



John Dewey Jobe

March 4, 1936 - September 20, 2021

JOHN DEWEY JOBE

1936 - 2021

John completed his life's journey on the morning of a setting full moon on September 20, 2021. He was born in Muskogee, Oklahoma as the sixth of seven children of Dewey and Thelma Jobe. Raised in north Muskogee near the Arkansas River on a 65 acre dairy farm, John learned early about the value and demands of physical labor and was required to assist with the everyday milking duties on the farm. At the same time, he also learned that he possessed a special intellect and found himself fascinated with his older sibling's schooling and enjoyed doing homework with them. The seeds of an academic and scientific career were sown.

John's father donated one of his 65 acres at the corner of Harris Road and 24th St. to build Helmer School, which was where John attended grade school. It was a one room schoolhouse with a row for each grade. When he finished his first-grade lessons, he paid attention to the teachings of the 4th, 5th and 6th grade rows. The lessons stuck and enabled him to skip second grade. After high school John continued his academic pursuits at Muskogee Junior College and Oklahoma City University. In the late 1950s, he interrupted his studies to go to work for Shell at the Deer Park refinery as a lab technician, where he was able to use the passion for chemistry that he developed in high school.

While working at Shell, John enrolled in classes at the University of Houston

and completed correspondence courses with the University of Texas. Subsequently, he received a three-year NASA fellowship grant and attended the University of Oklahoma at Norman. He studied under professors Chun C. Lin and Robert St. John, whom he assisted in running experiments on the excitation of the helium atom into various energy levels and also co-authoring the paper on the findings. While there he completed his Masters and PhD degrees in physics. He was an avid Sooners football fan and looked forward to the fall season.

After leaving OU, John returned to Shell, where he worked in various capacities as a physicist over the remainder of his career. He ultimately retired from Shell as a project manager for the company's Process Control and Instrumentation Department in west Houston. He was known amongst many of his co-workers as "The Answer Man." During his career for the company, he was responsible for five patents which were crucial in the industry and was relied upon to develop methods to prevent lightning strike damage.

While he was highly regarded for his remarkable intelligence, John had a number of classical passions that extended beyond his academic training. He was a poet, a singer, and played harmonica, guitar, and keyboard. He loved astronomy and enjoyed learning about the space above him. In his retirement, he published a book entitled *The Physics of the Pinewood Derby with Engineering Applications* complete with his own drawings and word processing skills. He had a website, created by his son Jesse, where he sold items to assist others in creating a fast racing car. He devoted himself to teaching and inspiring children to learn about physics through the Cub Scouts' Pinewood Derby competition and wrote many lectures which were published on his website.

John was predeceased by his first wife of 20 years, Susan Jennie Roy. From this relationship was born a daughter, Tamara Lane, who gave him 3 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

John was a loving husband to Marlice, his wife of 44 years. From this relationship was born a son, Jesse (Elizabeth), who gave him 3 grandchildren.

John was step-father to Marlice's son, Michael Wilkinson.

John is also survived by his sister Damaris. His parents, who are also buried at Greenhill Cemetery, his siblings Mercedes, Marjorie, James, Gerald, and Jean predeceased him.

From humble roots, John made big impacts and left lasting legacies and his family loves him and will miss him dearly.

Graveside services will be at 3PM, Friday, September 24, 2021 at Greenhill Cemetery.

Dear Dad,

As I sit down here today, thinking of the words to say

My heart grieves with losing you, your life touched all but a few

Your selfless heart has blessed us with bliss, without you here I feel the world is amiss

But everything you have done for me, has provided a future so clear to see

Your saying without hope there is no life is so fragile, it's a delicate balance we continuously battle

I know as always you will still be guiding us, only from the heavens where things are more obvious

The unknowns to the universe you so passionately sought, are now attainable without much thought

I know you never liked the word perfect, but it's true, that's the only word that can describe you

No matter the challenge big or small, you always came out tree top tall

Your beautiful mind will never be forgotten, your legacy lives on and will be remembered often

I enjoyed our talks about everything, I am so lucky to have you and love you more than anything

LOL (Lots Of Love as you always signed your emails), your son, Jesse

Cemetery Details

Greenhill Cemetery

1500 N. York Street
Muskogee, OK 74403

Previous Events

Graveside Service

SEP **24.** 3:00 PM (CT)

Greenhill Cemetery
1500 N. York Street
Muskogee, OK 74403

Tribute Wall



“ *John Dewey Jobe*

October 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ *John was also a PhD. physicist; During his retirement he wrote an exceptionally detailed textbook called "The Physics of The Pinewood Derby: With Engineering Applications"... It's currently on sale on Amazon Books. It's a reference quality book on the subject of gravity Pinewood Derby racing, available in hardback and paperback. Marlice wanted to make sure that this treasure of science and product of over 10 years of his hard work would be available to purchase so as to prevent it slipping into history without more widespread dissemination. All proceeds benefit his wife Marlice. This book also makes an excellent gift for aspiring STEM students or teachers wanting exposure to more advanced concepts of Applied Physics. Have fun exploring engineering in an practical and applied manner. Walk alongside with the labs that show you how to accurately measure and quantify the forces. Learn to build ultra fast Pinewood Derby cars and which variables are the most important to speed.*

