



John Van Graham

MAR 13, 1927 - JUN 7, 2015



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John Van Graham

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John Van Graham passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family on Sunday, June 7, 2015 at the age of 88. Beloved husband by first marriage to the late Estelle Cummings Graham and by second marriage to Margaret Patricia “Pat” Graham. Loving father of Stephen Carleton Graham. Step-father of Lovick “Vick” Thomas and Patricia Ann McNeal. Son of the late Alpha Taylor Graham and Van Graham. Brother of Patricia Graham Thompson, James Graham and William “Skip” Graham. Grandfather of Jennifer McNeal and Margaret McNeal. Also survived by nieces and nephews; longtime close friends Tom Brown of La Jolla, Ca. and J. R. Simms of Fulton, Md., both from OU class of 1950, and Bill Dietrich, Mandeville, La.

John enlisted in the Navy after his high school graduation at 17 and served from 1944 to 1946. John attended OU and graduated as a Petroleum Engineer in 1950 working in West Texas, New Mexico and Kansas. He took an assignment with Gulf Oil Corporation and worked in Nigeria and Denmark and was transferred to New Orleans where he retired in 1986 with Chevron. After retirement, he moved to Mandeville where he volunteered at the Samaritan Center for 10 years and also drove Meals on Wheels in Madisonville. He was a charter member of Franco's Athletic Club and enjoyed racquetball until his late 70's. John was a devout Christian and enjoyed being at church on Sunday. He was a Mason and joined the Cowboy Lodge in New Mexico where, according to history, their meetings were held on a full moon so the cowboys could ride in to the meetings by the light of the moon. John received his 50 year membership pin as a Mason in 2014.

The family would like to express thanks to the loving support and care received by the staff and residents of The Windsor and the many friends who were with him during the last days.

Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the memorial service on Saturday, June 27, 2015 at St. Timothy United Methodist Church, 335 Asbury Dr., Mandeville, LA 70448. Visitation will begin at 10:00 am with the service starting at 11:00 am. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions in memory of Mr. Graham to be made to St. Timothy United Methodist



Obituary

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Church or Community Hospice, 1007 W. Thomas St., Ste. A, Hammond, La. 70403. Please sign the online Guest Book at www.ejfieldingfh.com.

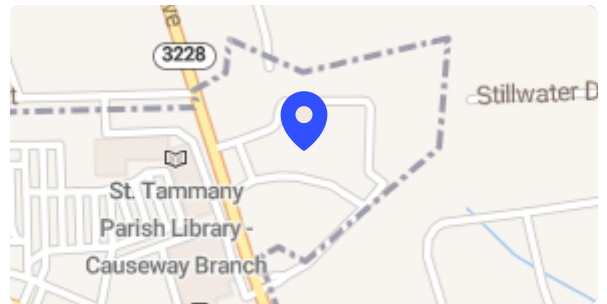


Events

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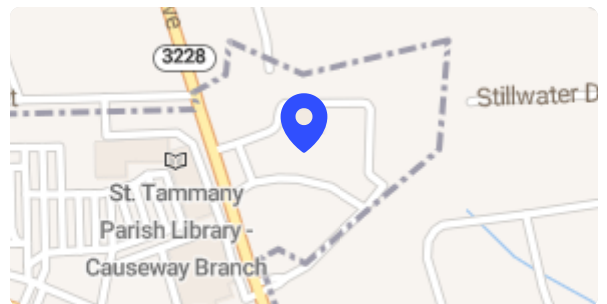
Visitation

- Saturday**, June 27, 2015
- 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CT
- St. Timothy on the Northshore**
335 Asbury Dr., Mandeville LA 70471



Memorial

- Saturday**, June 27, 2015
- 11:00 AM CT
- St. Timothy on the Northshore**
335 Asbury Dr., Mandeville LA 70471





Tribute Wall

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JB

Jane Brown posted:

John and Pat were in the Sunday School class I taught at Aurora Methodist Church. I also had known Estelle who was a loving and serving lady of our church family. I never saw John without a smile on his face and twinkle in his eye. He was an amazing man who not only was a Christian, but he lived his life giving to others. He was a blessing to everyone who knew him. I guess I never wanted to write this "good-bye, for now", but I know Heaven is a happier place now with John gracing the clouds. We will forever miss you. Our love, Jane and Gene Brown

