



John Melvin Snook

March 27, 1934 - September 21, 2015

John Melvin Snook Obituary

John Melvin Snook, 81, of Bartlesville, died at 10:30 p.m. Monday, September 21, 2015, at The Journey Home Hospice following a strong fight against renal failure and other ailments. His family was at his side where they had been during the last several weeks of his earthly walk.

Celebration of Life Memorial Services will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Saturday September 26, 2015 at the Grace Community Church with Dr. Rod MacIrvine, pastor of the Grace Community Church officiating. Cremation arrangements and services are under the direction of the Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory.

Memorial contributions may be made in Mr. Snook's memory to The Journey Home 3406 S.E. Kentucky Ave. Bartlesville, OK. 74006, or the Comforting Hands Hospice 2450 S.E. Washington Blvd. Bartlesville, OK. 74006.

John was born at Christ's Hospital in Topeka, Kansas, on March 27, 1934 to Edward and Elizabeth Snook. His father was a Methodist pastor and times were never easy in their small pastorates. In time John was joined by his brother, Ray, followed by two sisters, Miriam and Priscilla. Their father then moved to the Pilgrim Holiness Church and pastorates followed in Kansas, Colorado and finally Oklahoma.

John grew into a strong young man, graduating from Grand Junction High School in Colorado in 1952. He received a scholarship offer from The University of Kansas in football, but due to a back injury suffered in pre-season practice he entered Colorado Springs Bible College that year instead.

Faced with a possible induction through the military draft, John applied and was accepted into the Air Force Program in 1953 and was stationed in Harlingen, Texas at that time. He graduated from Flight School in 1955 and soon became a flight instructor, coach and member of the first graduating class at the new Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO. He piloted B-52s and attained the rank of Colonel before his retirement from the Air Force Reserve.

Somehow during those busy days he found time to meet and date Marian Cunningham, and they were married in Colorado Springs, CO on March 25, 1955. Following their marriage, John soon became a minister at Pleasantview Holiness Church near Alva, OK. True to form John did several things at once as he was also the principal at Carmen-Dacoma High School as well as an English professor at Northwestern State University in Alva. During his career in education he earned a BA in English Education, an MA in Education and eventually a Doctorate in Literary Literature degree from Houghton College.

The family grew during their time in Pleasantville, with the birth of Carmen, Carleen, Cherie and finally John Melvin II completing the family over time. The family ministered to many through the years of their father's ministry and made friends all over the country during this time. John was sought after as a speaker to many youth and convention groups, as well as to local high school groups and classes where he touched many lives.

In 1973 the family moved to Bartlesville when John was hired by Bartlesville Wesleyan College, where he was named President in 1974. He was President

of the college for several years before moving to Manhattan, Kansas where he pastored Westview Community Church. He also had pastorates in Upland, California at the Upland Brethren in Christ Church, and then many good years at The United Methodist Church in Ellsworth, KS prior to his retirement in 2001.

Upon his retirement John and Marian returned to Bartlesville, OK where John became involved with Grace Community Church and was involved in several ministries at Grace. He found hospice ministry to be a particular passion and was responsible for Community Education and was the in-service director for both Cornerstone and Comforting Hands Hospice in Bartlesville. He was involved in the beginning of The Journey Home Hospice, where he spent his final days before he went to be with Jesus.

John is survived by his wife Marian, of the home, as well as by his four children and their families. They are Carmen Hall and husband Percy of Upland, California and their two children, John and Megan. Carleen Wade and husband Brad, of Pretty Prairie, KS and daughters Tara and Kary. Cherie Vanderploeg and husband Jim, of Austin, TX and their children Dori and Seth. And John II and wife Brenda, of Ft. Worth, TX and daughters Lauren and Molly and son John III. John is also survived by sisters Miriam Hawkins and husband Eldon, and Priscilla Hundley and husband Richard. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Ray Snook, who passed away in 1998 in Fredonia, KS.

