



## John Arthur Schilt

March 3, 1943 - February 26, 2024

John Arthur Schilt  
1943-2024

John Arthur Schilt, 80, passed away peacefully on Monday, February 26, 2024 in his hometown of Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Born in Muskogee on March 3, 1943, John was the son of the late Catherine Theresa Niedermayer Schilt and Elijah William “Dutch” Schilt.

John spent most of his childhood travelling around the country with his family while his father was working in construction. After settling back in Muskogee in 1953, John attended Alice Robertson Junior High School and graduated from Muskogee Central High School in 1961 where he was drum major for the All Boys Marching Band. He then went on to earn a degree in civil engineering from Oklahoma State University where he was a member of Sigma Nu Fraternity.

John met his wife Linda Solomon shortly after college when they were both living in the same apartment complex in Tulsa. They married in 1970 and had three daughters. He began his career at Corning Glass Works, Inc., where he worked for a number of years before venturing off to start his own business, Professional Packaging, and later bought Oklahoma Interpak, Inc. He spent

the remainder of his career leading and expanding his business in Muskogee before his retirement.

In addition to being a loving husband, father and grandfather, John enjoyed a lifelong passion for boating and travelling. He purchased his first sailboat while in college and dedicated his spare time to mastering the sport. He found great joy in sharing the experience with his family and close friends and spent much of his life traveling by boat in and out of the harbors of the U.S and the Caribbean. At his happiest when tinkering on a boat, John always challenged himself to find ways to make things better, faster and more efficient. His love of the sport combined with his engineering background propelled him to invent and patent the Breeze Booster™, the first self-supporting hatch ventilator for power boats and sailboats. After his boating days were over, he most recently pursued traveling in his RV with Linda while enjoying several cross-country trips to explore the interior of the country.

John served on the Board of Directors for the Muskogee City-County Port Authority and was an active member of the Muskogee Exchange Club. John was a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church.

John is survived by his wife of 53 years, Linda Kay Schilt; his three daughters, Julie Elizabeth Elgin (Eric) of Muskogee; Lisa Alane Sherl (Jason) of Broken Arrow; and Amanda Schilt Pratt (Beau) of Richmond, VA; his sister, Carolyn Gayle Schilt Williamson (Riley) of Denver, CO; and his six grandchildren, Van Alan Elgin, Eric Ladd Elgin, Robert Harris "Hart" Pratt, Olivia Virginia Sherl, John Howard Pratt, and Manning Arthur "Mack" Sherl.

The family requests memorials can be made in John's name to the Muskogee Bridges Out of Poverty, 1503 W. Broadway, Muskogee, OK 74401.

A celebration of John's life will be at 2PM, Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at St. Paul United Methodist Church, 2130 W Okmulgee St, Muskogee, OK 74401.

Interment will follow at Greenhill Cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

## Greenhill Cemetery

1500 N. York Street  
Muskogee, OK 74403

# Previous Events

## Service

MAR 6. 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Paul United Methodist Church  
2130 W Okmulgee  
Muskogee, OK 74401

# Tribute Wall



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of John Arthur Schilt.*



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March 05, 2024 at 09:34 AM



“ *I had the opportunity to work for John as one of his first employees as he and Jerry were starting up Professional Packaging. Our working relationship lead to a long term friendship. When John designed and built his barn on his farm I had the opportunity to help with the construction. Although we moved away from Muskogee in 1986, we stayed in touch. If I dropped in Oklahoma Interpack while visiting Muskogee, he would always make time to visit. John was a dear friend and mentor. Our condolences and deepest sympathy to Ms Linda and the entire family. Love and prayers, Stan & Marla Epperson*

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**Stan & Marla Epperson** - March 04, 2024 at 07:52 AM



“A Duck Story”

