



Johnny "John" L. Heath

January 14, 1935 - April 7, 2015

Surrounded by his family, John L. Heath was welcomed home by his Lord and Savior on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 in Denison, Texas at the age of 80 years. "Well done, my good and faithful servant!" John was born on January 14, 1935 in St. Louis, Oklahoma to Rhonie and Lois Heath. John graduated from Winnsboro, Texas High School and attended East Texas State University. John served in the US Airborne until 1955.

On May 3, 1957, John married Sue Layne Walker in Greenville, TX. In 1962, they moved their family to Durant, Ok, where he began his ministry, serving students as Director of the Baptist Student Union/BCM at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. John served in this position for 39 years. He was dedicated to the spiritual lives of his students and his legacy lives on through the service of many of these students who are serving Christ all over the world.

After retirement, John and Sue moved to Vermont where he became the first State Director of Baptist Student Ministry, pioneering student work in the Northeast. He also served churches throughout Vermont. Throughout his ministry, John served as Interim Pastor for churches all over Bryan County and joyfully completed his ministry as the Pastor of Platter Baptist Church from 2007 until he was called home on Tuesday, 2015. John's ministry was not an occupation, it was as natural to him as breathing.

John is survived by his wife of 58 years, Sue Layne; children, Rhonie Heath and wife Lori. Shelli Heath Wright and husband David. Tim Heath and wife Diana. Amy Heath Bell and husband Derek Todd; sister, Rita Jeffress and husband Billy. His greatest enjoyment in recent life was his grandchildren, Jacy Nunley, Chris Heath, Caitlyn Wright, Caroline Wright, Emily Mason and husband Cameron, John Riley Heath and wife Andrea, Heath Allen Bell and Hallie Jake Bell; Great grandchildren, Kaden Neill, Camrey Mason, Kane Mason and, on the way, Rhonnie Quinn Heath. John's immediate family also includes his very favorite sister-in-law, Carmen Walker as well as beloved brother and sister-in-law, James and Betty Walker and numerous nieces and nephews.

Services for his immediate family and Platter Baptist Church family will be held this Sunday morning. A celebration of John's life for all touched by his ministry will be held at 11:00 AM Saturday, May 2, 2015 at the First Baptist Church in Durant, OK.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Baptist Collegiate Ministries of Southeastern Oklahoma State University New Building Fund, PO Box 12, Durant, OK 74702 or Platter Baptist Church, PO Box 1078, Platter, OK 74753. A tribute page, celebrating John's ministry has been set up as a group on Facebook at Thank You, John Heath. All are welcome to join the group and share treasured memories. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.brownfuneralservice.com. Arrangements are under the direction of Brown's Funeral Service, Durant.

Tribute Wall



“ Johnny "John" L. Heath

January 08, 2023 at 11:32 PM



“ From the first time I met Johnny Heath, whenever I encountered him he had a smile on his face and something kind to say. Only recently he visited my dad at Calera Manor. Dad was asleep and John left a card with a note on it. "I'll come by again in the next day or two," it read. He truly walked the walk. There's a special place in Heaven for John Heath.

Ray Gaskin - May 04, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ John was a big part of my college years and married my husband and I in 1977. He will always have a place in our heart! Sorry I did not make the service. I'm not good at staying in touch with dad to dad events.

Charlotte Russell Rawls - April 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Lori & Rhonie, I just read about your Dad. I am so sorry for your loss. I know it's a hard time for you. I pray you feel God's comforting Holy Spirit over you and your family. "Blessed in the sight of the Lord is the death of His loved ones..."
Psalms 116:15

Kimberly Streun - April 14, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. Since John was a very religious person, I'm sure he has shared with you his home of living again on a paradise earth as the bible promises. John 5:28,29. We all look forward to seeing John and all our loved ones again.

gc - April 11, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ John was one of the kindest individuals I had the pleasure of knowing. His smile was contagious to all and he will be dearly missed.

Chasidy Bennett - April 09, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ Dear Sue and family,
I am most thankful for the years of serving our Lord with John. As stated in his obituary, John's ministry was not an occupation but a part of breathing. Truly our Father welcomed him with "Well done, good and faithful servant." My life and ministry were and continue to be stronger because of my friendship and companionship with John Heath. One day I look forward to being welcomed into the presence of our Lord and seeing John standing their with a handshake and a hug. God bless you all and provide comfort that can be explained only by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Larry Justice - April 09, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ Praying for your family. What a great heritage of servanthood and love John has given you. He was an example of ministry and commitment.

Suzanne Lillard - April 09, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Johnny's dad was my uncle Rhonny--my mother's (Margy Alois Heath) older brother. I last saw Johnny when he was about 18, when we visited Rhonnie and family in Winsboro, TX (I was about 12 at the time). That is how I will always remember him.

Dale Parent - April 09, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ Mrs. Heath and family, My deepest sympathy for your loss. It seems I have known John my entire life. He was always a joy to visit with. His commitment to the young lives at Southeastern and everywhere else was unsurpassed. We had many good visits through the years. I truly believe he wanted to save every young person he came in contact with. What a wonderful legacy he is leaving. May the Lord richly bless you and comfort you during this time. In case my name is not familiar to you, I am Herb & Sally Clark's son.

Roger Clark - April 09, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NW

“ I remember John fondly from my time at the BCM at Southeastern. That ministry was so sweet for me and for my family.....Michael Wilson, Amanda Wilson Weaver, and Ryan Weaver.

Nancy Wilson. - April 09, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ED

“ Prayers to the family in your loss of John, a great man of God.
Edith Trammell Brewer
BSU 1969-71

Edith - April 08, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ *Thank you John for a life that loved the Lord and displayed an awesome example of serving Jesus through your daily love for people.*

Chuck Morrow - April 08, 2015 at 12:00 AM