Grandchildren and spouses are John and Shawnea Attwood, Megan and David Jenkins, Tara Wade and Marcus Myers, Kary Wade, Makiah Wade, Jessie and Dori Mahugi, Seth and Jackie Vanderploeg, Cody and Lauren McCurry, John Snook III and Molly Snook. Great Grandchildren are Logan and Abby Attwood, Liam Jenkins, Tayren and Mara Wade, Marcus and Miles Myers, Brenleigh and Malchia Mahugi, Jillian Manriquez, and more to come!

John was a strong figure and example in many lives and a loyal friend to hundreds of people in the world of both church and education. His sense of mission was formed in the Air Force and he was not easily dissuaded from reaching goals that he set for himself and for others. (Many of you reading this will well remember his “Three D’s Sermon” that spelled out his philosophy of life!) He will be missed by his family and all who knew him, and remains a giant of a man in the way he lived his life.

Friends who wish may sign the online guest book and leave condolences at www.stumpff.org.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

SEP **26.** 2:00 PM (CT)

Grace Community
1500 Kings Dr.
Bartlesville, OK

Tribute Wall



“ *John Melvin Snook*

October 23, 2023 at 04:40 AM



“ *John Melvin Snook*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *John and Marion were the best friends of my in-laws in Ellsworth, KS. John used to leave Dorothy notes every Subday about her organ playing, which meant so much to her. And after her stroke, he was a huge support to Karl as he took care of her. They were so very dear to my family. After we moved from Kansas to California, John was the one who had to call me with the sad news that Karl & Dorothy had been killed. He and Marion walked with us through the entire process of the funeral, the disposition of their possessions, and took great care of us for years after while they lived in Ellsworth. May God hold you, Marion, close at this time. I know it has been a long process. I love you still, my dear friend. And please know that you and your family are in my prayers.*

carolyn gaston dohermann - September 28, 2015 at 06:34 PM



“ *I knew of John earlier, but met him personally in the summer of 1981. He was the evangelist at the Wesleyan Camp in Texas, where I was doing the music. A privilege to work with him. He was a positive, affirming encourager. My condolences to his family. May God comfort you all.*

Bill Kinnan - September 28, 2015 at 01:36 PM

KK

“ With deepest sympathy at this time of loss.
Kristen Kaufman

Kristen Kaufman - September 27, 2015 at 10:36 PM

AM

“ *John Snook was president of BWC when our children Nancy, Ron & Marilyn attended there . John had a part in Rod's Air Force career at the Air Force Academy. Cheri was in Nancy's wedding. We thought a lot of the Snook family. Wanted to tell you Royce passed away on Sept 25 and his funeral will be at Greeley Wesleyan Church on Royce's 85th birthday October 6th. Royce had multiple strokes and other health issues. He will be sorely missed by his family. Suppose Royce & John will see each other in heaven?*

Anne Marshall - September 27, 2015 at 10:06 PM

DC

“ *President Snook was always such a positive influence to all the kids on the campus. I never heard him say a harsh word He was always encouraging and always told us that God cared for each of us and called us to BWC to be sent out into the world. Thank you for sharing him with us.*

Denise (Hunt) Choin - September 27, 2015 at 11:12 AM

DR

“ *President Snook was truly was a dynamic & loving presence in my life as a young college student. My love and prayers go out to his family and all who loved him!*

Dar Hanson Ridley - September 27, 2015 at 03:42 AM

KA

“ To the John Snook family: I first meet John when I began working for the Salina District. He was welcoming and continued to be friendly each time I would see him. I am sorry for your lose and will continue to hold you in my prayers.