*About 1957 or 58 John and I went tramping across an Arkansas River sand bar just north of Muskogee before dawn shotguns in hand and toting decoys. The ducks were flying so low to the river we had to crouch from getting hit by them. With our hopes high and reaching out hunting spot behind a huge clump of logs on the shallow river we settled in waiting for light. Sun up and not a duck in sight UGH!! and after a long wait here comes one lone green head and plops down right in the middle of our decoys. Breathing heavily and using hunter etiquette we nod to each other and stand up to flush the duck. The startled duck pops up just 30 feet in front of us and with a thunderous roar of John's dad's double barrel 12 gauge and my dad's 16 gauge automatic we fire off 5 rounds of # 4 buckshot surely to blast the poor little duck to smithereines. The duck does the only thing that could save itself, stops in midair madly flapping it's wings, looks back at us, sheds a few feathers, quacks and flies off!! With total astonishment and embarrassment on our faces we laugh in disbelief and wait for another day to bag our duck. Iv'e never told this story to anyone and don't think John had either hope he doesn't mind.*

*"A True Story"*

*Rest in peace my friend.*

*David*

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David Vincent - March 02, 2024 at 11:54 AM

DS

“A Duck Story”

*In 1957 or 58 John and I went tramping across an Arkansas river sand bar just north of Muskogee before dawn shotguns in hand and toting decoys. The ducks were so thick and flying so close to the river we had to crouch from not getting hit by them. Hope's up and reaching our hunting spot behind a huge clump of logs on the shallow river we settled in waiting for light. Sun up and not a duck in sight UGH!! After a long wait one lone green head plops down right in the middle of our decoys. Breathing heavily and using hunter etiquette we nod at each other and stand up to flush the duck. The startled duck pops up just 30 feet in front of us and with a thunderous roar of John's dad's 12 gauge double barrel and my dad's 16 gauge automatic we fire off 5 rounds of # 4 buckshot surely to blast the duck to smithereines. This poor unsuspecting duck does the only thing that could have save itself, stops, madly flapping it's wings stationary in flight just 30 feet away, looks back at us, sheds a few feathers, quacks and flies off!! Astonished and totally embarrassed we laugh at each other in disbelief and wait for another day to bag our duck. Iv'e never told this story to anyone and don't think John had either. (hope he doesn't mind)*

*" A True Story"*

*Rest in peace my friend.*

*David*

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**david vincent smith** - March 02, 2024 at 11:27 AM

EE

*Never heard this one thanks for sharing*

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**Eric Elgin** - March 05, 2024 at 12:35 AM



*My condolences*

**David Vincent** - March 05, 2024 at 10:06 AM



*A fish story to come. I'll be sending a momento addressed to you at business.*

**David Vincent** - March 05, 2024 at 06:42 PM

BH

“ *John was such a great man he was extremely smart. I enjoyed working for him and just sitting and talking with him, a great friend that I will miss. My condolences to the entire family.*

**Berry and Beverly Harris** - March 01, 2024 at 08:05 PM

EE

*Thanks Berry he really enjoyed working with you as well.*

**Eric Elgin** - March 05, 2024 at 12:34 AM

RE

“ *I, personally, only met Mr. Schilt a couple of times. But my late husband, Tony Ferguson, admired John's brilliance and energy. Times when Tony would deliver machined parts to Oklahoma Interpak; he always appreciated talking and hanging out with Mr. Schilt. Two masterminds hard at work all the time, even in Heaven; I'm sure. I'm so sorry for your loss of this brilliant man.*

**Regina** - March 01, 2024 at 12:34 PM

DL

*Linda, I'm so sorry to hear of John's passing. Please know that I'm praying for you. With love, Diane Lee*

**Diane Lee** - March 02, 2024 at 10:06 AM

HE

*Amanda and family, we are so sorry for the loss of your dearest loved one. Our deepest sympathy and condolences are with the entire family. With prayers and love, Amanda's Diverse Segments Teammates within her Bank of America Family.*

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**Heather Encinas** - March 05, 2024 at 02:31 PM