



John Randal "Raymond" Strickland

November 18, 1938 - December 19, 2019

On Thursday, December 19, 2019, only one day shy of their 60th wedding anniversary, John Randal Strickland (also "J.R." to some, "Raymond" to others) died at the age of 81 at Marshall Medical Center North from a cardiac-related event shortly after arriving in Guntersville, AL, with his beloved wife and childhood sweetheart, Sue Jones Strickland. He was determined not to allow his declining health to prevent them from attending regular informal reunions of their high school friends back in their hometown where they had celebrated their 50th anniversary 10 years earlier amongst a large gathering of family and friends.

John was born in Marshall County, AL, on November 18, 1938, and was the youngest child of Barney Bedford and Ollie Belle Peters Strickland. His siblings included his brother, Alton Strickland, and his sisters, Eloise Brown (currently of Arab, AL), Ila V. Hard, Ester Strickland and Junita Strickland. One of the highlights of John's youth was his time as co-captain of the Marshall County High School's championship football team. He remained an avid football fan throughout his life, especially when he was following the University of Alabama's Crimson Tide.

After high school, John served in the US Army Reserves. He started his "suit & tie" career at Household Finance Corporation in 1960, and in 1985 moved to Fleet Finance, Inc., where he was President & CEO. During his career, he also served as the President of the Georgia Financial Services Association and as President of the National Consumer Finance Association.

John retired from Fleet in 1993. Shortly thereafter, he and Sue moved back to Guntersville where they spent the majority of his retirement years.

In addition to his stellar career, John was first and foremost a true and loyal family man. He and Sue have three children who all live nearby in the metropolitan Atlanta area: Mitchell Strickland (Lynn), Carmen Strickland and Misha Boswell. In 1994, John was proud to add one more title to his resume – that of “Papaw” – when he first became a grandfather to his four granddaughters: Emily Strickland, 2016 graduate of Georgia Tech; Annie Strickland, soon to be 2020 graduate of Georgia Tech; Aubrey Boswell, soon to be 2020 graduate of Georgia College; and Payton Boswell, soon to be 2020 Harrison High School graduate, with a nice list of college acceptances from which to choose. Several years ago, John and Sue moved to Acworth, GA, to be near their children and grandchildren. All four granddaughters learned early on what a generous and kind-hearted man he was behind his sometimes gruff-sounding voice and demeanor that never had them fooled for a minute.

While it was rare that he shared the stories, throughout his lifetime there were a number of people whose paths crossed John’s, family and friends alike, whom he would quietly help out behind the scenes in numerous ways. Those stories speak volumes about the man he was, but they are no surprise to those who knew and loved him.

John’s funeral will be held at 2pm on Friday, December 27th, in Guntersville, AL, at Carr Funeral Home; visitation beforehand from 11am to 2pm; burial to follow in Marshall Memory Gardens.

Pallbearers will be Adam Brown, Glenn Brown, Jason Brown, Terry Brown, Doyle Hard and Hoyle Hard. Honorary pallbearers will be Brody Brown, Jesse Brown, Trevor Daycock, Richard Hard, Spencer Lesley and Jacob Underwood.

Any donations in memory of John can be sent to the American Kidney Fund at www.kidneyfund.org.

Cemetery Details

Marshall Memorial Gardens

Hwy 205 N.
Albertville, AL 35950

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 27. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Carr Funeral Home
1960 O'Brig Avenue
Guntersville, AL 35976
(256) 582-3411
carrguntersville@gmail.com

Funeral Service

DEC 27. 2:00 PM (CT)

Carr Funeral Home
1960 O'Brig Ave
Guntersville, AL 35976

Tribute Wall

EA

“ JR, we've had many business and life experiences together, most were rewarding and together we found many ways to enhance our beloved HFC. You were a master at one on one relationships, and you left many with renewed self esteem after your encounters. Hindsight reveals your unique talents and how we were all enriched by your leadership. Rest well my friend. Ed Ashurst

Ed Ashurst - December 26, 2019 at 11:04 PM

TD

“ The Davis' purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of John Randal "Raymond" Strickland.



The Davis' - December 26, 2019 at 09:00 PM

GR

“ Bon Voyage to my mischevious Uncle Randal. You will be missed. Happy trails until we meet again.

Gwen Rendina - December 25, 2019 at 01:06 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Randal "Raymond" Strickland.



December 24, 2019 at 09:05 PM

CS

“ I love you Dad!! I'm going to miss you so much!!

Carmen Strickland - December 23, 2019 at 11:57 AM

CE

“ Dear Lynn and Mitch,

We are so sorry to hear about your dad. We're keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers.

Cathy & Rick Emery

Catherine Emery - December 23, 2019 at 09:04 AM

LS

“ My thoughts and prayers for all the family. My heart aches for the loss you're suffering. I'll really miss his sense of humor. Loved his cocky laugh. Good bye old man. I'll think of you often.

Cookie

loretta stephenson - December 22, 2019 at 06:09 PM



“ Love you , Dad!!!



Payton Boswell - December 22, 2019 at 03:13 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of John Randal "Raymond" Strickland.



December 22, 2019 at 02:29 PM



“ I have wonderful memories growing up with this family. My heart goes out to all of you. I will never forget the time we all missed Marta and Mr. Strickland had to pick us up in his pajamas late at night, then smoked a cigar with all the windows rolled up the whole way home LOL! We deserved it. So many great times at the lake and Christmas too. Prayers and love to you all. Toni

Toni Woods - December 22, 2019 at 09:29 AM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Randal "Raymond" Strickland.



December 21, 2019 at 03:32 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Randal "Raymond" Strickland.



December 21, 2019 at 02:37 PM