



John Thomas Dillon III

February 24, 2024

John Thomas Dillon III of Vernon, CT died on February 24, 2024. John was born on July 2, 1964, in Meriden, Ct to John T. Dillon and Lois Dillon. He grew up on Orcutt Drive and Leete's Island in Guilford with his sisters, Mary Beth Peatfield, Lauren Knight and Bevin Dillon. He graduated from Choate Rosemary Hall in Middletown, and Lehigh University.

John was the kindest of souls. He spent every single day trying to make people's lives better, easier, and more magical. As one friend said, "John just loved." It would be an impossible feat to explain the many things John did to alleviate suffering wherever he saw it, fix problems, and keep peace. He loved whimsy and would do things for others simply because he thought any random weekday might be a great day to bring some joy and wonder, or maybe a chocolate mousse, to someone. From neighbors, friends, family, local business owners, and people he never met but had heard might need some help, John just made our lives better. He was not grandiose, but quietly generous with a constancy and steadiness that we all relied on. John worried about, defended and supported the people and animals he cared for, and if he knew you, he cared about you. He enjoyed talking to people out at his little free pantry, which he filled with not only food, but also school supplies, pumpkin pie making kits at thanksgiving, Easter and Valentines candy and smores fixings in the summer. When everyone was stressed by historical events, he made a Tik tok channel that was to be like a calming Mr Rogers for adults. He loved life, spoiled his dogs and family, enjoyed watching his eight

bird feeders, planted hundreds of bulbs every fall in his garden, and had fun planning guerilla gardening dates.

John worked as a software engineer at RTX (Ratheon/Pratt and Whitney) for many years. He also had a surprising number of other skills. He was a great chef, tentmaker, a master tailor and costumer, wood carver, carpenter, skilled handyman, and D and D dungeon master. He hosted Lego parties, Easter-egg hunts, cookie decorating parties, and pumpkin carving parties. During holidays he would cook pies for two days so that early that morning he could drive around delivering pies to friends and family all over the state. He also was a storyteller, especially stories with surprise endings, and sometimes a little shock value. He taught us to be prepared, that when there is a problem, you can learn how to fix it and that giving generously is not only a joy, but what life is about.

John joined the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) in 1988 and was a proud member of Clan Kveldulf (a group of enthusiasts who specialized in Viking history). In his almost 40 years in the SCA, he became well known for his wide array of knowledge, for which he was recognized by being inducted in the Order of the Laurel, and for his great service, for which he was inducted into the Order of the Pelican. At Pennsic, the annual medieval festival that has more than 10,000 participants every year, he founded a camp group, McGuire's Marauders, and encouraged shenanigans for which there are songs and stories told, even today.

There will never be another man like John Dillon in the world again.

John leaves behind his father John Thomas Dillon Jr., his wife Miela Gruber and stepchildren Cambryn Chiavaroli, Raven Gruber, Joseph Cooley, Lyra Gruber and Liam Gruber, his grandchildren Talullah Pitts and Juna Quick, his sisters Mary Beth Peatfield and her husband Bruce Peatfield, Lauren Knight and her husband Ryan Knight and Bevin Dillon, and his nieces and nephews Kristina Stearns and Drolma Dondrup, Jacquelyn and Cyril Higgins, Jessica Stearns, Reilly Corsaut and Colton Knight, and Grandnieces Gabrielle Carrico and Sonam Wangmo, his godchildren Raki and Dorothy, his Apprentices and

Protégés, the Marauders, many other friends, and his beloved puppies Lucy, Lily and Blue.

“Make Trouble, Don’t Get Caught.”

At John’s request, there will be a memorial gathering and bon fire to share memories, stories, song and hugs on April 6 at 2:00 at 103 Union St Vernon, Ct 06066 in the gardens that John planted and loved. There will be food, and attendees are invited to bring a dish that reminds them of John’s wonderful cooking which he so often shared. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to your local food pantry or shelter.

Tribute Wall

SK

“ I'm so sorry John is gone. I knew him for years through the SCA (our medieval group), though it has been way too long since I last saw him. I will always remember his humor, talent, kindness and generosity, and I will think of him whenever I wear a piece of his work which I am lucky enough to have. My sincere condolences to all who knew and loved him. Ygraine.

Susan Kell - March 07, 2024 at 10:16 AM

MA

“ Please accept my deepest condolences, I was so saddened to hear of John's passing. I had the opportunity to work with John and share a common love of technology, aerospace and medieval history. I'll miss the stories of his audacious and hilarious adventures at Pennsic. John's optimism and positive outlook were as dependable as they were deep. He always knew how to smooth things out and he helped people whenever he could. Knowing him improved my life.

Matthew Atwater - March 06, 2024 at 12:56 PM

DA

“please accept the heartfelt sympathy from my entire family....so sorry to hear, he will be missed...

Diana and Joel Anderson - March 06, 2024 at 12:12 PM

LL

“ So sorry for your loss. He sounds like a wonderful man.

Condolences to the whole family.

