

JOHN LAWRENCE MAFFEO was born on July 25, 1964, the second child of Angelo and Virginia Maffeo. John grew up in a boisterous, loving extended family with siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins. He always had fond memories of childhood family vacations in Turlock. No doubt it was Turlock heat, Turlock golf, Turlock cows and Turlock values that prompted him to eventually settle in the San Joaquin Valley. He had fond memories of childhood family vacations at Lake Tahoe, where he swam in the icy alpine lake, enjoyed the beautiful mountain scenery and established himself as the undisputed master of working a casino hotel buffet! He had especially fond memories of childhood family vacations at Bodega Bay where he was a very competitive ping pong and pedro player.

A mathematics and economics wizard, John graduated from Skyline High School in 1982 with a perfect 4.0 grade point average in a time before the invention of GPA- inflating "honors classes". Proud 1986 honors graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, it was not unusual for John to greet family and friends with a hearty "GO BEARS!", even outside of football season! John graduated from Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine in 1991 and although he was never a fan of snow, he was always happy to sing out "Chicago Is My Kind of Town." He always made an exception for that song, as most of the time John preferred to channel Elvis.

Throughout his professional career, John championed the needs of the medically underserved patients of the San Joaquin Valley. He gave freely of his time and talents while working for the Veterans Administration Health Care system, the Fresno Native American Health Center and Sequoia Community Health Care Centers, where he last served as Chief Executive Officer. John's vision led to the establishment of the Health Care for the Homeless Program and the Integrated Behavioral Health Program in Fresno.

John met Marleen Coronel when he and Marleen were completing Internal Medicine residencies in the UCSF-Fresno program. They were married in June of 1999. In two years, they were blessed with a wonderful son, Mark. Three years later, they were blessed with a wonderful daughter, Kathryn.

John fully invested himself in the role of Dad, enrolling himself in two (!) Boot Camps for Dads to be better prepared for fatherhood. He made sure every time spent with the children was fun and filled with activities and "silliness". He cleverly improvised on nursery rhymes and was especially proud to make up cheers for Montessori Preschool and Gettysburg Elementary. He instilled a love of sports to Mark and drove him back and forth through numerous practices and games. He was fond of his "Special K," and was thrilled to be at the Father-Daughter dance this year.

John will be remembered for his keen intellect and his lively wit. He will be remembered for his love of Cal football and all that a sense of school spirit represents. John will be remembered for his commitment to the Valley. He will be remembered for the courage, grace and dignity he showed when he was diagnosed with myelofibrosis and subsequent acute leukemia and how he fought his most for his loved ones. Most of all, John will be remembered as a loving husband and a devoted family man whose children always rose to meet his high standards of character and academic excellence.

We will miss John but feel fortunate that our lives have been blessed with the brief time spent with him.

It was John's wish that any donations made by family and friends in his memory be directed to the Central Valley Health Network (cvhclinics.org)

GO BEARS!