



## Mr. John Beckman Martin Jr.

December 19, 1958 - December 4, 2025

John Beckman Martin, Jr. of Morro Bay, CA passed away December 4, 2025 surrounded by family. John was born in Miami, Florida in 1958 and moved with his family to Atlanta, Georgia, Sherborn, Massachusetts, and finally Calabasas, California, but it was Sherborn that he remembered all his life. After moving to California, John became an avid surfer, surfing all the popular breaks, often hitchhiking to Malibu or Zuma Beach to surf with his friends. He graduated from Agoura High School in 1977 and in the fall of the same year, he attended University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) majoring in accounting with an unofficial surfing minor. Santa Barbara is where he met Deja, his favorite German Shepard. She was the first of a number of German Shepard family dogs—all beloved—Maggie, Aundi and Addie.

Although John valued accounting and UCSB had its good surf breaks, it wasn't for him. He transferred to the University of Oregon majoring in architecture his sophomore

year, and then later to California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo for landscape architecture where he completed most of the requirements for the degree. But a career as an architect wasn't for him either. He wanted a more practical and practice-based profession and became a licensed contractor. He perfected his skills as a finish carpenter, and found using his hands, working with wood fulfilling and very creative. John was an artist at heart who believed "form follows function," and this was evident in everything he did. He never quit designing, using some of what he learned at the universities in his cabinetry and woodworking, but primarily using his own exceptional sense of design. Ultimately, he became a master carpenter and furniture maker, one of a select few on California's central coast. Some of his most accomplished and innovative work occurred while working for and with his friend Steve Watt, two like-minded superior craftsmen who valued excellence in every project.

John and Kate met in 1986 when he came to do some work on her house in Tarzana. Soon after, she invited him to go to a Pink Floyd concert. From then on, they continued seeing each other, and eventually decided on an anniversary date of April Fools' Day 1987. This was the perfect date for their anniversary since John had a great sense of humor and always made Kate laugh.

Over the years, they attended many concerts and enjoyed good music, went skiing and kayaking with family and friends, and worked together on houses in California and Minnesota. John and Kate's final and best home project was their lake cabin in Longville, Minnesota. It reminded John of Sherborn and it felt like he was home. The desire for a lake cabin sprang from a belief that the best way to spend time with family is at the lake. After many summers with grandchildren swimming, pontoon surfing, splitting wood, canoeing the river and numerous renovation projects, a tradition was born. The family loves to say: "Life is better at the lake."

John is survived by Kate his loving partner of 39 years; daughters Mariah (David), Dawn (Ruedi) and Nicole; grandchildren Cole, Kiara, Siena, and Derek; sisters Carol, Kathy, and Kelly (Ken); nephews and nieces; and many extended family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents Jack and Gail Martin and grandson Dylan.

We welcome any who knew John and valued his professional expertise and personal friendship to join us in remembering his life at an Open House at 1107 Balboa St, Morro Bay on Sunday December 14, 2025 from 1:00-4:00 PM.

Please consider a donation in John's name to:

Central Coast Hospice <https://centralcoasthomehealth.com/>  
Jaqualyn Palchak Cancer Fund [www.Palchakcancerfund.org](http://www.Palchakcancerfund.org)

# Cemetery Details

## Cayucos Morro Bay Cemetery District

2451 Ocean Blvd  
Cayucos, CA 93430

# Events

**Details are pending.**

# Tribute Wall

JJ

“ *John’s calm and kind personality always stood out wherever he went. We feel lucky to have been able to spend time with him and his family over the years. He made the world a better place and will be missed. ~The Jacobs Family*

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**JJ Jacobs** - December 06, 2025 at 03:46 PM

PD

*John was such a great neighbor. I treasured his advice and his humor . He was always ready to help me . When my sons were young he asked if he could show them what to do with dirt clods. It was definitely a part of their education that I had unknowingly neglected. The last thing he helped me with was putting together a rocking horse. He told me that he loved his and still had it in his attic . I like to picture him riding it in heaven. Hugs to his entire family*

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**Penni Daugherty** - December 11, 2025 at 11:56 AM