



Johnny Wayne Portwood

July 12, 1949 - January 21, 2021

Johnny Wayne Portwood. A man known by many names, Johnny, John, Daddy, Dad, Papa left for his Heavenly home on January 21, 2021. Born in Tyler, TX on July 12, 1949 to Troy and Helen Portwood. Johnny was the second of five siblings including himself, Bennie Portwood, Nancy Portwood Crawford, Penny Portwood Davidson, and Kevin Portwood. Johnny attended Tyler schools, graduating from John Tyler High School in 1967, where he played football and met the love of his life Kathy Beaty. Upon graduation, Mr. Portwood served his country during the Vietnam War from 1968-1974 in the United States Navy. Marrying Kathy after boot camp, their early life was spent traversing the country to naval bases in San Diego, CA; San Francisco, CA; Fallon, NV; Mobile, Alabama; and Pensacola, FL. During this time, Johnny and Kathy connected with lifelong friends of 52 years, Don and Diane Hahn of Soldotna, AK. Their special friendship spanned the decades and saw the growth of families. In Reno, NV, the Portwood's celebrated the birth of their first child, daughter Jeri. After faithfully serving his country, the family moved to Tyler, TX and then to Nacogdoches, TX where Johnny graduated with honors in earning his Bachelor's degree in Agriculture from Stephen F. Austin University. During this time, the family grew again, celebrating the birth of their son John. Upon graduation from SFA, Johnny began teaching agriculture at Nacogdoches High School. A necessity to help with the family business soon emerged and Johnny and family returned to the Tyler area, settling in Whitehouse, TX. During this time Johnny worked with his father, brother,

sister, and mother at Portwood Insurance Agency selling policies to local teachers and school districts. After his time as an insurance agent, Johnny moved to another sector and continued his professional career at East Texas Alarm Company. Throughout his life, Mr. Portwood had many passions, but none more than his faith and his love for his family. He attended church in Tyler, first, at Omen Road Church of Christ, then, West Erwin Church of Christ, and finally, Shiloh Road Church of Christ. In his final years, as health prevented his travel from home, he worshipped virtually with the Eastridge Church of Christ in Rockwall, TX. Church was always a major influence on his family and never far from his heart. Johnny's true pride and joy came from his family. He provided his wife and children with an unbelievable life filled with joy and happiness that manifests itself in gatherings, vacations and time spent together.

He is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Kathy Portwood of Whitehouse, TX; 2 children, daughter, Jeri Portwood Prestidge of Whitehouse, TX and son and daughter-in-law John and Saralyn Portwood of Huntsville, TX; 6 grandchildren, (Jaci Prestidge Luebbert, Corey Prestidge, Kaylee Prestidge, Jackson Portwood, Cooper Portwood and Emmy Portwood); along with 1 great-grandchild (Dani Kay Luebbert). His true passion in life was his family and his legacy is the unwavering love that he showed them. Johnny is preceded in death by his father, Troy Portwood; mother-in-law, Gussie Beaty; and father-in-law, John Beaty.

Visitation will be held at Stewart Funeral Home from 6pm - 8pm on Monday January 25, 2021, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway in Tyler. Funeral services will be held at Shiloh Road Church of Christ in Tyler, 1801 Shiloh Road, Tyler, TX 75703 at 2pm on Tuesday January 26, 2021 with a graveside ceremony at Walnut Grove Cemetery in Whitehouse, TX to follow. Officiated by Jason Reeves, Eastridge Church of Christ, Rockwall, TX.

Pallbearers and Honorary Pallbearers include: John Portwood, Patrick Luebbert, Jaci Luebbert, Corey Prestidge, Don Hahn, Neal Maynard, Steve Wade, Robbie Wade, Danny Snell, Tim Belk, Dan Amundson, John Amundson, Terry Moreland, and Jonathan Moreland

Johnny was a man who enjoyed helping others, in lieu of flowers it would greatly please him for you to find a person in need and lend them a hand.

Cemetery Details

Walnut Grove Cemetery

11037 FM 344
Whitehouse, TX 75791

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 25. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

Service

JAN 26. 2:00 PM (CT)

Shiloh Road Church of Christ
1801 Shiloh Rd.
Tyler, TX 75703

Burial

JAN 26 (CT)

Walnut Grove Cemetery
11037 FM 344
Whitehouse, TX 75791

Tribute Wall



“ Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Johnny Wayne Portwood



Stewart Family Funeral Home - January 28, 2021 at 10:36 AM



“ Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Johnny Wayne Portwood



Stewart Family Funeral Home - January 25, 2021 at 02:45 PM

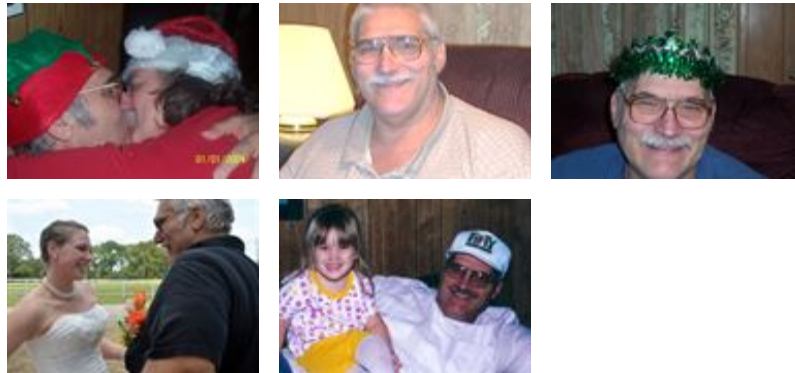


“ We appreciate the Portwood family. Met them when we moved here and began attending West Erwin. Enjoyed being in the Wed. pm singing class with Jeri and her daughter. Bitsy & Kathy were in book club together. Appreciate all of you and pray for comfort for you during this sad time. ---Wayne & Bitsy Berryman

