

John Rowan, Jr.

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John was a family man and a creature of habit who always called his family every morning to wish their day well.

On February 23, 2001, in the early morning hours, John left for work and has not been seen since. Shortly after 5:00 a.m. he left home, leaving behind Caroline, his daughter Alycia, then 7 years old, son Robert, then 5, and his sister Linda.

When Linda awoke that morning and realized she had overslept, she had a very uneasy feeling that something was wrong. Her brother had said he would call her to make sure she was up in time for school, and it was very unlike him not to do so.

John was a family man and a creature of habit who always called his family every morning to wish their day well. Not only did he not call, he had left the door unlocked that morning, which was completely contrary to how he protected his family. When Caroline couldn't reach him by phone and didn't find him at his office, she called police who told her an adult had to be missing 48 hours for them to take action, but they did send a police officer to discuss the situation and visit the Itani partners.

John had sent us on a Caribbean cruise for our 36th wedding anniversary and I spoke with him twice while we were away. He was in great form then, so when he wasn't at the airport to pick us up, I got a terrible feeling. We called his mobile phone and got his voice mail, and my feet went to jelly; I knew his phone would be working since he was expecting us.

We searched and searched, becoming exhausted as we put up posters throughout the neighborhood, checked hospitals to see if he had become ill, still clinging to the hope that John would be found alive. But from the beginning, I never lived in hope. I voiced my fears to the police and pressured them, knowing my son was not missing of his own accord.

One month after he went missing, John's truck was found in a parking lot in Orlando, completely wiped clean – there was not a single fingerprint in the vehicle. That fact made police suspicious that foul play had occurred, and unfortunately reinforced our original concerns. In all that had occurred, not once did John's partners offer help of any nature. They joked and laughed in the office the day of his disappearance as recorded on a police report and have continually refused to speak to police or provide an alibi.

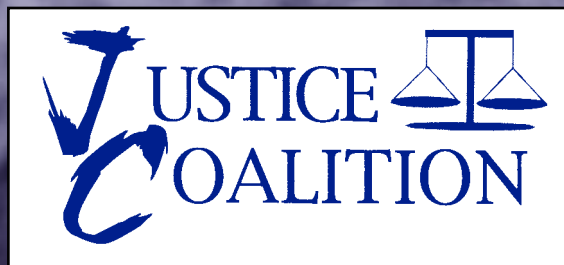
As our family has coped with John's loss, I have become involved in every detail of the case. I know I will never see my son again in this life, but I still keep searching for his body. We have followed every lead, both in terms of actual facts and events. We have taken help from everyone who has offered. We just want to find our son.

On one occasion a psychic we worked with led a police search of a landfill, but the excavation failed to find his body. Walking away from that search was one of the hardest things I have ever done; it was the biggest blow to me in trying to solve the case.

I spend my energies these days with other families who have missing adult children. I have lobbied local and state officials, which resulted in Governor Jeb Bush designating a special day each year for missing adults – March 5. We have also published a guide for families of missing adults to explain what should be done within the first hours and days of a disappearance.

I do all this for my grandchildren – I want Alycia and Robert to know the family has done everything possible to find out what happened to their father. I want them to know we left no stone unturned, because that is what their father deserved. And I am so proud of Caroline, how she has coped with her loss and been so courageous in rearing their two beautiful children.

I have shed endless tears for my lost son, but I will never give up hope that John's body will be found. You can cope with loss, but the "not knowing" is the most unbearable pain you can go through. It is there all the time; it never leaves you.



John Rowan Memorial Golf Tournament

Plan now to participate in the
**First Annual Invitational
Charity Golf Tournament**

Monday, March 19, 2007

Queen's Harbor Yacht and Country Club
Queen's Harbor Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32225

Tournament information:

Format: Four Player
Captain's Choice

Team prizes: \$4,000 Irish
Waterford crystal, Irish pottery,
silverware, linens, etc.

Contests with prizes: Hole-in-one,
longest drive, putting, closest to hole in
two shots on a Par 5, and longest putt

Sponsorships available:

Gold - \$5,000
Corporate - \$2,500
Team - \$1,500
Hole - \$1,000

Player entry:

\$250/player (includes greens and cart fees, range balls,
breakfast, lunch, prizes and a premium quality golf shirt.)



Irish-American golf tournament.

For more information, call Jack Boyd at 904-268-6679

JSO EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

VANESSA A. TRANQUILLE
Corrections Supervisor of the Month (Dec)



GLENN W. MORNINGSTAR
Police Officer of the Month (Oct)



RALPHALONTAE W. RILEY
Corrections Officer of the Month (June)



WILLIAM J. DOBSCHA
Police Supervisor of the Month (Sept)



ANGELA M. BINDEL
Civilian of the Month (May)



RONALD L. ALLAN
Reserve Officer of the Month (Dec)

