

OBITUARY

JOHN WARREN used his Army expertise in disaster recovery efforts around the world

Helped families when mass tragedies struck

By **CINDY GEORGE**
HOUSTON CHRONICLE

JOHN Warren, a strategist who assisted the families of those lost in mass tragedies all over the world, died April 17 in a motorcycle crash. The Spring resident was 58.

Warren coordinated people, boats and equipment for the state of Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina. He climbed through the mud and grass of Guam's hills to recover the personal effects of those killed in the 1997 Korean Air Flight 801 crash. He directed resources for the Australian government for that country's contribution to the 2004 Asian Tsunami disaster response.

Warren was vice president of corporate services at Kenyon International Emergency Services, a Houston-based disaster management company that handles crises and mass fatalities worldwide. Colleagues called him the "everything vice president."

Helped victims

He will be remembered especially for his compassionate response to relatives who lost loved ones in airline tragedies, said Kenyon president and CEO Robert Jensen.

"John worked to set up systems so they could decide what they wanted back and could be involved in the decisions. If a mother wanted to see the daughter's last letter or a husband wanted his wife's wedding ring, they got those things," Jensen said. "Families would call. They'd have questions. John would manage it so they'd have one number to call and one person to talk to."

John D. Warren was born Aug. 24, 1950, in Washington, D.C., to Joseph Delmas Warren and Betty Eileen Dye. Known as "Johnny" to friends, he was raised in Starke, Fla., a small town near the University of Florida, where he graduated as a commissioned Army officer. He retired after serving 25 years and transferred his experience managing deployable units



HANDOUT PHOTO

'EVERYTHING VICE PRESIDENT': John Warren was vice president of corporate services at Kenyon International Emergency Services.

in the Army to disaster resources at Kenyon.

Warren established college funds for all seven grandchildren, co-workers said, and enjoyed his family's annual summer vacations at Longboat Key, Fla., complete with an obligatory family portrait. In the last few years, Warren's work kept him in Houston coordinating supplies, equipment, transportation and portable morgues for disaster recovery efforts as well as food and lodging for disaster workers.

"John was very, very concerned about all of the staff and anyone who was involved in high-stress events," said Jerry Novosad, Kenyon's vice president of operations. "John was the most reliable person I know."

Warren's Harley-Davidson crashed on Interstate 45 early in the morning as he and his wife, who was injured in the wreck, were headed to South Padre Island.

Warren is survived by his wife of 40 years, Lynda; his son and daughter-in-law, John and Holly Warren; his daughter and son-in-law, Whitney and Mike Sip as well as his grandchildren, a brother and sister.

Warren will receive a military funeral at Arlington National Cemetery.

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