



John Wilburn Gafford

March 15, 1935 - December 14, 2023

In Loving Memory of John Wilburn Gafford

John Wilburn Gafford, a beloved father, grandfather, and friend, passed away on December 14, 2023, at the age of 88. He was born on March 15, 1935, in Americus, Georgia, and his life was a testament to kindness, resilience, and unwavering support for those he cherished.

John was a stoic presence in the lives of many, always there to lend a helping hand or a listening ear. Whether it was financial assistance, a heartfelt conversation, or his expertise in taxes and computers, John's generosity knew no bounds. His willingness to help family, friends, and neighbors was a cornerstone of his character, and he made a profound impact on the lives of countless individuals.

His journey through life was remarkable and filled with achievements and contributions. John attended Georgia Tech and Georgia State, where he cultivated his passion for learning and commitment to education, values he instilled in his children, grandchildren and

great-granddaughter.

For over 40 years, John dedicated himself to his work, first at Fireman's Fund Insurance and

later at Hartford Insurance Company, where he retired from the position as Head of Workers

Compensation Claims in 1993. His dedication to his career and expertise in the field made him

an invaluable asset to both companies. His commitment to his community extended to his

service as an Officer for six years in the Air National Guard Reserve, demonstrating his

dedication to his country.

After growing up in Lumpkin, Georgia and moving to Atlanta, Georgia, John's life took him to

various places. He and his family lived in Long Island and Syracuse, New York; Hartford,

Connecticut; and Charlottesville, Virginia before retiring and living out the rest of his life in

Georgia.

John was the loving son of Ronald and Lillian and the oldest of his siblings and remembered in

loving memory of his brother, Ronnie Gafford (Dec. 1999). He is survived by his sister, Elaine

Tumlin; daughters, Nancy Gregory and Marsha Okst; grandchildren, Liz Peña, Nicole Turcotte,

Courtney Okst, Corey Okst; great-granddaughter, Kaya Peña; and loving companion, Jean

Southard.

His zest for life extended to his love for travel, with Italy holding a special place in his heart,

along with cherished memories of exploring Turkey, Italy, Europe, and across

the United States.

John's passion for planning trips made him a fantastic travel companion and a reliable guide on countless journeys.

He was known for his commitment to donating blood frequently, his deep-rooted faith, and his active involvement in church activities, including teaching Sunday school and attending Bible study. Children and dogs alike were drawn to his warm and welcoming presence. In his dedication to helping serve his community, John also enjoyed volunteering at the Senior Center.

John's departure leaves a profound sense of loss, but his spirit will forever live on in the hearts of those he touched. He will be remembered as a loving father, a doting grandfather and great-grandfather, a dedicated companion, a cherished friend, and a pillar of strength to all who knew him.

Rest in peace, John Wilburn Gafford. Your legacy of love, kindness, and unwavering support will endure through the ages, a testament to a life well-lived.

Please join us for a Memorial Service on Thursday, December 21st at 12:00 PM at Shadowbrook Church in Suwanee, Georgia. The family is accepting flowers or donations to the Doctors Without Borders in John's memory.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC 21. 12:00 PM (ET)

Shadowbrook Church
4187 Suwanee Dam Road, NW
Suwanee, GA 30024

Visitation

DEC 21. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Flanigan Funeral Home
4400 South Lee Street
Buford, GA 30518