



## Raymond "John" Wakeling

July 31, 1929 - January 16, 2021

John was born in Portsmouth , England. He came from a Royal Navy family, his father, William served during World War Two, and was a Coastguard, protecting the eastern coast of England from enemy invasion. John became a boy cadet and went on to join the Royal Navy and served on many British ships, and overseas. A career lasting three decades.

John was a jovial fellow who loved to "spin a yarn"! he had a huge repertoire of war stories, and stories of his naval career that he was ready to share with his grandchildren and his great grandchildren. He was an avid fan of football and rugby, and was somewhat of an expert, given his varied career as a sports coach..

His accomplishments range from coaching a British Olympic swimmer, being part of the Royal Navy gymnastic team, swimming team and representing Great Britain in Boxing.. He refereed an international Boxing tournament at the prestigious Royal Albert Hall, which was televised.

He and his wife, Frances ,of seventy years met at a ballroom school in Portsmouth, and have two children. Their love of ballroom dancing remained their hobby well into their golden years, while enjoying a close family life in the desert of Las Vegas, Nevada.

John is survived by his sister Betty in Hampshire, England. His wife, Frances now living in Las Vegas. Their son and daughter, four grandchildren and four great grandchildren on both sides of the Atlantic. He was deeply loved and will be greatly missed.

When tomorrow starts without me  
And I'm not here to see  
The sun should rise  
and find your eyes  
All filled with tears for me  
I wish you wouldn't cry  
The way you did today  
While thinking of the many things  
We did not get to say  
I know how much you love me  
As much as I love you  
Each time that you think of me  
I know you will miss me too  
When tomorrow starts without me  
Please try to understand  
That an Angel came and called my name  
And took me by the hand  
The angel said my place was ready  
In heaven far above  
And that I would have to leave behind  
All those I dearly love  
But when I walked through  
Heaven's gates  
I felt so much at home  
When God looked down and smiled at me  
From his golden throne  
He said this is eternity  
And all I promised you  
Today for life on earth is done  
But here it starts anew  
I promise no tomorrow  
For today will always last  
And since each day's the exact same way  
There is no longing for the past  
So when tomorrow starts without me  
Do not think we're apart  
For every time you think of me,  
Remember I'm right here in your heart

# Tribute Wall

PW

“ *My condolences to John's family on the loss of this delightful man. My husband Terry Kane and I knew John and Frances because of the senior dancing and enjoyed their friendship. The poem is lovely.*

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**Patricia J Wunder** - January 23, 2021 at 12:00 AM