



Arnold Earl Johns Jr.

February 2, 1943 - June 13, 2014

Arnold Earl Johns, Jr. died on June 14, 2014 in Calhoun, Georgia from complications of diabetes, which he had battled most of his life. He is survived by his children; Alex and wife Dana Johns of Athens, GA, Bryan and wife Melanie Johns of Atlanta, Ward Johns of Cumming, GA, Catherine Johns of Los Angeles, CA, four grandchildren, his sister, Stephanie Johns Bond Smith of Auburn, AL and Missy Johns, his wife of 38 years.

Born in Jacksonville, FL in 1943 to Arnold Earl Johns and Rubye Beamer Johns, the family moved to Atlanta when Arnold was a child. He graduated from North Fulton High School in 1961. He earned a degree in economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1965. He returned to Atlanta and pursued a career in business finance and development, beginning as a securities analyst for First National Bank of Atlanta and Robinson-Humphrey Company. His career progressed as he became a principal officer in a number of public and private companies. He worked as a consultant in business mergers and acquisitions until his death. His trusting spirit led him to anticipate the best from everyone.

Known for his humor and quick wit, he filled his life with his work and his large family. He generously gave leadership time to his sons' Boy Scout activities, his children's sports teams, Christian mission trips, Kiwanis Club and community charities. The Boys and Girls Clubs of Atlanta honored him with

the John B. Conant Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service. He loved his church and was a member of North Avenue Presbyterian in Atlanta for 40 years. He always extended a warm welcome to visitors and had a special love for Internationals. He was Chairman of the World Missions Conference, Chairman of the Finance Committee, and Chairman of the Board of Deacons. His genuine nature, indiscriminate friendliness and kind regard towards all people bore witness to his relationship with God.

The family will appreciate any expressions or memories to be posted online at maxbrannonandsons.com, who provided cremation services in Calhoun, GA. A Memorial Service will be held at North Avenue Presbyterian Church, 607 Peachtree Street, Atlanta 30308 on Sunday, July 13, 2014 at 1:00 PM. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions in Arnold's memory be sent to his church.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL 13. 1:00 PM (ET)

North Avenue Presbyterian Church
607 Peachtree St.
Atlanta, GA 30308

Tribute Wall

JC

“*Precious Family of Arnold Johns, Words cannot express our sadness of the passing of your dad and our friend of many, many years. Arnold was only 3 days older than Jimmy (Jimmy and I were both classmates of Arnold's at North Fulton), and we served together on the Class of 1961 Reunion Committee for many years. Arnold, Perry Mitchell and I were the youngest charter members at St. James Methodist Church in Buckhead, and we had many great years together at MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship) along with Jimmy Carroll, Scott Beresford, Suzanne Robinson, Rita Tilly, Perry Mitchell, Diane Zunzer, and others. Our MYF put on plays, and (as I remember) your dad was usually the main character in our plays. We enjoyed lots of dances through those years...many held in our family's den dancing to old songs like "Butterfly" and "Hound Dog." Arnold was always so kind and never had an unkind word to say about anyone. But the most important thing I will always hold near to my heart about Arnold was what he shared with us during our last reunion in 2011...that He trusted Christ and gave Him praise for holding him close during some difficult times. Now and until we see Arnold again one day, if there is dancing in Heaven (and I believe there is)...Arnold will be leading the dance! Our prayers will continue for all of you that the Lord will hold you close and comfort you. Love, Jimmy and Camille Sudderth*

Jimmy and Camille - July 08, 2014 at 04:13 PM

JR

“ *What a tragic loss. Arnold was a good friend and neighbor for many years on Cameron Glen. Like Arnold, I too had worked as a securities analyst at Robinson Humphrey so we knew many of the same people. Over the years we looked at a number of companies and projects together and enjoyed neighborhood parties. When my wife, Michele, died of breast cancer in 2004 Arnold and Missy were so supportive. Missy even drove her to doctors appointments. Losing great friends like that is so difficult but like Arnold's family I will treasure all the wonderful memories of the good times we had. My deepest sympathy to Missy, Alex, Brian, Ward and Catherine.*

John Runningen - July 04, 2014 at 06:09 AM

LS

“ *Goodness. I was saddened to learn of Arnold's passing. I grew up in a different Buckhead neighborhood than Arnold, so I first met him when we became classmates at North Fulton. What a great guy to be around. It is easy to see why he had so many friends...he knew how to be your friend. After graduating from UGA, I never really lived in Atlanta again, so I kinda lost track of my old friends until the NFHS Reunion Committee started the web site and we were all able to reconnect in a way. I was not surprised to find Arnold as a part of everything and a successful business man as well. In reading about his life, it is very clear that he lived a full and great life with a loving family and a strong faith. These are things he achieved and all men aspire to. God Bless you Arnold.*

Lee Sechler - June 23, 2014 at 02:23 PM

SB

“ Dear Missy and Family,

Please accept our condolences. All of us with the North Fulton community and his many other friends, will miss Arnold. His positive attitude, sense of humor, and his support of friends will survive Arnold and live with us.

