luke’s Catholic “grammar” school where he learned everything from diagramming sentences, to stickball and the malleability of rules in general. John was later admitted to the all-boys, all-scholarship Regis High School, an elite Catholic prep school in Manhattan where he excelled academically. Preferring “less-sweaty” activities, his participation in the glee club netted him a few performances in Carnegie Hall, albeit in rented tuxedos. Via Grand Central Station, John’s next stop was the University of Toronto. Working through school on truly odd jobs such as “worm-picker” and as a dancing Mr. Peanut travelling across small-town Canada, he received a degree in English.

After a brief stint at McGraw-Hill publishing in NYC, John was drafted into the U.S. Army, admirably serving as a Specialist 5 and possessing a top-secret clearance at the Army Signal School. John received probably the best compliment in his life in the barracks one evening when the company “badass” who had one too many beers at the canteen decided to walk from bed to bed, acutely describing the failings of each person in the room. When he got to John’s bunk, he loudly declared, “Let me tell you blankers something – I’d rather be in a foxhole with Gehl any day than with ANY of you blanking, m\_\_\_\_\_blankers!”

John met Carolyn Gilmore, the love of his life, in San Francisco. Following a whirlwind,

two-week romance they became engaged, and soon thereafter were married in Carolyn's hometown Pensacola, FL. His father- and mother-in-law Quigley and Harriett Gilmore warmly welcomed John into the family, as did Carolyn's siblings Lonnie and Nancy. John and Carolyn moved to Atlanta in 1967, raising two sons, Tom & Andrew, in Emory Village.

John received a master's degree in Information and Computer Science from GA Tech. His career primarily revolved around higher education administration, working at GA Tech in the College of Computing including serving as director of Computing Services, and at Spelman College as director of policy and planning. He retired from GA Tech after twenty years to serve as Editor & Publisher of Educom Review, a bi-monthly magazine on information and technology. John was Founder & President of NewsScan Inc., one of the first technology summaries distributed via Internet in the late nineties and early 2000's.

A voracious reader of authors from Robert Caro, to Ezra Pound and Ludwig Wittgenstein, John enjoyed writing plays, operas and even a murder mystery novella. His play "Thank You for Shopping at Everyman's" was performed by theater companies, and he found great joy in producing the written word.

John and Carolyn have lived in Soleil, a retirement community in Canton, GA since 2007. Ever the idea man, it was John's inspiration to found the Soleil Readers' Theater which for the past five years has produced readings, skits, musical performances and plays in the community clubhouse.

Above all, John loved his family and friends. John was preceded in death by his siblings, his niece Heather Van Dresar and his nephew Todd Buck. He is survived by Carolyn, his wife of over 54 years, son Tom and daughter-in-law Sarah Beth, son Andrew and daughter-in-law Tiffany, and grandchildren John Owen Gehl, Lydia Caitlin Gehl, James Alexander Gehl, Matthew Peter Gehl, and Nathaniel Quigley Gehl. He also leaves behind his brother- and sister-in-law Lonnie and Pam Gilmore, his brother- and sister-in-law Steve and Nancy Buck, nephew Adam Buck and his wife Keri, Mark Buck and his wife Danielle, all of Pensacola, Lonnie "L.G." Gilmore and wife Kara of Lafayette, CO, and many great-nieces and nephews.

John will be laid to rest at the Georgia National Cemetery after a private family service. In lieu of flowers, in this time of special need, please consider a donation to The St. Vincent de Paul Society of Our Lady of La Salette, 2941 Sam Nelson Road Canton, GA 30114.

# Cemetery

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## Georgia National Cemetery

Canton, GA,

# Events

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**SEP** **Graveside Service**03:00PM

**3**

Georgia National Cemetery

Canton, GA, US

# Comments

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“ Sincere condolences to the whole Gehl family. John was a great fellow that I wish I had gotten to know better.