Kathy Mastin

Kathy - September 26, 2015 at 07:25 PM



Natalie
El-

*I will never forget the Sunday morning that my daddy sent me to the post office in Dacoma to mail a letter, because i was already ready for church, while everyone else got finished getting ready. Anyway, they got ready and left before i got back.
Thank the Lord they didn't lock front does back then, because i needed in.
I went straight to the phone and dialed 1 for the operator and she was surprised when i asked for the number for "Uncle John".
Of course the operator had no clue who Uncle John was. And thankfully my parents remembered they forgot me.
I just thought everyone knew Aunt Marion and Uncle John.*

Natalie El-Moghrabi - September 27, 2015 at 02:42 PM

CC

“ Dear Marian and the Snook family...my heart is with you today as you close the last chapter of John's life on this earth. Although he is now enjoying his new life in heaven, his love and compassion will linger in the lives of his family and those he left behind. I am so thankful I am one who absorbed the words of his teachings and learned to love his passion for Christ. Hugs to you, sweet Marian!

Connie Collins - September 26, 2015 at 01:55 PM

ZA

“ John Snook and his wife lived grace and true forgiveness. I was truly influenced by this man while I was a student at BWC and again 20 years later. May God continued to be gloried through your memories of him and his life. Zandra Baker Anderson

Zandra Anderson - September 26, 2015 at 12:43 PM

C-

“ The Snook family was part of my life growing up in NW Oklahoma where John was my pastor, school principal, and friend to my family. I have wonderful memories growing up in that little country church. Prayers for this sweet family as they say their earthly goodbyes till you see him again may God give you peace and comfort.

Charlotte Curtis -Hudson - September 26, 2015 at 02:03 AM

KB

“ I had the special privilege learning to know John and the Snook family when he served as the pastor of the Upland Brethren in Christ Church. Additionally, I was able to serve alongside him as an intern and young church planter. John was a man with a huge heart who loved Jesus passionately and cared for people deeply. I am grateful for the mentoring and leadership he provided in my life. My thoughts and prayers go out to Marian and the entire Snook family.

Kent Byer (Riverside, CA)

Kent Byer - September 25, 2015 at 11:13 PM

LM

“ My sympathy to all the family of John Melvin Snook. My parents, Jess & Ferne Garst were saved under the ministry of John's (who we called Melvin back in earlier years) parents in Morland KS and were friends of the family. Over the years as we have come in contact with members of the family, we have remembered former days and how we enjoyed the very good times with the entire Snook family. Our house would be a hive of talking and laughing when they visited. I loved every one of them, the family and the good times. Marian, we extend out sympathies and pray that you are in good health. It has been many years since I have seen Miriam or Priscilla and extend our sympathies to you as well. I have two pictures of the Snook family taken in the early 50's that are a real treasure. I would certainly scan and send them to any of your family that is interested. In Christ's love, Lois Garst Meyer (Douglas)

Lois Meyer - September 25, 2015 at 10:42 PM



“ John was head of BWC when I attended there. What great memories of a Godly man. May God be with his family at this time.

Penny Hendrickson - September 25, 2015 at 04:48 PM

BM

“ Brent & Daphne McIntosh purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Melvin Snook.



Brent & Daphne McIntosh - September 25, 2015 at 01:13 PM

LM

“ I want to thank Melvin and Marian for being part of my life when i was growing up at Pleasant View church. He gave me my first job, cleaning the church. He was very patience with me. When I came back from the Army I enjoyed the fellowship with the kids in the youth group. John was an inspiration for me to look up to spiritually.

Lesllie McDermott - September 25, 2015 at 11:41 AM

PM

“ President snook was a very generous man. I remember a time when he pulled me and two other college students into his wardrobe, showed us his tie collection. Then he told us each to pick out two ties that we would like to have. On another occasion a traveling group I was in picked him up at the Rapid City South Dakota Airport. When we returned to our vehicle we had some sort of parking violation. He insisted he would take the ticket and handle it. Too many memories to recount here. All who knew him will miss him.