Best wishes to you and your family. We are thinking of you and Arnold and will cherish our times together.

*Sincerely,
Scott Beresford and Sally Price
Salida, Colorado*

Scott Beresford - June 23, 2014 at 10:18 AM

“ Arnold and I lived about a mile apart, in the Club Dr./Peachtree Dunwoody area, so it was kind of natural that we’d run into each other often – that’s how we became friends, especially since we also shared a lot of classes at North Fulton High.

Arnold and I (and a whole bunch of us guys) loved cars. One day, a friend of Arnold’s father gave Arnold a junker ’37 or ’38 Ford four-door sedan. Somehow Mr. Johns allowed Arnold to mess with the car in their backyard, which heavily wooded and slanted downhill pretty steeply. He and I were trying to figure out how the brakes worked, and thought we had it – so Arnold said, “Let’s give ‘em a try!” We hopped in, he took off the emergency brake, and we started slowly rolling down the hill. After a few yards, Arnold hit the brake pedal and – nothing! – the car just kept picking up speed.

Arnold furiously kept pumping the brake pedal, while trying to also steer around trees and bushes. We were laughing, but also getting ready to jump out – when some tree stump jerked us to a crunching halt. After checking to see there was no bad damage, Arnold put it in reverse, which luckily was just strong enough to get us back up the hill. I forget if we ever figured the brakes out, and I never remember driving that thing on a street, so it probably stayed back there in the woods until the Johnses moved.

And speaking of being car-crazy, Arnold was born in early February 1943; I was born on February 11th. So when we were about to hit our most important birthday ever – our 16th of course – I knew I had to get my driver’s license that very day! And because Arnold hadn’t gotten his yet, I talked my mom into driving both of us all the way over to Confederate Dr. (near Grant Park), the only test-taking place in Atlanta at the time.

We were in my family’s second car: a huge ’54 Olds Rocket 88 four-door sedan, but Arnold and I had both gotten a few driving lessons from our parents, and we’d “borrowed” our family’s cars several times when our parents were out, which meant we kind of knew

what we were doing. So although Arnold hadn't ever driven that '54 Olds land yacht, he passed the driving test – and so did I. Of course, I drove us home; I remember not saying much, but smiling like a happy fool – and when I saw Arnold in the rear view mirror, he had that exact same goofy I-just-got-my-driver's-license-I'm-free! grin. We were on top of the world right then, no doubt about it!

Okay: music, girls and dancing during Arnold's and my high school years, 1956 – 1961. It was truly when rock 'n' roll first came on the scene, and our whole group loved all of it! Loose-limbed Arnold took to the dancing part especially – in fact, he was the best, most creative guy dancer in our entire class of almost 240 kids. Back in those ancient days, you danced holding your partner – not just for the slow songs, but for the fast ones too. The guys led, and the girls followed – there was lots of fancy footwork, and almost constant twirling and reeling your partner in and out.

But a lot of guys just didn't think it was macho to fast dance (slow dancing was another matter, since you got to hold the girl close, body to body, if you get my drift). All the girls loved to fast dance, so if you were a guy who could do that, you were going to meet lots of them – that was motivation #1 to fast dance.

But a close second for Arnold was just the sheer joy of cutting loose on the dance floor – I can still see him with a huge grin while going to town! Plus, back then there were a couple of specialty dances – the stroll was one, a kind of early line dance, and very few guys would try that ... and then there was the calypso, a kind of cha-cha, which was even harder – in fact, Arnold was the only guy in our group who did it well. At every sock hop, whenever I heard a calypso number, I always looked until I found Arnold on the dance floor – and he never failed to impress! He had an absolute ball dancing.

Perry Mitchell

MJ

I love hearing your memories, Perry! That you so much for taking the time to share them. I love envisioning these scenes in my head... of him as a teenager. The way you describe him is just as I would have guessed! I really love this. Thank you for posting!

MC Johns - June 22, 2014 at 11:12 AM

WJ

Wow, I never realized dad was such a stud on the dance floor! I love dancing too. Dad and I never spoke much about dancing, so I have to conclude that he passed his dancing skills and his ability to recognize a groovy beat on to me. :) Thanks for sharing, Perry.

