



John W. White Jr.

November 13, 1942 - August 13, 2024

John Willie White, Jr., 81, of New Haven, CT passed away peacefully on Tuesday, August 13, 2024. His loving wife of 61 years, Leslie was by his side. John was born on November 13, 1942 in Waterloo, IA. He was the second oldest of eight children, to the late Johnny White and 104-year-old Aretha White. He gave his life to Christ early in life and his entire family: parents, siblings, wife, mother-in-law, children, nephews and nieces all attended Savior Baptist Church where his Uncle Robert “Buddy” Burt was the founding Pastor. John went to public schools in Waterloo and graduated from East High School in 1960. During his high school years, John was a member of the Elks Drum and Bugle Corp, sang in a Doo-wop group that actually cut a single, and he was an outstanding wrestler. In fact, he continued wrestling while in the military. From 1960-1963 John served honorably in the United States Army as a Finance Clerk. He was stationed in Korea for the first 18 months and served the last 18 months at Ft. Bliss in El Paso, TX.

On July 18, 1963, John made the best decision of his life. He married the woman of his dreams Leslie H. Hardy. They married in a simple ceremony in his parent’s house at 402 Cottage Street in Waterloo, IA. That is the same house his mother lives in today. They honeymooned in Mexico, but not before Leslie had to pay a debt the newlyweds owed John’s Sargent. John loved Leslie so much that in order to get back to Waterloo to marry her, he left the base before he confirmed his leave. Technically, he was absent without leave

(AWOL). John's Sargent admired his willingness to risk getting in trouble for love, so he approved the leave, but he did require John's new wife Leslie to make him some collard greens and cornbread. John and Leslie went on to have three sons and nine grandchildren.

John's first job after leaving the Army was with Bearing Service Company. They supplied John Deere and auto manufacturers with parts. He was a truck driver for them from 1963-1966. From 1966-1971, John worked as a Sand Lab Technician at the John Deere factory along with his Father, youngest brother and many other family members. John wanted something more for his family so he worked 3rd shift at John Deere and attended the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) during the day. He received his bachelor of science degree in business administration. He went on to work at the Waterloo Chamber of Commerce where he began his career in public housing administration.

In July of 1977, John moved his wife, three boys and mother-in-law to New Haven, CT for something better. This was the second-best decision he made in his life. He moved to New Haven to work for the New Haven Housing Authority (NHHA) where he was a Property Manager in the Dixwell/Newhallville neighborhoods. Wanting even better for himself and his family, John left the NHHA to join the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA). By the time he retired from CHFA in the early 2000s he had helped tens of thousands of Connecticut citizens in the public housing space. He also had many achievements over the years including Chapter 51 President of the Institute of Real Estate Management (IREM).

While John had retired from working life as a professional, he didn't stop working. John worked for his wife, Leslie's catering business as an event set up coordinator, janitor and the best Sous Chef on the Eastern Coast. Rumor has it he chopped and diced an onion better than anyone. John also enjoyed

spending time at events with his fraternity brothers of Omega Psi Phi, he pledged a graduate chapter in New Haven in 1978. He loved listening to and playing music, watching old Cowboy movies, rooting for his favorite football team the San Francisco 49ers, traveling the world with his wife and serving on the Board of Trustees at Immanuel Baptist Church.

John was preceded in death by his father Johnny White and his sister Carolyn Speller. He leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife of 61 years, Leslie H. White; three sons: Steven of Stafford, VA (Mary), Troy of Nashville, TN (Renee), Mark of Middletown, CT (Elizabeth); and nine grandchildren: Jordan, Asia, Troy, David, Steven II, Ethan, Amaya, Melina and Myles. He also leaves siblings: Patricia White, Cecelia Hollins, Kathy Burkett, Inez Murtha, Robert "Bobby" White (Linda), and Anthony White (Ida) along with a host of relatives.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Calling Hours

AUG 23. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Immanuel Baptist Church
1324 Chapel Street
New Haven, CT