Phil Mccullough - September 25, 2015 at 10:58 AM

DR

I will forever love and respect President Snook. He greatly impacted my life to fall in love with our Lord Jesus Christ...May His peace and comfort surround each of you! Blessongs....Dar Hanson Ridley

Dar Hanson Ridley - September 26, 2015 at 10:40 PM

DF

“ John knew I didn't have a suit to wear as attendant for homecoming queen candidate, so he loaned me his tuxedo. What a very kind and thoughtful man to do that. Thank you for caring about us; well done thou good and faithful servant!

Dan Floyd - September 24, 2015 at 11:13 PM

MJ

“ When Pastor John was at Upland B in C. I appreciated his love and support! He and Marian attended my college graduation partying May 1986, I really appreciated that!! He was a wonderful man! He will be missed! Love and prayers to the entire family. Miss you all. Special love and prayers to Marian. In sympathy,
Marjeanne(Sider)Johns

Marjeanne Johns - September 24, 2015 at 11:13 PM

ET

“ I will always remember John as a wonderful mentor, friend, neighbor and best of all brother in Christ that had a very positive influence on my life. The family is in our thoughts and prayers during the loss of John.

Ed Tolbert - September 24, 2015 at 10:59 PM

DR

“ I thank God for the friendship John and I shared. We had several good talks while he was at Elsworth. My prayers are with you all. God bless you. John will live in eternity because of the resurrection and will live in your heart through the precious memories you have of him. Once again my prayers are with you.

Rev. David L. Ragland

David Ragland - September 24, 2015 at 08:42 PM

MM

“ Thanking God John. Glad for his life, his family, and his influence!

Mark Mueller

Mark Mueller - September 24, 2015 at 07:50 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of John Melvin Snook.*



September 24, 2015 at 01:43 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Melvin Snook.*



September 24, 2015 at 12:42 PM



“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Barbara Sacket - September 24, 2015 at 07:51 AM



One Great family! Carleen you can always call anytime. May God wrap his loving arms around you and your family. God received a very special angel!

Barbara Sacket - September 24, 2015 at 07:58 AM

GJ

John and Marion came to Ellsworth shortly after I moved here as Deputy Warden in 1988. We were in Kiwanis together and shared numerous good times. I think of John often and cherish a tie he gave me (brought several to Kiwanis the day he left and said to think of him when worn) neat gesture. George V. Jones

George V. Jones - September 24, 2015 at 01:04 PM

AH

*With love and sympathy at this time of John's passing.
Rev. Alan and Myrna Houston*

Alan and Myrna Houston - September 24, 2015 at 08:48 PM

JB

*He was an inspiration to everyone, thru his words, his handshake, and smile. He will be deeply missed, but is now welcomed home, to be at the right hand side of our father. John, you touched a place in my heart, and everyone who knew you. Amen to you, and everything you have done on earth as it was truly a great honor to know you.
janis burks*

janis burks - September 28, 2015 at 06:11 AM

LR

“ Coleen and I consider our friendship and fellowship with John and Marian to be one of the greatest and most significant blessings of our lives. John's compassion, wisdom and desire to honor God have been and will continue to be treasured memories and beacons of encouragement to us forever. His sense of humor made us smile and laugh; his ability to minister to us in circumstances both good and bad, happy and sad, have touched us in ways that words are inadequate to express. His sense of leadership and mentoring have been a model for me in so many ways. We praise God for his life and for his love and friendship to us. As sad as we are to see him leave us, we are thrilled that he is no longer sick, that his old body has released him to be with the Lord and God he served so faithfully. We can truly thank God for his life with us and anticipate joining him in the life to come. We pray for peace and comfort and healing for Marian and the family and trust them to our God for all their needs.

*With our love and blessings,
Larry and Coleen Rakes*

Larry and Coleen Rakes - September 23, 2015 at 03:15 PM

VS

May God comfort and embrace you all in His tender love at this moment in time. Your dad was larger than life, and I am glad I had the opportunity to meet him and your mother. No more sorrow, no more pain, but perfect healing and rejoicing in heaven for a saint came home. Victoria Stuard

victoria stuard - September 26, 2015 at 03:19 AM