



## John Wheat

September 17, 1937 - March 3, 2007

Services for Dr. John R. Wheat, 69, of Tyler will be held on Tuesday, March 6, 2007 at 2:00 PM at First Baptist Church Downtown with Dr. Michael Massar officiating. Burial will be in the Rose Hill Cemetery in Tyler under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home. Dr. Wheat passed away, Saturday, March 3, 2007 at Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler. John Richard Wheat was born to Lafayette Wheat and Elva Wheat on September 17, 1937 in Kilgore, Texas. His father was employed by Tidewater Oil Company and his mother was a homemaker. John has one little brother, James "Jim" Wheat and wife Cathy of Wimberly. John's childhood years were typical- school days, church on Sunday and Wednesday nights, sports, friends and a great motor scooter. John graduated from Kilgore High School, 1955, Kilgore College, 1957, and Stephen F. Austin State University with a B.S. in Mathematics, 1959. In 1964, he received his M. S. from the University of Mississippi. He was selected numerous times to receive the prestigious study grants from the National Science Foundation for Mathematics studies. These awards took him and his family to San Jose State, University of Wyoming, University of Michigan, and University of Texas at Austin. In 1990, John completed his doctorate at Texas A&M-Commerce. His dissertation was titled "The Effects of Certain Affective and Cognitive Variables on Performance in College Algebra", and the results of his findings were later published in an academic journal. John's career focus has been teaching Mathematics, Engineering and Physics. John taught at Tyler Junior College for 40 years and White Oak Public School

for 6 years. Classroom teaching was the love of John's career. However, he often said "He was not done until the paperwork was complete". He participated in 160 registrations, 40 different graduations, organized and kept up with at least 160 different grade books for more than 24,000 students. He spent hours grading papers, on committee assignments and for fun drank lots of coffee with math colleagues. He also served as the Co-Sponsor for the Physics and Engineering club for many years. He started the first intramural program for students. John was a member the college honor society Kappa Delta Phi, Who's Who in College Teaching, received the Mabel Williams Chair in Mathematics, and was President of Faculty Senate. While it may seem that John was focused strictly on education, nothing could be further from the truth. John married his childhood sweetheart, Martha Douglas, in 1959. In January 2007 they celebrated their 48th Wedding anniversary. God blessed their home with 3 children: Mark R. Wheat and wife Lori of Tyler, Judy R. Gibbs and husband Danny of Rockwall, and Robin J. Edgemon and husband Kyle of Tyler. Their lives were intertwined with lots of church activities, volleyball, football, basketball, track, cheerleading, baseball, band, twirling and of course there was a need for fleet insurance! Children brought lots of graduation fun! They earned their Bachelor degrees in chemistry, accounting and early childhood education from Austin College, Baylor University, and Texas Tech University. Three advanced degrees were added. Their children blessed their lives with the choice of their life partners and eight precious grandchildren Sarah, Nathan, Luke, Justly, Joel, Daniel, Evan, and Honor who call him "Granddaddy". John always said, The absolute best part of grandchildren is watching your children care and love their own children. John was a member of the Minton's class at First Baptist Church. He taught Sunday school, served on the committee to develop the Family Recreation center and was a deacon. He was a member of Tyler Lodge #1233, a 32nd Scottish-Rite Mason and a member of Swan Lake Board of Directors. John was an avid Ham Radio operator, WA5JW was his call sign, and was very involved in his local club. He taught the training sessions for Ham operators. John loved to

hunt and fish, and best of all he loved to watch his grandchildren catch fish. John's Retirement came 2 years ahead of schedule due to a diagnosis of Metastasis Renal Cell Carcinoma, but God still had more for John to do. This journey took him to the Sammons Cancer Center at Baylor Hospital to participate in a study for the drug "Sutent". The drug has since been approved by the FDA and is available to help others. Along this path came lots of encouragement from God's textbook and from family and friends. John loved his God, his family and his colleagues. On March 3, 2007 this graceful servant of the Lord quietly joined his heavenly father. Luke 23:43 Honorary Pallbearers will be Dr. Wheat's math colleagues at Tyler Junior College. The family will receive friends from 6:00-8:00 PM Monday, March 5, 2007, at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy., Tyler, Texas 75703 Memorials in honor of Dr. John R. Wheat may be made to the Sammons Cancer and Kidney Research Center at Baylor 3535 Worth St., Dallas, Texas 75246, Tyler Cancer Center 910 E. Houston St., Tyler, Texas 75702 or the Tyler Junior College Presidential Scholarship for Mathematics 1400 E. Fifth St., Tyler, Texas 75701. For more information or to express condolences, visit [www.stewartfamilyfuneral.com](http://www.stewartfamilyfuneral.com).

# Tribute Wall

MM

“ *To Martha - What a beautiful legacy Dr. Wheat has left for his lovely family. After reading about his life in the paper - it gives me a renewed zest for life and family! Thank you for sharing his story - I know there must be so many wonderful stories "between the lines" that make this family so close and so blessed. To have touched so many lives of students is amazing. Thank you, John and Martha, for touching so many lives!*

*To Robin - You are such a blessing to so many people and you are touching children's lives every day! Your family roots are so very rich - your father has left a wonderful heritage for his family that will live for many generations. The love you have for your parents is so deep, it shines in your eyes.*

*May God bless and keep the Wheat family, always, and may God's loving arms hold you and give you peace, comfort and laughter as you celebrate Dr. Wheat's lifetime of memories.*

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**Maureen McCullough** - March 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ *Dear Martha, Mark, Judy, Robin, Jim and families:  
Very sorry to learn of John's passing.  
We were classmates from the 4th grade at Kilgore Heights though our senior year at Kilgore High School as well as one year at Kilgore College.  
God be with each of you. We will remember John and his strong, Christian faith as well as classroom fun.  
Ver sincerely,  
Suzann Little  
(East Haddam CT)*

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**Suzann Little** - March 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ I love you so much! You were such a great Granddaddy. I will miss all the wonderful times we had together. I know you will always be with me to keep me safe. I am so blessed to be your granddaughter.

I love you,  
Sarah

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**Sarah Shelton** - March 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ Martha, It's Monday night. Mike and I just learned about your loss. Our hearts hurt for you. Know you are loved and are in our prayers. Due to my knee replacement surgery March 6, we will not be able to attend the services. Ya'll are two of our favorite people and if we could we would be there for you. Many hugs....

Cindy

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**Mike and Cindy Grimes** - March 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DY

“ Martha,  
I am so sorry for your loss. John left such a wonderful legacy in all the students, colleages, family, and his his devotion to his discipline. My thoughts and prayers are with your family. Take care and know that your friends are thinking of you at this time.

MYoung  
UT Tyler

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**Dr. Marilyn Young** - March 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ *Martha & Family,*

*We consider it a priviledge to have known John all these years through our FBC family and will certainly miss his encouraging smile. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time but know the Lord will give you strength in dealing with your loss and heaven's gain.*

*Rena & Melvin Stiefel*

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**Rena & Melvin Stiefel** - March 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ *To the family of WA5JW, SK:*

*My prayers and condolences to you and yours. I had Dr. John in a math class at TJC in 1993 and came back in contact with him through ham radio some years later. He was in life as he was in the classroom.*

*May God comfort and strengthen you in the days to come.*

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**Brian Stinecipher, W5DBS** - March 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ I was a student at TJC from 1994 to 1996 and was fortunate enough to have Mr. Wheat as my math teacher. He was never too busy to make time for a student and he was always ready and willing to explain things until everyone understood. It's been awhile since I was in college, but his kind demeanor and willingness to always help students have always stuck with me. I was so saddened to read of his passing. Know that my prayers are with you during this time.

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**Marnie Trundle** - March 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM