



John Robert Birdwell

November 30, 1942 - January 2, 2007

John Robert Birdwell, age 64, of Newport, died, Tuesday, January 2, 2007, after a courageous year-long battle against cancer. He passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by family and friends. John was born November 30 1942, in Cookeville, TN. He graduated from Cookeville High School and joined the U. S. Army in 1960. After an honorable discharge, John worked with the National Security Agency in Washington, D.C., then moved to Maryville, TN, in 1967. John had a 25 year career as an insurance agent for Colonial Life.

John raised his family and spent most of his life in Maryville, where he was a member and deacon at the Maryville Church of Christ. After returning to Cookeville, TN, he married Jeanne Yater Wilson in 1999 and lived the last years of his life in Cookeville and Newport, where he was active in his community which he felt was the "best kept secret in Tennessee" because of its beauty and wonderful people. He was named Citizen of the Year in 2004 by the Newport/Cocke County Chamber of Commerce. He and Jeanne were members of Cookeville United Methodist and moved their membership to the First United Methodist Church in Newport.

John was preceded in death by his parents, Leanon J. and Mary Watson Birdwell; sister, Janice Birdwell Jackson; brother, Alan Birdwell; nephew, Jeff Jackson ; and special cousin Jim Ragland.

He is survived by his wife , Jeanne Birdwell; daughters, Lori Skaggs and husband Brad of Knoxville, Pam Cook and husband Tony of Lavergne, TN; grandchildren, Cole and Caroline Skaggs and Sarah and Carter Cook; sister, Patsy Standifer of Cookeville; aunt, Emma Featherston of Crossville; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

A celebration of John's life will be held in the sanctuary of First United Methodist Church 212 Washington Ave., Newport, TN on Saturday, January 6, 2007 at 2:00 pm, with burial to follow in Union Cemetery. The family will receive friends in the chapel of First United Methodist Church from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon eastern standard time on Saturday, January 6, 2007. Memorials may be made to St. Judes Children Research Hospital.

Manes Funeral Home, 363 East Main Street, Newport, TN. 37821, in charge of arrangements.

Family and friends may sign the guest register on line at: www.manesfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *John Robert Birdwell*

November 17, 2022 at 06:00 PM



“ *Considering I was only 6 when my Pop Pop died, I hadn't ever seen this guest book. Thinking about him tonight and somehow stumbled upon this. It's so neat to see what people have to say about him and the memories people shared in times of grief. I know ar*

Sarah Cook - March 27, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *Today it has been 2 years since my hero, my Daddy passed away. I decided to read back over all of the wonderful things people wrote about him in this guest book. It reminded me of what I already knew and that is that he was a special person who made a sp*

Pam Cook - January 02, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Jeanne, May God fill your heart with His perfect peace and keep you in His care. I continue to hold you and your family in my heart and prayers. Much love and thanks to God for you. Scotti K.*

Scotti Claiborne - January 10, 2007 at 12:00 AM



“ *John Robert Birdwell*

Bill and Charlotte Leibrock - January 09, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ *Our Sympathies*

Robert and Martha Pack - January 09, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ *Pam & Lori, I am so sorry to hear about your Dad. He has been a great friend to me over the years. Words cannot express the love that he has shown toward me and my family. His special way of letting others know how much he cares is a gift. I know he touch*

Danny Wilson - January 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ *Dear Jeanne, Pam, and Lori, We were so sorry to hear of John's passing and we were so glad that we had the chance to see all of you and your Dad at the recent Birdwell/King reunion. I had not seen my cousin "Bitsy" in quite some time. GOD brought us all*

Don&Reita King - January 08, 2007 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ *Jeanne, I certainly had intentions of being with you today as you all celebrated John's life. But, due to circumstances beyond my control, I just could not make it. You and John have been in my prayers for a long time, and I will continue to keep you in m*

Linda & Bud Dawson - January 06, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ *John Robert Birdwell*

MR & MRS ROGER GREENE - January 06, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *Jeanne, I was so sorry to hear of your loss. Mr. John was such a dear man and you both looked so happy together. May God hold you in the palm of his hand thru this difficult time. I just loved getting to know Mr. John in his short time in Newport; he wa*

Jan Brooks Sneed - January 05, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Sarah Childress - January 05, 2007 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ *Evelyn and I are so sorry for the death of John. He was one of a special family, beginning with his father and mother, J. and Mary, whom we knew very well. Please accept our condolences for his loss.*

Leighton Sissom - January 05, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ *John Robert Birdwell*

David Sigler - January 05, 2007 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ *Jeanne: I am so sorry for your loss. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. We love you, Kim and James Mills*

Kim Mills - January 05, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ *John Robert Birdwell*

Barbara M. Chrisman - January 05, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ *John Robert Birdwell*

Deborah Cameron - January 05, 2007 at 12:00 AM

EA

“ *Vaya con Dios, Bitsy. Peace, Faith, Love and hugs to you, Patsy.*

Ella Gibson Anderson - January 05, 2007 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ *Pam and Tony: We are so sorry for your loss. Please know that you are in our prayers.*

Genny & Morris Mabry - January 05, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *We have only known John in recent years and we wish we had always known him because John was a special person. He was a joy to be with because of his warm-hearted laughter and gentle kindness to all. His heart was filled with love and God loves a loving*

jim and sharon birdwell - January 05, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DO

“ *LONNIE & JOYCE PULLUM WISH TO EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY*

Donnie Oliver - January 05, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ *John Robert Birdwell*

Joe Power - January 05, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *Jeanne, we are very sorry to hear of your loss. Please know we are thinking about you. Our prayers are with you and your family.*

Jay and Mary Ann Chrisman - January 05, 2007 at 12:00 AM

FH

“ *Jeanne, I am sorry I could not be with you at this time. I love you both very much and John will be missed greatly. My prayers are with you.*

Frances Poston Hoalcraft - January 05, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ *Jeanne, we are so saddened to hear of John's death. I told Kathy that you have lost your soul mate. But, you can rest assured that you will be with him again someday. He was a good man and he will be missed. We will always remember that he helped Eric get*

Donnie Loftis - January 05, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ *Brad, Sorry to hear about your father-in-law. I'll be praying for your family!*

Ronnie Clark - January 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ *I've known John since I was a young girl and he was "Patsy's big brother" - he was always a nice man with a friendly word for everyone. I know his family will miss him dearly and I hope they are consoled with the wonderful memories they have of him. My*

Sherry Hassler Tubb - January 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ I was never around John that he didn't make me laugh. He has provided me with wonderful memories. I'll miss you, John. Jeanne, I'm always here for you. I love you both! God Bless. Cheryl(aka Doris Day)

Cheryl Chambers - January 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ It has been my extreme pleasure to be one of John's cousins. He had a fantastic life surrounded by people he loved and who loved him. John, you will be remembered and greatly missed. You did make a difference! Warmest Regards, Cousin Ron

Ron King - January 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ We are so sorry to hear about John ("Bitsy"). You are all in our thoughts & prayers. Daddy says John was like a brother to him. They spent a lot time together down at Granny & Pa's house when John was little. We're all thankful for the time we got to spen

Michelle Dyer Herron - January 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ John Robert Birdwell

Janice Myers - January 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ Even though John was only 4 years older than I, he will always be my uncle. I can remember many years sharing Christmas with him and Lori and Pam at Papa Carter's. No matter where I saw him he would always have a friendly smile and share a laugh. Jeann

Joyce Daugherty - January 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ *John Robert Birdwell*

Sandy Freshour - January 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ *Pam and Lori, I am saddened at the news of the loss of your dad. I have many good memories of John. The top of the list has to be John as a mean ski boat driver! :) I remember he loved to laugh and loved you girls. Please know I am praying for you a*

Doug Jones & Family - January 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ *Jennie, We are sorry we can't be there with you at this time. You and the family are in our thoughts and prayers. We have many fond memories of you and John when you were in Cookeville. Jean and Bobby Davis*

Jean & Bobby Davis - January 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM

TA

“ *John Robert Birdwell*

Travis and Charlovene Looper Anderson - January 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ *We are sorry for your loss. Our thought and prayers will be you and family.*

Jerry Dale, Kim and Morgan Abston - January 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Pam, I am deeply saddened to hear of your father's passing. I know how close both you and Lori were to him and how much you love him. My prayer is that you will find comfort in the fact that, while he fought a good fight, he has now traded in his disea

Dee Frazier - January 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ John Robert Birdwell

Don&Helen Hollingsworth - January 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ I was so sorry to hear about John's passing. He was so encouraging to me during my current struggle with cancer - I received some emails from him just a few weeks ago. I know he is in a better place now, but I'm sure you will always miss him - I do.

Mike Lanius - January 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ So sorry to here about John. I went to School with him. May he rest in God Blessing

Bob Borden - January 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ John Robert Birdwell

JAY & JANIE FRANCE - January 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ John Robert Birdwell

Russ & Caroline Harden - January 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ *Jeanne, We are so sorry to hear of John's passing. We thought of you when we went to Lois' for supper tonight because we saw you and John there often. Please know we care about you and will do anything to help you.*

Bobby & Lynne Smith - January 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BA

“ *John Robert Birdwell*

Bob Amonette - January 04, 2007 at 12:00 AM

PL

“ *I am so very sorry for your loss. You will be in my thoughts*

Peggy W. Lane - January 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ *Lori and Brad, You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers... Jane and Milton*

Milton and Jane Shaw - January 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ *My sweet daddy was so brave until the very end. He passed so very peacefully, with Pam, Jeanne, and me at his side. Thanks to all of you for your prayers over the past year. Daddy is home now. He won. Lori*

Lori Birdwell Skaggs - January 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Pam and Tony, We are sorry to hear about your dad's passing. He was a cancer warrior who fought an incredible battle. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Brian and Dayna Suttles - January 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Our love and prayers are with Jeanne, Lorie, Pam, their families, and our Cookeville friends, Patsy Standifer and Jenny Spurlock.

Jim & Brenda Smith - January 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ John Robert Birdwell

Jack Briggs - January 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

WM

“ John Robert Birdwell

Wiley Nd Kate Morgan - January 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

NH

“ Jeanne, Sorry for your loss. Our thoughts are with you at this sorrowful time. Nancy and Mike Hansel

Nancy & Mike Hansel - January 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ Sorry for your loss. May God be with you and your family.

Kathy Woody - January 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

GK

“ *God grant you peace and comfort in the loss of your loved one.*

Gerry Killom - January 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM