



John Wilbur Stewart

December 25, 1949 - May 31, 2018

John Stewart 1949 - 2018 John Wilbur Stewart died in Napa on May 31, 2018 at the young age of 68. John, son of Wilbur and Bertha Stewart, was one in a long line of strong Stewart men with big hearts. Born on Christmas Day in 1949, he was raised in the Carneros area of Napa with his four sisters, learning how to farm and fix nearly everything he touched. Being the son of farming parents was formative to his character. He lived out his days with a sense of obligation to make the best decisions for his family and community. Always a planner - in service, professionally, and personally - he frequently counseled those close to him to make decisions with their grandchildren in mind. He graduated from Napa High School and attended UC Davis receiving a degree in civil engineering. His best friend, Ted Wigger, luckily reconnected him to a fellow Napa High alum, Carolyn, the love of his life. They lived happily in Napa raising their three daughters and enjoying many adventures together. They shared a marriage, a friendship, and a sometimes unusual sense of humor that kept them strong and provided their children with a clear vision of what "true love" was. Starting his career as a civil engineer with Napa County, John moved to the Napa Public Works Department where he spent several years as an Assistant Engineer, Associate Engineer, and Water Manager for the City of Napa. He left the Public Works Department to lead the Napa Sanitation District as the Engineer Manager. John returned to Napa County as a Principal Engineer, and also spent time with Calaveras County as the General Manager of several water and wastewater plants, and RSA. John

dedicated his life to serving and caring for his family, friends, and community. He was a lifetime member of the Kiwanis Club of Napa and served on various committees at First Presbyterian Church over the years. Following John's retirement, he went on to enjoy local hobby groups: a welding group and a general mens group, both of which involved eating pies and telling stories more than anything else. John was also a volunteer and leader with Los Carneros Water District, spearheading the multi million dollar project to bring reclaimed water across the river to the Carneros region of Napa. In his later years, John found a passion for mentoring and connecting people. He went out of his way in retirement to be a mentor for several young Napa engineers and public servants. He would describe this passion by saying how much he enjoyed "setting other people up for success." With a heart for service, John's passing leaves a huge void in the Napa community, among his friends, and in his family. John found much joy caring for his friends and family. He could often be found taking a meal to an ill friend, making house calls to home bound friends and family, and fixing anything and everything for everyone. Above all else, his family was most important. He was available night or day, any time his children called for him. He was always a ready lap for his kids, and later his grandkids, and was always ready with a tickle or a "pester", as well. He was present and dependable, Stewart traits that his family will miss incredibly. John is survived by his wife, Carolyn, his children, Jennifer Stewart, Anne (Jesse) Kolb, and Betsy (Jason) Longoria, and his five amazing grandchildren, Julianna and Ben Kolb, Madeline and Genevieve Longoria, and John "Jack" Stewart. He is also survived by his sisters, Betty (Bob) Ball, Donna (Al) Coloman, and JoAnna Watson, his brother-in-law, Roy Griffin, and his very large extended family filled with love. He is pre-deceased by his sister, Myrle Griffin and his brother-in-law, Jack Watson. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages you to join them in honoring his commitment to our next generation by providing a donation toward scholarships in his name at the Napa Engineering Society, P.O. Box 264, Napa, CA. 94559-0264 or the Kiwanis Club of Napa, PO Box 10816, Napa CA 94581. A memorial service

will be held 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 12th at the First Presbyterian Church, 1333 3rd Street in Napa, with a reception immediately following. Private committal will be in Tulocay Cemetery. Treadway & Wigger Funeral Chapel is serving the family.

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Obituary Wall*



Treadway & Wigger Funeral Chapel & Crematory - February 05, 2020 at 09:28 AM



“ *John Wilbur Stewart*

John - November 19, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ *My sincerest condolences to John's family. John was a genuine, thoughtful man who I was fortunate to have known since 1999-2016 while I worked at the County Executive Office. John's smile, the twinkle in his eye will be missed.*

June 13, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *Prayers for John's family and strength for the days ahead without him.*

June 11, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ I worked with John at Napa County Public Works in the early 1970s. He was a great guy. We took an evening land surveying class at Berkeley, and drove together down to the class from Napa. After the class, John would insist on making a brief visit to a student he knew who was a student at UC Berkeley. It was Carolyn, who shortly thereafter became his wife. Besides being very bright, and hard working, John was just a really nice man. I haven't seen him in years, but discovering that he died at such a young age brings tears to my eyes.

June 09, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ Jennifer Mark and I so our deepest condolences.

June 09, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. John was always so generous with his time and wisdom - whether it be in our roles as Trustees at FPC or in career/life mentoring. He was a kind and gentle man who will be sorely missed.

June 07, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ As namesakes, John and I knew one another from constantly being confused one for the other. He would stop by the Gasser Foundation occasionally to say hello and we would tease each other about who was the "real" John Stewart. In my travels around Napa I would frequently hear the wonderful stories of what a true gentleman John was and how much so many appreciated the role he played in their lives and throughout the Napa area. I always had to defer those great compliments to the "real" John Stewart. RIP.

June 07, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Carolyn and your family. John was a special person who definitely touched many lives in a positive way. We all grieve with you.*

June 06, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *I'm so sorry for you loss. He was a wonderful man.*

June 06, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *My deepest sympathy for the loss of your father and husband, John. I will always remember the summer barbecues. Love and prayers be with you and your family.*

June 06, 2018 at 12:00 AM