



John A. ZIPAY "Big Z"

February 21, 1944 - March 15, 2007

John was an asst. director of the All-Ohio State Fair Band for 25 years. He was the band leader of "The Revue", formerly "George Staiduhar and The Revue", inducted into the Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame. He was the musical arranger for the Gene Fedorcek musical variety shows. He retired from the Cleveland Public Schools in 2000 after 33 years of service. He will be missed as a loving husband, father, professional musician and music educator.

He leaves behind his wife, Nancy and three children, Matthew Keri, Jessica & Stephanie.

Tribute Wall

MI

“ Hello,
It is my greatest joy to say hi to you on this beautiful and lovely day. Having said this, it is my wish to establish a long lasting and strong friendship with you. 'Friendship is the greatest blessing on earth and a friend is a gift our heart treasures. I hope you accept my proposal and i wait for your reply soonest for introduction. Yours miracle
miraclelarrycumbu@yahoo.com

miracle - October 12, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JV

“ I have played John's music on the air since his first recording "Polka's On The Slope" with George Staiduhar. I will feature him on April 2, 2007 on www.polkajammer.com at 10am and on Thursday the 5th at 4pm. My sincere condolences to his family. A wonderful person and great musician. I have known John and he is a great loss to Polka World.

Jayne Debevec Vadnal - October 12, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ To Mr. Zipay's family, I am so sorry for your loss. I met Mr. Zipay in the summer of 1999 as part of the AOSFB. By being a twirler and at the front of the band I often talked to the directors while the other kids were looking for their things and lining up. That year, there were a few days I wasn't feeling well. Mr. Zipay was concerned and told me I needed to go to the first aid station after our concert that night. So I did. My mom knew that and was always happy to know we were being so well taken care of while we were away from home. The memories of AOSFB are some of my most treasured, and Mr. Zipay a part of them. My thoughts are with your family.

Jara Henderson - October 12, 2016 at 12:00 AM

KJ

“ *My deepest sympathies to you and your family. Mr. Zipay was one of my favorite directors with All-Ohio State Fair Band. He will be greatly missed.*

Kevin Jakubczak - October 12, 2016 at 12:00 AM

WU

“ *We have lost another great Polka Music Legend. One of Americas best Saxophone players in the polka and ballroom music field. John will be greatly missed. I am sure that John is already tuning up the great polka band in the sky, for when we all are reunited with him in heaven, so that we all can dance to his music again, together. Along with Dick Flaisman, Norm Kobal and others, I regarded John as my favorite. It is no wonder that we all called him the BIG Z. We called him that because his musical ability was a BIG DEAL!!! God bless The John Zipay family and everyone that ever heard him play, or has ever performed next to him on stage. Goodbye John, until God reunites all of us again in heaven, the big POLKA BALLROOM in the sky!*

Walter Unglaub - October 12, 2016 at 12:00 AM

NT

“ *Please accept my deepest sympathy. John and I had two things in common: the same birthday, and music. I played Bass with the "Tony Klepec Orchestra."*

John, will be missed by all the professional musicians who knew him. His death serves to remind us that every day is important.

May God bless, keep, and comfort you, at this time of great sorrow.

Nick Timcisko - October 12, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *My sympathy to all of the family. It was a honor to know him. I will always treasure his music. What he leaves behind will never be forgotten. Val Pawlowski Polka Radio 830 WKTU Cortland*

October 12, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Nancy & Family,*

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to all of you. The music world here will really miss John. He now has a bigger band to direct in his new life.

Dick & Helen Kuciemba

Richard & Helen Kuciemba - October 12, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *John will be greatly missed.*

You all have our deepest sympathy.

Paul & Betty Diurba - October 12, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Morilak, The picture of John is fantastic. His personality completely comes through. The memorial text is also lovely. I'm praying for you and John and your family many times each day. May you be filled with peace strength from God and from all of those who love you during the coming days and months. Much love, Claeys and Marvin*

susan claeys - October 12, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PD

“ Nancy,
Susan & I offer our sympathy and prayers to you and your family.

Pete & Susan Dunda - October 12, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ Our condolences to Nancy and John's family. John was a special friend to us, having played at our 45th anniversary in Germantown, Wi and having stayed at our Arizona home when the band played here. Not only was John an exceptional musician but a wonderful, fun loving person who it was fun to be with. We enjoyed his humor in person and in his many emails. He will be dearly missed. That band in heaven is getting bigger and better all the time. Love, Don and Diane Kamin

Don and Diane Kamin - October 12, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Nancy,

I can't express how much I liked and admired John. My heart goes out to you and the kids.

God Bless my friend John. I will always miss him.

Jim Srnick

Jim Srnick - October 12, 2016 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ *With Heart Felt Sympathy for a Special Person who was part of our Life.*

Lou & Rosanne Fiedler - October 12, 2016 at 12:00 AM