



John Hopkins

October 16, 1938 - October 18, 2022

"So if anybody shaped my life, it was the Good Lord above."

John C. Hopkins

October 16, 1938 - October 18, 2022

John Crittenden Hopkins, age 84, passed away peacefully on October 18, 2022, with two of his children by his side. He and his somewhat crooked halo have joined his beloved wife, Joyce, with the Lord above. John is survived by his three children, Kimberly, Daniel, and Joseph, and their families, many friends, and his two dachshunds, Charlie and Rusty.

An only child, John was born in Louisville, Kentucky, before moving to Washington, then Texas, where he lived for the rest of his life. A lifetime member of the NRA and TSRA, he grew up with a gun in his hands, enjoyed competitive shooting for many years, and also served as a referee. He got married young, but it didn't last. John was no quitter, however, so he kept searching until he found his beloved Joyce. John worked various jobs, from newspaper delivery boy and volunteer fireman, to serving in the U.S. Army. He spent decades at Southwestern Laboratories as a Senior Engineering Technician and Chief Inspector, worked for the Texas Highway Department, and ended his career working for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Huntsville. But for those who knew John, he could never sit idle, so he became a defensive driving instructor and substitute teacher after retirement.

In his spare time, John achieved his dream of flight. For years he was told he could not become a pilot because of his blindness in one eye. Advancing as a pilot and obtaining various ratings only magnified his love for the skies. As a flight instructor, he instilled in his students the same joy and excitement he felt in the air. John also gave back to the community by serving as a Captain in the Civil Air Patrol. The day John hung up his wings was heartbreaking, but he was fortunate to have over thirty years and 1700 hours of a dream most said was impossible.

John joked that in retirement, his favorite pastime was being lazy, though he loved to watch movies and recount the plots to family and friends. He and Joyce also rescued and raised dachshunds, as many as seven at one time. He was also an avid reader of many diverse genres, enjoying his daily newspaper, monthly car and gun magazines, and his book subscriptions, which he donated to a local assisted living facility after reading them. John never met a stranger, and he was full of wisdom and love for his family, dogs, and friends.

Join us for a celebration of John's impactful life on Saturday, November 19 at 11:00 a.m. at the Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home, 10129 FM 1097, Willis, TX. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make donations in John's memory to the Diamond Dachshund Rescue of Texas (<https://www.ddrtx.org/info/donate>) or Central Texas Dachshund Rescue (<https://www.ctdr.org/>). You also are invited to share stories about John at www.shmfh.com.

Cemetery Details

Brooke Crematory

672 FM 980 Rd.
Huntsville, TX 77320

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV **19**. 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Willis
10129 FM 1097 Rd. W
Willis, TX 77318

Tribute Wall



“ *Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of John Hopkins*



Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - November 18, 2022 at 01:32 PM

KK

This is lovely, thank you.

Kim Kelly - November 20, 2022 at 11:35 AM

KB

“ *Krystin Bratton lit a candle in memory of John Hopkins*



Krystin Bratton - November 18, 2022 at 11:56 PM

KK

Thank you so much for your remembrance of my Dad.

Kim Kelly - November 20, 2022 at 11:47 AM

AL

“ John our friend was such a character! We will miss him and his stories. We send our deepest condolences to your family. I heard so much about you, I KNOW he was proud of you all. Angie and Simon Limon

Angie Limon - November 16, 2022 at 11:39 AM

KK

Thank you so much, Angie, for the message and the flowers. They are both lovely!

Kim Kelly - November 20, 2022 at 11:48 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Hopkins.



November 16, 2022 at 11:33 AM



“ John Hopkins

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Hopkins.



November 07, 2022 at 03:48 PM

MH

“ *M. Hyvl lit a candle in memory of John Hopkins*



M. Hyvl - November 04, 2022 at 08:22 PM

KH

Thank you!

Kim Kelly (daughter of John Hopkins) - November 05, 2022 at 04:48 PM

FI

“ So sorry to hear about John. My condolences to the family for their loss. Just a few days ago before I heard about John, I was thinking about him. When I was still working, he would stop by my office and visit with me, Kara and Jamie. He always had some good stories to share, and some books for Kara to read. John and I didn't have a lot of interaction until after he retired from TDCJ, but after he retired, we got to know each other quite a bit more. I remember he would tell me he used a couple traffic wreck situations while teaching defensive driving. And those two traffic wreck situations were actually the two accidents I was in while attempting to turn left two different times at the same intersection. He said he hoped it was ok for him to discuss those situations without using my name. I got a good laugh about it and of course I agreed. And then there was the day that he came into my office, and we shared some laughs, and he said “I have a secret to share with you Mr. Inmon”. I replied “ what is the secret John”. He said well there are no signs around here that ban weapons on site, and that he was packing heat. I laughed and replied “let's keep that a secret”. I truly enjoyed Johns visits. He was a gentleman, a straight shooter, and was everybody's friend. I miss him.

Frank Inmon

Frank Inmon - November 04, 2022 at 02:17 PM

KH

Thank you for sharing stories about my Dad. This made me smile.

Kim Kelly (daughter of John Hopkins) - November 05, 2022 at 04:48 PM

NV

“ To Mr. Hopkins (Hoppy) Family, my thoughts and prayers are with you during this time. I worked with Hoppy at the TDCJ and he was always full of stories and laughter. He will be greatly missed. May The Lord comfort and bless you in your days to come.



Nicole Venette - November 03, 2022 at 09:56 AM

KH

Thank you for your kind words.

Kim Kelly (daughter of John Hopkins) - November 05, 2022 at 04:49 PM