Wayne Berryman - January 25, 2021 at 07:19 PM



“ 115 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Stewart Family Funeral Home - January 25, 2021 at 02:36 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Johnny Wayne Portwood.*



January 25, 2021 at 11:05 AM



“ *Dearest Kathy and Family, May the Spirit of our LORD and Savior comfort you and sustain you at this time of the loss of Johnny. I can so vividly remember seeing you two walking the halls of John Tyler with such love in your eyes for each other. It is very clear that you and Johnny built a legacy of faith, family and love....and the greatest of these is love. My husband and I moved to Tyler last June. I long for the day when we can visit. My prayers surround and your family at this time. I love you dearly Kathy. Jensy McDonald Gregory*

Jensy McDonald Gregory - January 25, 2021 at 10:01 AM

RM

“ Kindness, a laugh, encouragement, and a big smile, with LOTS of patience..... These things I could always expect to see from Big John when I was over at the house with Little John, growing up with the Portwood family as great influences in my life.

One wonderful summer memory I have was going over to a good family friend's pond and fishing for catfish before little John or I could drive. Big John showed us how to properly use the chicken livers with awesome success and we were snagging cats out as much as we could stand to take home every trip. Later on, part of Big John's love and guidance for little John brought extra trust in both John and I, allowing Little John to drive the red Ford truck down to the catfish pond, and even down to the lower pasture where I remember that little John learned to do doughnuts with that truck in the muddy field.

I could go on and on and fill up pages of this tribute, but, the big picture here is that I grew up around Big John and Kathy, and all I can remember is them giving little John and his sister Jeri the most honest love that children can hope for.

What better and more can You say of a person than that they Loved God, Loved their family, and showed Love and kindness to others whom they encountered?

-Ryan McMakin

Ryan McMakin - January 25, 2021 at 12:46 AM

RS

“ While growing up with the Portwood family, the love that Mr Portwood showed for his family was unmatched. This bled over into all things his children did. He & Mrs Portwood were unmatched positive supporters of the Wildcat football team and were never shy about giving praise to every member of this team. He worked hard and ensured that knowledge & his wisdom was shared with whomever he talked to. It was truly a blessing to have him & his family as an influence growing up.

Rich Starkey - January 24, 2021 at 10:27 PM

MJ

“ Dear Kathy and family, I was so sorry to hear of Johnny's passing. I pray that the beautiful memories you have will ease your pain. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers. Kathy, I have so many fond memories of you. I live in Tyler now and would love to hear from you when you feel ready. Love you, Martha Finefrock Jones

Martha Finefrock Jones - January 24, 2021 at 09:31 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Johnny Wayne Portwood.



January 24, 2021 at 08:04 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Johnny Wayne Portwood.*



January 24, 2021 at 07:58 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Johnny Wayne Portwood.*



January 24, 2021 at 06:05 PM



“ *I haven't seen Johnny since 1968, but, I saw him a lot for 10 years, the 2nd grade through the 12th grade. We played baseball together (Ramey Green Aces), football (Boulter Jr. High and John Tyler). We worked together the summer of 1966 hauling hay.*

When you look in the dictionary under "salt oft he earth", you'll see a picture of Johnny. He was a great guy to grow up with and as I read in his obituary, he was an outstanding man.

Neal Collom

Neal Collom - January 24, 2021 at 03:03 PM

AP

“ Johnny was always very nice to me when I worked for his Memaw Portwood. He helped me get her up from the floor when she fell. I offer condolences to his family and also to his mother, Helen Portwood, his brothers Benny & Kevin, sisters Nancy & Penny and their families. Rest in peace, Johnny.
Ann Peevy

Ann Peevy - January 24, 2021 at 02:03 PM

PN

“ Went to school with Johnny. Years later I worked for his parents insurance office. Wonderful memories. Kathy you & all your family are in my thoughts & prayers.

Pat Nesbitt - January 24, 2021 at 12:44 PM

LA

“ Sending love and prayers to Kathy and the family. Praying for peace and comfort.

Linda Albritton - January 24, 2021 at 11:19 AM

LB

“ I would like to send condolences to Kathy and the family of John Portwood. I met John and Kathy many years ago when I was in banking. John was always a pleasure to be around. Sending prayers to the family.

Lovell Barker

Lovell Barker - January 23, 2021 at 04:10 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Johnny Wayne Portwood.*



January 23, 2021 at 12:49 PM