

John Eugene Buehler, Jr., 1947–2021



In July of 2021, the NIDCAP Federation International (NFI) lost a friend, a true champion of our mission, and a generous benefactor, John Eugene Buehler, Jr. Through the Buehler Family Foundation, John and his wife Deborah, supported the NFI on a very personal level for 20 years. John's support of his wife's work with premature infants grew quickly into a profound understanding and true appreciation of the NFI's importance to the international community of intensive care professionals and the infants and families in their care.

Giving was an integral part of John's personality and his life choices, and as the NFI became a part of the fabric of the Buehler life, support of its mission became a philanthropic priority for them. John was a pillar of strength behind Deborah's efforts to advance the organization and in particular to design the face of the NFI and advance its reach in the world. John's generosity touched many aspects of the organization and is most recently and notably apparent in our new website, launched on the 20th anniversary of the NFI's founding.

The new website was achieved with the sole financial support of the Buehler family – a gift that lives to further the reach of NIDCAP and will do so for many years to come.

John was a caring, bright presence in the world, a compassionately-minded individual from whom the NFI's well-being has been nurtured and sustained, and for which the NFI is fortunate and grateful. For John Buehler, the NIDCAP Federation International truly was a labor of love.

Please learn more about his presence in the world through his obituary on the following page.

We thank John and Deborah, and their children, Josh, Kate and Ian for their generous contributions to the NIDCAP Federation International and we extend our heartfelt condolences to them for their loss.

As you read the *Developmental Observer*, be reminded of John, who was a contributing force behind the naming of the *Developmental Observer*. John's legacy of support lives on in many ways, and the NFI and its members are forever thankful.

Gloria McNulty and Sandra Kosta

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John Eugene Buehler, Jr., known as Gene to his family and college friends, died in Marin County, California on July 25, 2021. He was born in Syracuse, New York on December 3, 1947, the only child of John Eugene Buehler, Sr. and Jane Mary Agnes Roe Buehler. He is survived by his beloved wife of 32 years, Deborah Moir Buehler of Mill Valley, California, his three children Joshua D. Buehler, Kate R. Buehler and Ian P. Buehler, and his parents-in-law Joan P. Moir and Virgil P. Moir III.

After graduating from Christian Brothers Academy in Syracuse, John attended Boston College as a freshman in September 1965 and graduated in June of 1969. Soon thereafter, he served in the US Navy as an Electronics Technician, traveling the world and serving valiantly during the Vietnam Conflict, while earning the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and Vietnam Campaign Medal. John returned to Boston, his adopted home. He earned his JD at Suffolk Law School while serving as an editor on the Law Review. He later did graduate work at The Georgetown Law Center. After a stint serving as a clerk for the Rhode Island Supreme Court, he became an associate at Bingham, Dana & Gould LLP, working in the Investment Securities Department. He then took a position as Associate Counsel in the Investment Law Division at the John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company. In 1987, John moved on to become the General Counsel and Chief Business Development Officer at Energy Investors Fund Group in Boston, a private equity firm dedicated exclusively to the independent power and electric utility industry (the first of its kind). He became a Co-Managing Partner. John's vision and leadership spearheaded the remarkable growth of the company, establishing it as a leader in the industry.

John always remembered his roots and the core values that his parents and his beloved Granny Roe instilled in him. John was exceptionally honored by his Boston College affiliation and the friendships he made there. He was enormously proud of serving as a two-term member of the Boston College Board of Trustees. His business experience and love of his alma mater made him a valuable and guiding member of the university's governing body. In addition, he was an extraordinarily generous benefactor to the school he so dearly loved. He and Deborah

endowed The Buehler Sesquicentennial Assistant Professorship for educator scientists at BC's Lynch School of Education, supported BC's Veterans Memorial in honor of alumni who lost their lives serving in the military during wartime, and funded the John E. Buehler, Jr. Family Athletic Scholarship Fund for starting pitchers on his beloved BC baseball team in honor of his parents.

Many of his lifelong friends dated back to early days spent living in Fenwick Hall at BC. If "Friendship is like the Medicine of Life", the friendships that John had are a testament to that observation. John truly cherished the people in his life. His generous and engaging style of entertaining was legendary. He particularly loved The Sea Ranch in California where he was always happy hosting gatherings with family and friends alike, making everyone feel welcome. He was a BC football season ticket holder for four decades and he was proud to commandeer a loyal cadre of classmates, family and friends in their devoted attendance at games at Alumni Stadium and beyond.

John's journey was characterized by professional achievements, lifelong friendships, and most especially, by his love and devotion to his adoring family. He was exceedingly proud of the accomplishments of his wife Deborah and his spirited and talented children. John championed each member of his family in every way. He supported Deborah's work with the NIDCAP Federation International, the nonprofit organization for premature and ill newborns and infants and their families in hospitals. John was an enthusiastic supporter of Josh's career as fine dining chef, Kate's passion for early elementary school teaching, and Ian's dedication to BC business schooling and soccer playing. It was typical for John to balance organizing his demanding professional travels around his attendance at school, sports, restaurants, cultural and family events whether they were in California, Massachusetts or somewhere in between. No occasion or conversation with John would be complete without his inviting others to share in the love and pride he had for his family.

John was effervescent, charismatic, yet humble. He had the unique ability to make everyone in his presence feel happy and welcome. He is greatly missed by everyone who knew and loved him.