



John Rayford Bass

January 24, 1939 - July 16, 2016

Memorial services for John Rayford Bass, 77, of Tyler, will be held on Wednesday, July 20, 2016 at 3:00 PM at Marvin United Methodist Church with Dr. Doug Baker and Rev. Gerry Giles officiating.

A private burial will be held at Rose Hill Cemetery in Tyler under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Mr. Bass passed away Saturday, July 16, 2016 in Tyler.

He was born January 24, 1939 in Tyler to Rev. E. R. and Evaline Wells Bass.

John was a member of Marvin United Methodist Church. He graduated from SMU with a degree in music. He had a larger than life voice and started in radio with KTBB at the ripe old age of 14 and continued while at SMU in 1966 with KLIF. John started with KLTN in 1967 until 1977, when he left to pursue his real estate career with Ben Fitzgerald and ended up with his brother, Jim Bass at Turner-Bass Realty. Also, in 1968, he was instrumental in starting the Tyler Civic Chorale which continues in Tyler today.

During his real estate career, he sang all over the country with the Marvin Chancellor Choir. The choir traveled to England where they sang in the Coventry Cathedral and New York at Carnegie Hall.

John enjoyed hunting and fishing and spent way too many years chasing the big one! He had his own fishing show, "Outdoors with John Bass" in the late 1960's. He was the spokesperson for the Sportster, a sporting goods store based in Tyler. He made the famous the saying "Son, Son – brother, we got it all!" And he loved dressing up as Big Santa Bass in the commercials.

John was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Patsy Gilmore; and brother, Jim Bass.

He is survived by his loving family including Gary and Janice Gilmore and family, Greg and Melinda Gilmore, Murray Bass and family, Michael Bass and family, Alan Gilmore and family; and Tom and Anne Pukstys and family. He is also survived by many childhood friends, including Robin Hood Brians, David Hamm and many cousins, great nieces and great-nephews.

Visitation is scheduled from 6:00 - 8:00 PM on Tuesday, July 19, 2016 at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway, in Tyler.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Marvin Chancelor Choir, 300 West Erwin, Tyler, TX 75702.

Cemetery Details

Rose Hill Cemetery

2400 S. Donnybrook
Tyler, TX 75702

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **19**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Tribute Wall

CL

“ So sorry to hear of John's passing. Many memories of his beautiful voice on air and in person and of his family in the Tyler community. Deepest condolences to all the family. Claudia Wolford Fultz

claudia - July 18, 2016 at 04:44 PM

SC

“ I just heard about John's home going this morning. I remember meeting John for the first time. I was hanging out at the KTBB studios in the Blackstone Hotel. Randy Rice had a part time job there, and since we were friends at TJC I was helping reorganize the Record Room. John had come to record some commercials in the production room. Over time i was hired to work at KTBB as a Disc Jockey. That was in the Fall of 1967. John and I became great friends. We spent hours together in God's great outdoors pursuing deer and ducks. There are too many stories to share, but they are all great memories! John recommended me for a News Reporter job at KLTV, and I was put to work. Ralph Johnson was News Director; Barry Hansen, Michael and Sandra Brown worked there at the time. John and I stayed in touch over the years remembering the great times we had together. John Bass loved Jesus Christ. If he could talk to you right now he would tell you that Jesus truly is the Way, the Truth and the Life! I am thankful to know that we will be reunited in eternity. Soon and Very Soon!

Steve Cannon
Executive Director
J.A.I.L. Ministry, Inc.

Steve Cannon - July 18, 2016 at 09:58 AM