M - April 06, 2023 at 08:36 PM



“ *Only learned of John's passing today. I remember spending thanksgiving one year with the his family in the 80s and I always enjoyed the poker games over the years.*

Mike Myers - March 19, 2023 at 11:56 PM

CL

“ I first knew John in 1963 when he took my course on classical mechanics. Then he worked with Bob St. John and myself on electron-impact excitation of atoms for his doctoral research. I still remember one summer we presented our findings at a scientific meeting in Mexico City where John, Charley Burgett and myself shared a hotel room. Poor John got sick there and had to stay in the hotel while Charley and I enjoyed touring the city. Years afterwards we got reconnected when John and Marlice visited me in Madison, Wisconsin. Then John came to Norman in 2018 for the dedication of Lin Hall at the University of Oklahoma. He was particularly pleased to hear of my reminiscence of our research in the 1960s.

-Chun Lin, Madison WI

Chun Lin - June 28, 2022 at 12:38 PM

LT

“ John was a break-out-of-the-box thinker. Always a new idea. He liked contests wherein a creative idea would win. Our Control Engineering department once had a contest to create a safety saying that would be put on over a hundred coffee cups. John's almost immediate submission was the one that won. I still have the cup. Always think of John because of it.

Lou Tichacek

Lou Tichacek - January 28, 2022 at 11:51 PM

JD

“ I will never forget Dr. Jobe, we became friends when he came to Rice University and gave a statistics colloquium on the Physics of the Pinewood Derby. We were both MD Anderson patients; during one especially bad relapse for me, he and Marlice came to my hospital room to visit and leave their cheer and blessings. Typical thoughtfulness and selflessness on both of their parts. My special condolences to Marlice and to the rest of the Jobe family, we have lost a great man but we will be with him again shortly.

-John A. Dobelman, Houston, Texas.

john dobelman - November 07, 2021 at 06:24 AM

TL

“ There's no one memory I could post that would be special as every memory I have of my dad is stamped forever in my heart and mind. He always asked how could I compare apples and oranges. He spent two hours convincing me that zero is a number but any number times zero didn't change the number. How he put up with me I'll never know but he always loved to get me to think. Lol, maybe I was an ultimate challenge when it came to mathematics. I'm so proud of the work he did with the cancer community and hospital and never once heard him complain-- and I remember his excitement when he thought his health updates and encouragement to others with mantle cell actually helped their day. He taught me to never give up, and even if I fell down I was never beaten unless I didn't get back up. Daddy, I love you. Yep, I hit the canvas again losing you--- but because of you I'll get back up. Tamara

Tamara lane - October 23, 2021 at 10:11 PM

JR

“ Dear Marlice,

We have not met, but I am a friend of your sister, Beth Armstrong. Beth and I met in Park City, UT where we have a holiday home. I met your husband through the Mantle Cell Lymphoma network back in 2013. I had been recently diagnosed and was quite shaken and panicked about my illness. I spoke and corresponded with John several times and made plans for all of us to meet next time I was in Houston. Unfortunately, I had my treatment in London so we never had the chance to meet in person. That being said, I wanted to share with you what a lovely caring man your husband was to both me and many other people with MCL. Not only was he extremely thoughtful, knowledgeable and caring, but he made me feel like I was a best friend and that everything would be ok with my health. That spoke volumes to me about his character to care so much about another individual whom he had never met in person. I am quite confident I am not the only one in our MCL group who feels this way. I believe he was there for many. I pray that in your time of grieving knowing that John helped so many others through his illness will be a comforting thought for you.

With deepest sympathy,

Jennifer Robert

Jennifer Robert - October 01, 2021 at 06:37 AM

MJ

Your words mean more to me than you can know. Yes, John was an exceptional and personable man whom many will always remember as being kind and considerate and endowed with a great intellect and critical thinking skills. Life for me will never be the same without his presence.

Marlice

marlice Jobe - October 05, 2021 at 12:47 PM

YR

“ *Your friends at Southern Reporting purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John Dewey Jobe.*



Your friends at Southern Reporting - September 23, 2021 at 04:59 PM

BA

“ *You’ve left a remarkable legacy something your family can be so very proud of.*

Beth Armstrong - September 23, 2021 at 03:42 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Dewey Jobe.*



September 23, 2021 at 03:42 PM

KW

“ *As his sister-in-law I had many happy memories of Marlice and John’s life together a very loving life. He gave my sister much happiness and he will always be in my heart and greatly missed by all of us* 💕💕

Kim Wilkinson - September 23, 2021 at 03:18 PM

GH

One of the great minds-from the CHS class of 1953...

Gene Herzfeld - September 28, 2021 at 07:24 PM