Ward Johns - June 22, 2014 at 12:51 PM

AB

Catherine, Bryan, Ward, Alex and Missy,

Arnold broke the mold. I'm sure you all agree that there was, and always will be, only one Arnold. We were North Fulton classmate, and he was somewhat of a cut up. He never really got into any trouble, but you could be sure he usually had the inside scoop on any practical jokes being planned. He had a unique laugh that you could instantly recognize from the next room. Arnold had the wonderful skill of being very persuasive at saying, "Who, Me?". I'm pretty sure the teachers could never suspect that he could be a prankster if left unattended.

Like Perry Mitchell, Arnold was born 9 days before me. It's fitting that his birthday was Ground Hog Day. But in Arnold's case, his shadow could never quite catch up to him. He seemed to be in constant motion. And that motion was always highly animated. His wide ear-to-ear smile was always an ice-breaker, and it seemed that people were naturally drawn to him.

We had something very special in common, too...something admired by many men, and something quite endearing to many women...the glorious wonder of baldness. Look at Arnold's bald head and his dark hair...then change the hair to white...and that's me.

I am proud and honored to have known Arnold. He left the world a better place than he found it. To know was to love him.

Alan Barnes

Alan Barnes - June 22, 2014 at 02:42 PM

BB

“ *Missy, Alex, Bryan, Ward, and Catherine,
Words cannot appropriately express the sadness of having lost a
dear friend of so many years. I, along with many others, have fond
memories of this caring, gentle, and funny man...and will miss him
greatly. Bonnie and I extend our deepest sympathy to all of you as
you mourn his loss.*
Bruce Bennett

Bruce Bennett - June 22, 2014 at 09:25 AM

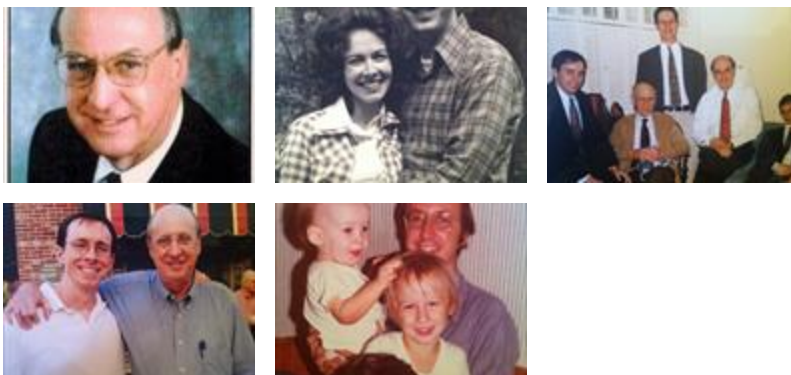
MJ

*Thank you, Bruce. That means so much. And I am sorry for the loss of
your friend of so many years. How special and rare to have a friendship
like yours. I'm feeling grateful for you and appreciating your touching
words.*

MC Johns - June 22, 2014 at 11:17 AM

MJ

“ *27 files added to the album New Album Name*



M. Catherine Johns - June 21, 2014 at 08:36 PM

KJ

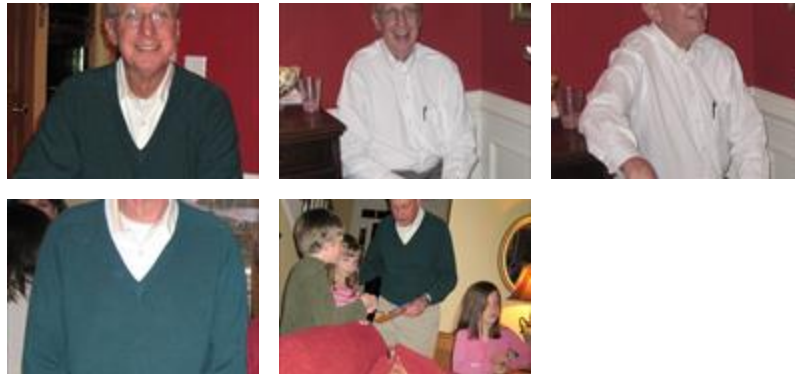
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Kelley Johns - June 21, 2014 at 07:52 PM

KJ

“ 9 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Kelley Johns - June 21, 2014 at 07:49 PM

NS

“ *So sorry to hear of Arnold's passing. He was such a humorous, friendly guy during our years at NFHS. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you in your loss.*

Nancy Thompson Small

Nancy Thompson Small - June 21, 2014 at 03:42 PM