*From
The Livingston family*

Laurie Livingston - March 06, 2024 at 08:04 AM

GL

“ *It will take a long time for it to sink in that John is physically gone from our presence. Miela described so much about John in his OBIT, summing up many of my feelings toward John as well, tho I learned several new delights about John.*

Of his many attributes, his kindness and generosity stand out. I'm Miela's aunt and John welcomed our whole large clan into his home and life from Day One. John was so multi-talented and so lovingly accommodated his home for Miela and her family. He created her doctor's office and cultivated beautiful spaces for gardening--inside and out. He brought nature and humanity to all of us. We were never bored, nor hungry, with the feasts he served at family celebrations.

Without John's kindness, wit, brilliance, gentleness and generosity, this world will never be the same. Along with so many others, I'm grateful for being in John's life, but I dearly wish he could have been with us a lot, lot longer.

Gloria Long - March 05, 2024 at 08:24 PM

NT

“ *Natalya Tchekmareva lit a candle in memory of John Thomas Dillon III*



Natalya Tchekmareva - March 05, 2024 at 05:42 PM

“ Dear Dr. Miela Gruber and the entire family of John,

It is with heavy hearts that our family extends our deepest condolences to you during this incredibly difficult time. We were truly saddened to hear of John's passing, and we want you to know that our thoughts and prayers are with you.

We had the privilege of meeting John during one of our appointments, and from the moment we encountered his smiling face and vibrant personality, we felt an instant connection. Our conversations with him extended beyond the usual small talk, delving into shared interests and passions. I fondly recall the day he shared his plans for decorating the waiting room, and somehow, our discussion effortlessly transitioned to the delightful topic of kimchi recipes. It was evident that John was a passionate cook, and his enthusiasm for culinary delights was infectious.

One memorable occasion stands out vividly in my mind – the day John graciously shared a spoonful of his chili with us. It was nothing short of perfection, and I couldn't help but marvel at his culinary skills. I, personally, attempted to decipher the secret ingredient that made his chili so phenomenal, and John, with a twinkle in his eye, revealed that he had stumbled upon a unique trick in an old cookbook. It was this very secret that transformed his chili into a culinary masterpiece.

In warmer months, as I stepped onto the sidewalk from my car, I often found John immersed in the beauty of his flower garden. Whether he was sitting on a bench in front of the house, planting new blooms, or meticulously caring for the flower beds, his dedication to transforming the front yard into a colorful tapestry of flowers was truly inspiring.

May God grant John the gift of life everlasting, and may His comforting presence console the grief that weighs heavy on the hearts of his loved ones. John's memory will forever remain in our

hearts, a testament to the warmth, kindness, and joy he brought into the lives of those fortunate enough to know him.

Natalya Tchekmareva - March 05, 2024 at 02:32 PM

 Bill
Card

“ *I met John several times, generally setting up tents or shows. Even in those brief moments, he struck me as a man who could do anything, and would be glad to do so for anyone. The reminiscences of others confirm that my brief opinion was on point; and I am sorry I will not have the chance to extend the line.*

Bill Card - March 05, 2024 at 01:55 PM

MA

“ *Actually I cannot believe John passed away. A couple of days before the surgery took place he told me to set up meeting as according to him he wouldn't require more than 2-3 days to recover. I will remember John for his funny and unique stories like the time he was dressed in medieval custom and armor working from from tent on software issue from Pratt while around him a medieval battle was simulated by 15000 people or the time he got accidentally got pulled over in Germany by undercover police officers after returning from the Netherlands. I would like express my deepest condolences to his family and loved ones. With John passing away a truly unique person has left us. Dutch colleague Mark Abcouwer*

Mark Abcouwer - March 05, 2024 at 01:44 PM



“ I met John at the Buttery and we almost immediately became friends due to shared interests in sewing and fabrics -- especially medieval sewing and fabrics.

When we met I was trying to figure out what folks wore for undergarments to get the drape shown in paintings. John set me straight with a detailed history and followed up the next day explanation and demonstrations about how shape and draping were achieved.

Over the next couple of decades we ran into each other at Buttery parties and SCA events. We always talked for a couple of hours without noticing either what was going on around us or the passage of time.

I'm saddened by his passing. The world is a poorer place. I'll remember him with pleasure.

Kristin Page - March 05, 2024 at 01:08 PM

MD

“ It saddens me greatly to hear of John's passing. He was so kind and always there to lend a helping hand at work. His laugh was contagious. I very much enjoyed John's storytelling and his excitement sharing pictures from the medieval festivals he would attend. My sincere condolences to his family, may he rest in peace.

Michelle Dederer - March 05, 2024 at 10:55 AM

MP

“ What to say about my brother who never got mad at anyone and tried to help everyone in his path? I taught him the meaning of self control early on. I made him so angry one time when we were kids that he ripped a small tree out of the ground. He decided then and there that he had to control his reactions. 😂 I will miss him.

Marybeth Dillon Peatfield - March 04, 2024 at 11:39 PM

LM

Marybeth. I am so very sorry for your loss..Your brother was a respectful, loving young man..my thoughts and prayers are with all of you..much love and many hugs, Lorraine McDevitt

Lorraine McDevitt - March 07, 2024 at 01:51 PM