Funeral Service

AUG 23. 11:00 AM (ET)

Immanuel Baptist Church
1324 Chapel Street
New Haven, CT

Tribute Wall

RF

“ *Ruthie Stigler and Ruby Wright Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John W. White Jr..*



Ruthie Stigler and Ruby Wright Family - August 23, 2024 at 11:44 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John W. White Jr..*



August 22, 2024 at 01:19 PM

MF

“ *Mcmorris Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John W. White Jr..*

Mcmorris Family - August 22, 2024 at 01:19 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of John W. White Jr..*



August 22, 2024 at 01:09 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John W. White Jr..



August 22, 2024 at 12:22 PM



“ Robert & Toni Young purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John W. White Jr..



Robert & Toni Young - August 21, 2024 at 09:34 PM



“ Cousins Dianne, Pam, Alice, and Beverly. purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of John W. White Jr..



Cousins Dianne, Pam, Alice, and Beverly. - August 21, 2024 at 11:38 AM



“ Greg and Terry Owens purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of John W. White Jr..



Greg and Terry Owens - August 21, 2024 at 10:34 AM

GO

“ Greg and Terry Owens planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John W. White Jr..

Greg and Terry Owens - August 21, 2024 at 10:34 AM

JF

“ Jackie Johnson& Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of John W. White Jr..



Jackie Johnson& Family - August 21, 2024 at 10:23 AM

JF

“ Jackie Johnson& Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John W. White Jr..

Jackie Johnson& Family - August 21, 2024 at 10:23 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John W. White Jr..



August 21, 2024 at 06:06 AM

LM

“ Lashae, Melanie, and Mia planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John W. White Jr..

Lashae, Melanie, and Mia - August 21, 2024 at 06:06 AM

BL

“ Bobby and Linda purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John W. White Jr..



Bobby and Linda - August 20, 2024 at 07:49 PM

BL

“ Bobby and Linda planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John W. White Jr..

Bobby and Linda - August 20, 2024 at 07:49 PM

MK

“ I knew John from Quota International of New Haven. He came to so many QI events with Leslie we all considered him to be an honorary member.
He was a great guy. My sincere condolences to Leslie and family.
Mary Kelly

Mary Kelly - August 20, 2024 at 07:12 PM

HB

To: Leslie White and Family,
My deepest sympathy is extended to you all today. I truly wish I could be with you, but know that I'm with you in spirit. Leslie I love you and God Bless you and your family.

Helen Barnes, Fayetteville, NC

Helen M Barnes - August 22, 2024 at 09:22 PM

MF

“ *Marbley Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of John W. White Jr..*



Marbley Family - August 20, 2024 at 10:45 AM

MM

“ *My first memory of seeing and meeting John was at Savior Baptist Church in the 60s. Blessings John.*

Marilyn Carol Marbley - August 20, 2024 at 10:24 AM

AP

“ *My condolences to family. I worked with Leslie years ago.*

Arnita Campbell Phillips - August 20, 2024 at 09:52 AM

BB

“ *John Jr. Is my 1st cousin. I don't have many memories of him as he is much older than I. But i know he was a serious and accomplished man. As in our family, his faith in God was part of who he is. Rest Peacefully, Cuz! Safely in the Arms of Jesus!*

Bishop J. R. Burt - August 19, 2024 at 07:20 PM

RC

“ *Mark & Liz, you will miss him but always remember the gift he gave you, to live your life to the fullest. He was a wonderful example for all.
Love Regi.*

Regina Caschetto - August 19, 2024 at 06:30 PM



“ *Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of John W. White Jr..*



August 19, 2024 at 04:52 PM



“ *Karla and Allegra Jones planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John W. White Jr..*

Karla and Allegra Jones - August 19, 2024 at 04:52 PM



“ *Sweet Solace Spray was purchased for the family of John W. White Jr..*



August 19, 2024 at 03:46 PM