



John Samuel Cox

JAN 3, 1961 - APR 8, 2022



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5
Media	Page 16



John Samuel Cox

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Cox, John Samuel, 61, of Land o Lakes, passed away peacefully on April 8, 2022. Sam was born on January 3, 1961, in Little Rock, Arkansas to the late Dulin M. Cox and Mildred Cox.

With over three decades working in safety and security, Sam's life reflected the profession he loved. After graduating high school at Catholic High School for Boys in 1979 in Little Rock, Arkansas, Sam attended the University of Arkansas where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and a Master's degree in Police Administration, graduating in 1986. Shortly after, Sam joined the training division of the University of Arkansas Police Department, where he served for five years. He became the Chief of Security at Washington Regional Medical Center in Fayetteville, Arkansas, where he worked for twelve years. In 2005, Sam transitioned to Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service as a Program Coordinator with the Department of Homeland Security and became the Critical Infrastructure Key Resources Specialist until 2014. Sam then served at Oklahoma State University as the Director of Security, Safety, & Risk Management for over 3 years before moving to Tampa, Florida and assuming the Director of Public Safety & Emergency Management with Hillsborough Community College. In each of these positions, Sam made close, life-long friends that he cared for deeply. His favorite moments were spent with his kids and grandkids, but especially with his wife, who was his very best friend, as they consistently visited the happiest place on earth, Walt Disney World. He'll always be remembered as the goofy, brilliant, kind man that left a forever impression on our hearts.

Sam is survived by his loving wife of 21 years, Susan Cox; his children Angela Tison (Brian), Andrew Poole (Denna), and Lindsay Garrow (Nathan); grandchildren Jaiden (Ryan), Abigail, Lily, Evan, Liam, and Jayden.

A small celebration of life will take place on Thursday, April 14th at 6:00pm for local friends of Sam in the gathering room at the Mystic Pointe condominiums in Land o Lakes, Florida. A formal memorial service will be held for him in Oklahoma City at a later date that will be updated here when arrangements have been finalized.



Obituary

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*In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation on Sam's behalf to the American Heart Association to benefit those that may experience the same fight that he fought so well.



Tribute Wall

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Judith Gaspar posted:

I first met Sam at my district orientation. He loved talking about time with his family (Disney:). He was always very helpful when I needed his expertise. I will never forget using my phone system at district for the first time. Instead of dialing the 9 for an outside line, I kept dialing 9-1-1. Sam was quick to call me and make sure I was okay. We laughed so much! A few minutes later, I didn't realize I did that two more times. Sam was always so kind to me and very funny. My heart goes out to all of you. RIP. Judy Gaspar

April 28 at 8:38 AM



Aimee Busquet lit a candle in honor of John.



April 19 at 2:59 AM



Edgar Martinez lit a candle in honor of John.

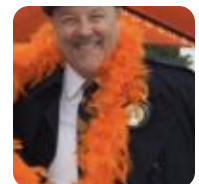


April 18 at 4:43 AM



Brad Williams shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I worked with Sam at OSU-OKC. He was a great man, and a tremendous advocate for student success and campus safety. I'm so sorry for your loss. Photo from "paint this town orange" event.



April 14 at 7:54 PM



Karin Martin lit a candle in honor of John.



April 14 at 9:08 AM



Tribute Wall

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JAN 3, 1961 - APR 8, 2022

CH

Carl Hubbard lit a candle in honor of John.

Thanks for help over the years. Good man rest up

April 14 at 8:32 AM



DM

Debra Magwood lit a candle in honor of John.

April 14 at 4:43 AM



DM

Debra Magwood April 14 at 4:45 AM

Keeping the family in prayer.

JM

J Malcolm lit a candle in honor of John.

My condolences to Sam's family. I only met him once but he was definitely full of life....may his soul rest in peace.

April 14 at 4:42 AM



QF

Quincy Felicidadario lit a candle in honor of John.

April 14 at 4:34 AM



Stacy Beasley lit a candle in honor of John.

Sam was great friend and co-worker and I was privileged to have been able to met such a amazing person

April 14 at 4:29 AM



LE

Linda Edwards lit a candle in honor of John.

April 14 at 4:28 AM





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RO

Rommel posted:

My sincere condolences to the entire Cox family. Our prayers go out to you all during this difficult time....Rommel Montenegro

April 13 at 2:21 PM

CR

Cristina R. posted:

I only met Sam once but he left a profound impact. I will always remember the advice he gave me-- and the way he gave it with humour and a smile. He will be missed, and I send the deepest condolences to his family.

April 13 at 12:27 PM

PW

Paul Wetmore lit a candle in honor of John.

April 13 at 11:52 AM



TV

Tia Vickers lit a candle in honor of John.

April 13 at 11:51 AM



TP

Tina Petrie lit a candle in honor of John.

April 13 at 10:54 AM



DJ

Deb Kish Johansen lit a candle in honor of John.

April 13 at 10:52 AM





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JAN 3, 1961 - APR 8, 2022

MI

Mike posted:

He was a friend and boss, I will miss him!!Mike, 41

April 13 at 8:07 AM

JV

Jamie Villalona lit a candle in honor of John.

You will be missed, Sam! Prayers for your family during this time.

April 13 at 7:43 AM



JL

Joseph Luc posted:

Sam was one of the greatest and funniest public speakers I have ever known. He will be missed immensely.

April 13 at 7:38 AM

BS

Brenda Sanchez lit a candle in honor of John.

April 13 at 7:34 AM



BM

Bill Melendez lit a candle in honor of John.

April 13 at 7:29 AM



NB

Nicole Barger lit a candle in honor of John.

Sam was great to work with and always so helpful. He was always my go to if I needed assistance. He will be missed! Condolences to his family.

April 13 at 7:23 AM





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JAN 3, 1961 - APR 8, 2022

HM

Heidi Mahoney sent a virtual gift in honor of John.



April 13 at 7:11 AM

HM

Heidi Mahoney April 13 at 7:12 AM

Thank you for your service to HCC and our community. May you rest in peace. My love and prayers go out to all of the family.

TC

Trudy Cruz posted:

Sending prayers to the family during this difficult time. May you find peace in your memories.

April 13 at 7:02 AM

DR

David Ross lit a candle in honor of John.



April 13 at 6:55 AM

RR

Rose Ramsay lit a candle in honor of John.



April 13 at 6:54 AM

RR

Rose Ramsay April 13 at 6:57 AM

Sending healing prayers...I am so sorry for your loss.

SJ

Simone Jenkins lit a candle in honor of John.



April 13 at 6:52 AM



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JAN 3, 1961 - APR 8, 2022

DL

Dana Livesay lit a candle in honor of John.



April 13 at 6:49 AM

IM

Ivan Mesa posted:

I'm having Sam and his family in my family prayers. Every time you celebrate his life, remember that love and great memories don't have limits of time or space, they will be always with us.

April 13 at 6:48 AM

RS

Rebecca Shafer lit a candle in honor of John.

I met Sam during our Management training class and he was just so likeable, he was so easy to talk to. We had a lot of fun during that class and I so enjoyed getting to know him better. I was so saddened to hear he had passed. I am sending my deep felt condolences to his wife and family. Sam was a great guy with a great personality. I feel blessed to have known him. I will keep every one in my thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time.



April 13 at 6:48 AM

DL

Dana Livesay posted:

Sam was the best HCC Director of Public Safety that I can recall in the past 25 years. He was intelligent, funny, and serious about the safety of his colleagues. It's a shock that he's gone. My prayers go out to his family.

April 13 at 6:48 AM

KA

Karyn posted:

I didn't know Sam very long but he nevertheless left a lasting impression. As a new employee, it was my privilege to have met him at an HCC new employee orientation meeting about 8 months ago. I felt as though he may have missed his calling as a stand-up comedian - what a larger than life personality! My condolences to his family and to all who knew and loved Sam. Karyn VDMK - CPP@HCC.

April 13 at 6:46 AM



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JAN 3, 1961 - APR 8, 2022

JR

Julie Richardson lit a candle in honor of John.

April 13 at 6:42 AM



CC

Cheryl Caban lit a candle in honor of John.

Gone way to soon my dear friend. In behalf of the Sodexo family at Hillsbrough community college we deeply want to send our sincere condolences to the family.

April 13 at 6:41 AM



IM

Ivan Mesa lit a candle in honor of John.

April 13 at 6:39 AM



LW

Latosha Williams lit a candle in honor of John.

April 13 at 6:37 AM



LL

Laura Lee posted:

Sam was such a gentleman especially when he was all decked out in his finery, not to exclude his 'straw hat'...which I am sure he would correct me as to the appropriate terminology! We had many conversations about Marvel comics and comparisons between the past characters with today's. I was always amazed at his extensive knowledge of this topic as my grandson is super critical that his grandmother lacks in her ability to hold an intelligent conversation regarding the likes of Batman and Superman! My prayers and with the family during this time of great loss...

April 13 at 6:35 AM

GC

Ginger Clark lit a candle in honor of John.

Thinking of Sam and his entire family during these difficult times.

April 13 at 6:34 AM





Tribute Wall

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JAN 3, 1961 - APR 8, 2022



Karen Peach lit a candle in honor of John.



April 13 at 6:33 AM

KP **Karen Peach** April 13 at 6:34 AM
I will truly miss Sam...he always kept me smiling :)



Jay Muriel lit a candle in honor of John.

Sam had an amazing heart and always went the extra mile. I thank him for all of the prayers he has given to me and my family and warm encouraging words he shared. My condolences to the family and you all will be in our prayers. JM



April 13 at 6:31 AM



Nevaler Davis lit a candle in honor of John.



April 13 at 6:31 AM



Cris Legner lit a candle in honor of John.



April 13 at 6:29 AM



Yolanda Archie lit a candle in honor of John.



April 13 at 6:26 AM



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JAN 3, 1961 - APR 8, 2022



Laurimar Paniagua lit a candle in honor of John.

April 13 at 6:26 AM



Yvonne Arline lit a candle in honor of John.

April 13 at 6:25 AM



Arthur Cardarelli lit a candle in honor of John.

April 13 at 6:20 AM



Tom Leyden lit a candle in honor of John.

April 13 at 6:19 AM



Michele Menendez lit a candle in honor of John.

April 13 at 6:19 AM



Anna Maria Clark lit a candle in honor of John.

April 13 at 6:19 AM





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JAN 3, 1961 - APR 8, 2022

TM

Trina Munns posted:

I'm wishing you heartfelt compassion on such a stressful day. Grief is the last act of love we can give to those we loved. Where there is deep grief, there was also Great Love. Take care.

April 13 at 6:18 AM

TW

Thomas Walker lit a candle in honor of John.



April 13 at 6:18 AM

JJ

Joanne Joseph lit a candle in honor of John.



April 13 at 6:18 AM

DB

Denise Bristol lit a candle in honor of John.



April 13 at 6:16 AM

HC

Heidi Campbell lit a candle in honor of John.



April 13 at 6:15 AM

JB

Joe Bentrovato lit a candle in honor of John.



April 13 at 6:14 AM



Tribute Wall

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JAN 3, 1961 - APR 8, 2022



Lori Howard lit a candle in honor of John.

April 13 at 6:12 AM





Media

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Brad Williams shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

April 14 at 7:54 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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