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John Candy: His Great Life and Untimely Death

# Introduction

Every now and then, we hear shocking news about an unexpected death of a remarkable person. But it is not so often that the public would keep sweet sentiments for someone who had been dead decades ago.

John Candy was among those remarkable individuals who have left a mark in thousands of hearts. He had a great movie career. He was known as someone genuine and nice. The world had lost a legendary man when he died far too early in life.

# Body

1. Candy’s short biography

Born on October 31, 1950, John Franklin Candy grew up in Toronto city's East York neighborhood. He lost his father when he was only four and his mother, aunt and grandparents took turns in raising him. He studied in Catholic schools where he played football and hockey. In high school, Candy discovered acting and started to appear in a number of productions.

In college, Candy studied journalism and acting at Centennial Community College, also in Toronto. Soon, he left school and pursued an acting career. There, the future comedian met his future collaborator, Dan Aykroyd, the person who encouraged Candy to try out for the Chicago comedy troupe Second City. His performance at his Second City audition was so admirable that he was invited to join the troupe's Chicago group right after. Since then, he appeared alongside comedy stars John Belushi and Gilda Radner until he returned to Toronto in 1974, working with Second City's Toronto group.

Soon Candy was playing small roles in Steven Spielberg's war comedy, 1941, in The Blues Brothers, and in Stripes where he manifested such great talent for comedy.

1. Candy as an unforgettable comedian

Candy was truly remarkable in his earliest movies, portraying such funny, lovable and innocent characters which suited his gentle personality very well.

In his smaller roles such as in National Lampoon’s Vacation, the big comedian delivered one of the film’s memorable lines. In Summer Rental, Candy’s role will actually make you feel good about a failed family vacation.

In Planes, Trains & Automobiles, Candy’s character helped create a fabulous holiday comedy that tugged at the heart of the viewers and helped them examine the values of camaraderie, friendship, and kindness.

1. Candy’s obesity and untimely death

Candy was at the peak of his career. He had just finished shooting his final scene in Wagons East. He felt good about his recent project and called some colleagues to thank them. He went to bed, probably quite full and tired and he never woke up. It was about six in the morning when the 43-year-old Candy died from a heart attack. When his colleagues and friends, Picardo and Lewis, heard the news, they both began to weep for their great loss.

When his family learned of the news, they were stunned by disbelief and utter pain. Other people who knew him just didn’t think someone so funny and seemingly healthy could die so suddenly and so young.

Candy’s obesity was a reason for his tragic death. Ironically, his obesity also helped him establish his personality in his career as an actor. "He doesn't add weight," wrote Pauline Kael in her New Yorker review of Candy's performance in Splash. "He adds bounce and imagination."

# CONCLUSION

For people to be so fondly remembered long after their passing, such as in the case of John Candy, it really does say something about their character. John Candy was such a great guy, a talented actor and a really warm person. It’s really not a wonder how he was able to make people laugh so easily. I hope his work will touch more lives today and in the coming years.

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