

Rest in Peace John Molnar

By Henry Hascup

John Molnar died in an industrial accident on Tuesday afternoon, May 31, 2022, at the age of 47. Middletown Sewerage Authority confirmed that he died in a work-related incident. Initial reports said that John had become trapped in a confined space.

John was born in Staten Island, New York, on October 21, 1974. At the age of one, his family moved to Middletown, New Jersey, where at 15, he began boxing for the Middletown P.A.L. in 1991. Peter Finn coached him for the entirety of his amateur career.



Overall, he won 10 amateur titles, including the Golden Gloves 3 times in 1993, 1995, and 1996 and the New Jersey A.B.F. Championship 3 times in 1994, 1995, and 1997. In addition, he was named the “*Most Outstanding Boxer*” of numerous tournaments that he entered and was voted “*Amateur Boxer of the Year*” by the New Jersey Boxing Hall of Fame in 1996. Arguably, his name always factors into any discussion of the best amateur boxers New Jersey has produced.

John was co-managed by Peter Finn and Pat Lynch and trained by Jose Rosario and Mark Breland as a professional.

John made his professional debut on the Lennox Lewis v. Andrew Golata fight on the Atlantic City undercard. Early in his career, he had the good fortune to fight on the undercard of shows headlined by such fighters as Arturo Gatti, Michael Grant, and Pernell Whitaker.

John's first headline opportunity came when Showtime debuted its *"Showbox"* series in 2001. A rock-jawed welterweight, John proved to be an action fighter and a big crowd-pleaser in his bout with Victor Rosado, and more Showtime and ESPN opportunities followed.

Although John was undefeated in his first 17 fights as a professional, it was becoming apparent that a chronic shoulder injury that first surfaced in 1997 would shorten his career, and he finished with a record of 20-2-2 (KO 10/KO by 1).

Following boxing, John worked for the Township of Middletown and the State of New Jersey.

Despite a hectic schedule John still found time to coach basketball, Little League and make occasional appearances to work with the young fighters at the Middletown P.A.L., where it all started for him.

John was inducted into the New Jersey Boxing Hall of Fame in 2017.