June 29 at 3:38 AM

LC

Lorraine Chotin posted:

Dear Pat, I will always remember John's smile. He could hug you with his arms and warm thoughtful words. He was a tender generous soul and he will be missed. I will keep you and your family in my prayers and I hope your fond memories bring you comfort. With love - Lorraine Chotin

June 28 at 5:31 AM

CD

Catherine Danna posted:

John, I m really going to miss your hugs but, I know you are in a much better place than here. I will always remember the good times we had with Pat and Charlie. Pat you are in my thoughts and prayers. Love, Catherine

June 27 at 7:04 AM

WS

Willa And Matthew Stewart posted:

To the Graham Family, Matthew and I miss Mr. John dearly. He always greeted us with a smile, spoke kind words, and always gave us a hug that made us feel welcomed. He always asked each of us how we were doing even when he was not doing well himself. Mr. John was so kind, soft spoken, and a true definition of a gentleman. We miss seeing Ms. Pat and Mr. John sitting together on the front row in our Sunday School class. We remember the remarks he gave during our lessons. His comments were centered on God. We may not be present at his memorial tomorrow, but we feel him in our hearts and will remember his kindness. Blessings to you all, Willa and Matthew Stewart and Family

June 26 at 6:02 PM



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MA

Margaret posted:

Honey, My thoughts are with you during this difficult time as we remember and miss Granddad. I hope that the memorial is a beautiful tribute to Granddad and that it brings you comfort. With love, Margaret

June 25 at 8:16 PM

JE

Jenn posted:

Dear Honey, I'm thinking of you and missing Granddad. I hope Saturday's memorial service honors Granddad and brings you peace. Love, Jenn

June 25 at 11:15 AM

AM

Ann Mcneal posted:

Dear Mom, John left many imprints in our hearts. Since we can't be there Saturday for the memorial, Steve, Jenn, Margaret and I will keep a moment of silence honoring and holding John in our hearts and thoughts at 11:00 AM central time. You are loved, Ann

June 25 at 4:34 AM

BC

Bud Cowart posted:

Pat: Very sorry to hear of your husband's passing. It's been many years since we have seen one another, but I am Elray's (Bud) oldest son. I learned, via our cousin James, of John's passing. We will be praying for your family during these difficult times. Bud Cowart

June 24 at 5:13 AM

SP

Sandra Plastridge posted:

Dear, Dear Pat. . . . We are so blessed to have met such an extraordinary person as John. He was such a loving man. . . a true gentleman, and with such a kind and gentle heart. What fun John was to be around and so interesting to talk with. Bob and I had such great times with the two of you. . . going out to eat, playing bridge, and let's not forget the time we played pool. What a pool shark John was! Remember when we all went out dancing. . . what fun we always had. Pat, John was the best, but then you know that. Our prayers are with you and your family. John will be well remembered by all who knew and loved him, and will always, always be by your side. He lived a full life and may he now rest in peace. Our love to you, Sandra and Bob

June 24 at 4:45 AM



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BM

Babs Mollere posted:

Pat and Family, I read about John's death in today's Advocate and suddenly remembered your wedding day, Pat. I was so happy for both of you, and I believe my daughter, Simone, caught your bouquet! Much comfort to you and the family. John was a very fine man with exceptional taste in women. Love to you, Babs Mollere

June 23 at 3:33 AM

CW

Carol Waits June 26 at 2:35 PM

Some time ago I called John's daughter-in-law, Sandi Graham, just to chat. Sandi was in New Orleans with him at the time. He had a medical procedure, and as Sandi is a nurse, as well as a loving family member, she was at his bedside. When I inquired how John was doing, she put him on the phone. I'd only met John a couple of times before, but conversation was easy. I remember that he commented that where I lived, the Southern California desert, was the first place he'd ever had Baskin-Robbins ice cream. We both laughed and agreed that the desert's high temperatures that occur in the summer months are tolerable if you can have a little ice cream! This one little conversation speaks volumes about John. He was the one in a hospital bed recovering from some procedure, yet he took the time to connect with me and make me smile. My thoughts and prayers are with Steve, Sandi, Pat, and all of John's family and friends.