**Preston Edwards** - September 03, 2020 at 07:42 AM

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“ Querido John, que difícil escribir estas líneas, pero no deseaba dejar pasar esta triste oportunidad para públicamente hacer saber del dulce e incondicional cariño que siempre nos brindaste a mi, mi hermana Lilia, mi esposo Edui y toda mi familia (también tu familia ) en México. Todos nosotros nos dolemos de tu partida y el hueco que por siempre quedará entre todos los que tuvimos la bendición de conocerte, tratarte y reírnos con tu gran sentido del humor! Tu amada Carolyn esta rodeada del amor, y el apoyo de todos quienes les amamos. Agradezco a Dios la bella oportunidad que me dió de poder hablar contigo solo una semana y media antes de tu partida y escuchar el ánimo con que me hablabas apesar de no estarte sintiendo muy bien. Muchas gracias John, por ese corazón grande y compasivo para los inmigrantes a quienes con tanta paciencia les enseñaste tu hermoso idioma. Hay tanto de tu gran corazón que pudiera compartir que por el momento solo puedo en medio de esta gran tristeza resumir todo con un GRACIAS muy querido John

**Ana Valente** - August 31, 2020 at 07:47 PM

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**Pam and Lonnie Gilmore** - August 29, 2020 at 05:46 PM

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**Pam and Lonnie Gilmore** - August 29, 2020 at 05:43 PM

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**Sarah Beth Gehl** - August 28, 2020 at 01:52 PM

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**Carolyn G Gehl** - August 26, 2020 at 03:58 PM

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**Carolyn G Gehl** - August 26, 2020 at 03:58 PM

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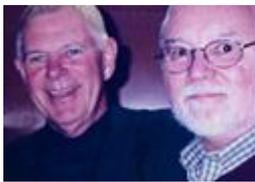


**Carolyn G Gehl** - August 26, 2020 at 03:57 PM

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**Carolyn G Gehl** - August 26, 2020 at 03:56 PM

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**Carolyn G Gehl** - August 26, 2020 at 03:55 PM

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**Todd Sanders** - August 25, 2020 at 09:07 AM

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“ We are grateful to have known John. He was a gentleman with a quick intellect and a great sense of humor. We will miss John's warmth, his story telling, jokes and clever quips. He left us with wonderful memories.

Bernadine and Tom Cutilletta

**Bernadine Cutilletta** - August 25, 2020 at 06:27 AM

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“ Carolyn and family, I'm so very sorry for your loss of your beloved John. John was so special ( you both are) to me. I tried posting a message late night , it was a bit long and described what I feel for John .After a hour I went to post it, it never showed up on here. I wished that I would have copied it.

Anyway I will write to you separately so I that I don't take up too much space here. However I do want to tell you that I adored John. He was so supportive of me and always pushed me out of my comfort zone. He talked me into SRT, he got me to try new things, act, direct....etc. I will very much miss our conversations on plays, musicals, and ideas for shows. John was such a wonderful, jovial , talented man. He saw in me what I didn't see in myself. John was a mentor to me and helped me so much! I'm so very blessed to have had him in my life, I hope that he knew what he did for me and how much he meant to me!!!!

Mich Rothstein

**Michelle Rothstein** - August 25, 2020 at 12:00 AM

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**Andrew Gehl** - August 24, 2020 at 03:47 PM

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**Andrew Gehl** - August 24, 2020 at 03:43 PM

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**Carolyn Gehl** - August 24, 2020 at 12:01 PM

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“ Rest In Peace our Friend, you were one terrific guy with a Life well Lived.  
Peggy and Bill Jordan

**bill jordan** - August 23, 2020 at 08:38 PM

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“ So sorry to hear of Johns passing. So sorry for your loss. I'm sure his memory will go on in so many of us touched by the honor and pleasure of having known him. Even in only having a few opportunities to converse with him, his presence will be missed.

**Jordan Rothstein** - August 23, 2020 at 08:28 PM

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“ John was like the Dos Equis man to me. One of the most interesting men in the world. Always fascinated me with his musings and stories. Was honestly interested in almost everything. I'll never forget that he took a real interest in my daughter's activities in theatre even though he had only met her once. A man with many interests, but was always interested in everyone else.. Great sense of humor. The world lost a first class citizen. Enjoy the other side John. You deserve to be at peace!

**Gary L Selden** - August 23, 2020 at 06:44 PM



“ I agree Gary.

**Michelle** - August 25, 2020 at 12:09 AM

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“ Our condolences to Carolyn and family. We loved John as a friend and so enjoyed his humor. Also remember him as an author and his involvement with the readers theatre.

**roger and mary lu albee** - August 17, 2020 at 04:11 PM

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“ We are sorry to lose one of our favorite people. John was always so upbeat and a pleasure to be with. We are sorry that we didn't see both of you more often.  
Marci and Ernie Zied

**Marci and Ernie Zied** - August 17, 2020 at 10:15 AM