



John Marshall Behrendt

March 7, 1943 - November 26, 2016

John Marshall Behrendt, 73, died Saturday, Nov. 26, 2016 after a brief, but extremely difficult, struggle against the unexpected return of the leukemia from which he had been in remission for almost 4 years. He and his identical twin, Joe, were born March 7, 1943 in Newton, Kansas to Eric and Bernice Behrendt. He grew up in Gillette, Wyoming and was a star basketball and track athlete for the Campbell County Camels. He received a BS in education from Montana State University at Billings. During his senior year there, he met his future wife, Ardis Ann (Howe), through the young adults group at their local Lutheran church. She was from New Haven, but had moved “out West” for her first teaching position. They were engaged within 6 months of their first date, a concert by the Back Porch Majority at a local music venue. During their engagement, John lived in Alberta, Canada where he was a high school teacher of business courses and German language. John and Ardis were married July 23, 1966 at Emanuel Lutheran Church in New Haven, and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this past July. The young couple moved to Rocky River, OH where John had a teaching position at Lutheran West High School. In February 1967, John joined the US Air Force and was selected to attend Officer Training School. He achieved the rank of Captain before leaving the Air Force in May 1971. Their two daughters, Beth and Sarah, were born to them during his service at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri. While in the Air Force, John obtained his MS in Business Administration from The University of Central Missouri. After the Air Force, the family moved to New Haven and John began his career with Lincoln National Life Insurance. Except for three years as a stockbroker with Traub & Co. and Thompson McKinnon Securities, John worked at Lincoln in various executive positions for 30 years, including founding Lincoln National Corporation’s broker-dealer business, Lincoln Financial Advisors, in 1984. He served as its president until 1993. After retiring from Lincoln, John and three partners founded Phillips Financial Management in 2004. He served as its first chief investment officer and chief compliance officer until 2008. John was an active participant in the governance of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. He was chairman of the Board for Pastoral Education (2004-2010) and a member of the Board for Higher Education (1998-2004). He was a member of the Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne’s Board of Regents (2012-present) and also chairman of its Finance and

Investment Committees (2011-present). John was an avid collector (and enjoyer) of wine, an enthusiastic and hardworking gardener's assistant to his wife, and an instructor of woodworking to his grandchildren. He was a constant source of wisdom, strength, and humor to his family and all who were fortunate to know or work with him. John is survived by his wife, Ardis, and his daughters Beth (children Jack, Mick, and Max DeSalvo) and Sarah (husband, Mike Hollman, children Ned and KatieBeth); as well as his brother Joe (Jamie), and 18 nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and by his sister, Carol McKeever, and brothers Kenneth and Douglas Behrendt. Funeral service is 1 p.m. Friday, December 2, 2016 at Zion Lutheran Church, 2313 S. Hanna St., Fort Wayne with calling one hour prior to service. Pastor Doug Punke officiating. Calling is also 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at E. Harper & Son Funeral Home, 740 State Road 930 East, New Haven, IN. Burial in Emanuel Lutheran Cemetery, New Haven. Preferred memorials are to the John and Ardis Behrendt Charitable Fund (of the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne), Zion Lutheran Church Endowment Fund, Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne, or Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home of Fort Wayne.

Cemetery

Emanuel Lutheran Cemetery

Edgerton Rd., West of S. Doyle Rd.

New Haven, IN, 46774

Events

DEC **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

1

Harper's Community Funeral Home

740 State Road 930 E, New Haven, IN, US,
46774

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Harper's Community Funeral Home - November 30, 2016 at 05:28 PM



“ 98 files added to the album LifeTributes



Harper's Community Funeral Home - November 30, 2016 at 05:12 PM



“ Ardis- We are so sorry to hear about John's passing. He was a very nice man. We have pleasant memories of being at the LNC conventions with you and John. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
Sincerely, Sherry and Larry Edris

Sherry & Larry Edris - November 30, 2016 at 12:39 PM



“

Dear Artis,

Jeannie and I wish to express our deepest and heartfelt condolences to you and your family on your loss of John

I was particularly fond of John and had the deepest respect for his talents and professionalism. Dating back to our Lincoln days I could always count on John for sound, carefully measured, advice. Later, during the Phillips days, much to my benefit, I always ultimately entrusted investment decisions to John. His steadying hand was always much appreciated and I always knew he had my best interests at heart. More than this he was always a pleasure to work with -- I truly enjoyed his company.