EB

Elizabeth Bauer June 23 at 2:17 PM

I knew John since the 80's, and played many racketball games with him. He was a dear, dear man who loved his family, enjoyed his friends and lived life to the fullest. Am lucky to have known him. My sympathy goes out to his family, Elizabeth Bauer

CH

Carol C. Hartwell posted:

Uncle John was one of my favorites and I was happy to see and talk with him each and every time it happened. He was always cheerful and as others have said had that wonderful and unique voice that was delightful to hear. We send our sympathies to Steve, Sandi, and Pat. Carol and Ted Hartwell

June 22 at 8:52 AM

JT

Judy TyrI posted:

God bless and comfort you in this new season of life Pat. Oh what a precious man John was to so many. His kind and gentle spirit was huge especially for me and Anees. You both have been a blessing in our lives. Love you. Judy TyrI

June 22 at 8:32 AM



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PW

Penny Wycoff posted:

There are too many happy memories to list here, but your sponsorship for my Cursillo and support every time I served changed my life. My heart always melted when John called me Penny Lou in his amazing voice. We shared many meals and fun times and John came to sit with my sweet Bill before he passed in Katrina. There will always be love and gratitude in my heart for the blessing of John and Pat in my life. Rest in the Lord, John, until we meet again.

June 22 at 7:08 AM

LJ

Laura Jones posted:

Pat, I will always remember John fondly. His crazy luge ride, his fondness for racquetball, celebrating my water baptism, his love for you! He cannot be replaced and will be missed by all who knew him.
Laura Jones

June 22 at 5:53 AM

MW

Mabel Wickboldt posted:

Dear Pat and family, So sorry I will be unable to be with you on Saturday. John was such a gentleman and a fine Christian. I will miss his slow, deliberate speech and lovely sentiments. I love the word picture of John's Masonic group in New Mexico riding to the meetings on horseback in the moonlight. Love to all, Mabel Wickboldt

June 22 at 2:11 AM

GW

Glen And Marilyn Wood posted:

We will certainly miss our Uncle John! He was always the taller than life man with the deep, wonderful voice, who never said a bad word about anyone. He loved and took care of his wonderful wife, Estelle, who was the baby sister of our Cummings family first generation. She picked the best of the best in John Graham! Love to our cousins, Steve and Sandi. Glen and Marilyn (Cummings) Wood

June 19 at 4:50 PM



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Dena Grosart posted:

I met John when he was a faithful volunteer here at the Samaritan Center food bank. He was our lovely gentle giant, quick with a kind word and a hug for all. He is dear to our hearts and will be greatly missed. Pat, may our Lord continue to bless you and your family with His peace that surpasses all understanding. Dena Grosart

June 17 at 8:27 AM



Paige Gunter posted:

The love and positive spirit that poured from John Graham was evident to everyone he knew. Pat, you are the same way. Individually, you both glow with the light of Christ. Together, you blazed! God welcomed John with wide spread arms. I can only imagine how much you will miss him. I'm praying for your hearts.

June 15 at 5:29 AM



Toni Ashlock June 24 at 11:43 AM

It is such a privilege to have grown up with uncle John in my life. He was the same man when I was 3 years old as he was when I saw him last at 60. Sweet, gentle, kind, and loving. He had a special gift for speaking the right words. Wise, kind words. Anyone who spoke with him could feel the love in his voice. Such a wonderful and special man, and truly a reflection of all that is good. Pat, Steve, and Sandi, I know that you feel his loss so greatly! You are in my prayers. Much love to you, Toni Ashlock



Joseph F. O'neil June 16 at 4:34 PM

I always enjoyed talking with John Graham when I walked in Beau Chene. He was a wise man, a veteran, and true gentleman. He, and his beloved dog, Rufus, will be missed by those of us who had the good fortune to have known them. Dr. Joseph O'Neil



Bruce Brannon June 15 at 5:48 AM

Paige said what I too feel. John and you were the the most Godly couple I have ever known ! My prayers go it to you and your family.



Debbie posted:

Our deepest sympathies for your loss & greatest blessing for having known John in our lives. He will be missed and remembered. With love Debbie & Herb Alexander

June 11 at 3:33 AM



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Reid Falconer posted:

One of the finest Men I have known. I will miss him.Reid Falconer

June 7 at 1:09 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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