Jeannie and I know you and John shared a deep faith. Our hope for you and your family is that this faith brings comfort at this time.

Again, with fondest hopes for you and your family,

Steve and Jeannie Lewis

Steve Lewis - November 30, 2016 at 08:50 AM



“

My memories of Uncle John are mostly from my younger years. He and Joe were always in our lives when we lived in Billings. I don't think that I have ever thought of him or Joe as anything but youthful, and I don't think that I am able to think of one without the other. Their laughter was contagious and both have such a wonderful sense of humor. I always looked up to John and Joe and remember always feeling the air of confidence and ease in their presence. I will so miss John. I have a picture of him, my mother and me taken at my brother's wedding. I don't think a day has gone by where I haven't taken time to look at it. My life was so much richer because of my uncles John and Joe. My love goes out to Ardis and the kids. My thoughts and prayers will be with you during this difficult time. And to my Uncle Joe, I cannot imagine the grief you must be experiencing with the loss of your twin brother and kindred soul. I think of you especially. I love and honor you all.

Your Nephew,

Tim McKeever

Tim McKeever - November 30, 2016 at 08:45 AM



“ So sorry to hear of John's passing.... I worked for and with John many years ago at Lincoln - he was a great teacher and mentor; but most of all a wonderful family man and true gentleman! I know he will be missed here on earth, but God has welcomed him with open arms to his new heavenly home. Keeping Ardis and family in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. Lisa (Sefton) Everson

Lisa Everson - November 29, 2016 at 12:58 PM



“ Jo Mejia lit a candle in memory of John Marshall Behrendt



Jo Mejia - November 28, 2016 at 10:56 AM



“ I feel lucky to have met John. What an incredibly exceptional man. He was the friendliest, most articulate, well rounded presence who had every reason not to be humble, but absolutely was. After meetings I always chuckled at how he didn't want to inconvenience me with his dishes and tried to take care of his coffee cup himself. He was a light in this world that I know will continue to shine through all of those he's left behind. Blessings to his wonderful family.

Jo Mejia - November 28, 2016 at 10:59 AM



“ "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die'." John 11:25-26. Dear Ardis and family, we are so saddened to hear of John's passing and pray the Lord's comfort and peace on you and your family in this difficult time. Keeping you in our prayers. Big hugs, the Pauls: Gerald, Heidi, Angelika, Matthias and Emma.

Heidi Paul - November 27, 2016 at 03:53 PM



“ So very sad to learn of John's death. It was a privilege and pleasure to work for and with he and Dan at LFG years ago. Praying for God's blessings and comfort for you all. Sheila Roesler

Sheila Roesler - November 27, 2016 at 08:45 AM



“ “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on! Yes, says the Spirit, let them rest from their hard work, for what they have done accompanies them.” Revelation 14:13 We were saddened to receive the news that John had passed away. May the Lord grant you His strength and comfort as He alone can during these difficult days. We extend our deepest sympathy and assure you of our prayers and concern. In Him Who is the Resurrection and the Life

Rev. Bob & Donna Rahn

Robert Rahn - November 27, 2016 at 02:52 PM



“ I always found John to be a wonderful, gracious man who was a pleasure to be with. My heart and prayers go out to Ardis and family.

Greg White

Greg White - November 27, 2016 at 06:37 PM



“ Dear Ardis and family, I was saddened when our Rachel Pollock told us of John's death. God's will is often hard to understand, but with a faith like John's and yours too, I know the road ahead will be difficult at times, but the journey will be easier knowing that God is beside you and with you all the way. You will meet John again someday. We will not be able to attend the funeral or visitation, but we haven't forgotten you. We will be praying for you all. May God bless you all. Joan & Warren Messmann

Joan Messmann CLHS '61) - November 28, 2016 at 10:27 AM