



Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr.

August 15, 1954 - July 21, 2020

Our beloved, John Leon Dismuke, Jr., of Peoria, IL passed away Tuesday, July 21, 2020, at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center.

John was born on August 15, 1954 to Johnnie, Sr. Leon and Barbara (Ellis) Dismuke. While growing up in "The Heights," he attended Hines Grade School. Following Hines, he attended Richwoods High School, where he both participated and lettered in various sports, including track, baseball, and football. John was named the Athlete of the Year his senior year. He was part of the 1971-1972 team inducted as part of the 1997 Greater Peoria Sports Hall of Fame class. Once graduating high school, John enrolled at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL. At SIU, he excelled in football and became a proud member of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. As an Engineer, he enjoyed close to 40 years of employment at Caterpillar, Inc., before retiring in 2018 as a Six Sigma IT Manager.

Throughout the years, John developed an unwavering passion for playing tennis and was a member of both the Peoria Tennis Association and the USTA, competing throughout the Midwest. John truly enjoyed traveling and spending quality time with his family. John always embodied a great deal of confidence and intelligence and had an avid interest in all the latest technologies. He was a big-picture thinker, gave great advice, had a keen sense of humor, always found the best prices, and loved showing off his grill-

master skills. He was dearly loved and respected by all who knew him.

He is survived by a loving wife, Solivian (Furness) Dismuke; his mother, Barbara Dismuke; sons, Brett Dismuke, Jarel (Catherine) Dismuke, and Dana Allen; daughters, Janise Dismuke, Mariah Smith, and Mikayla Russell; siblings, Cheryl Dismuke, Carmen Dismuke, Mark (Annette) Dismuke, Brett (Chatocka) Dismuke, and Andrew Dismuke; two grandsons, Donovan and Levi; granddaughter, Madison; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends who adored him.

John is preceded in death by his wife, LeVera (Dudley) Dismuke and his father, Johnnie Dismuke, Sr. He is also preceded in death by his two closest friends, Jerome Lilly and Kenley Wade.

In lieu of flowers, designate memorials c/o the Peoria Public Schools Foundation for an athletic scholarship at Richwoods High School in his memory. Donate through the website: www.ppsfoundation.org or mailed to: 5901 N. Prospect Rd. Ste. 14E, Peoria, IL 61614

Private funeral services will be held at 12 noon, Thursday, July 30, 2020 at Victory Christian Church. Visitation 10 am - 11:30 am. Iota Phi Theta Fraternity Pinning Ceremony at 11:30 am to 12 noon. Senior Pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church, Deveraux Hubbard, will officiate. Face masks are required for all attendees.

The funeral service will be live-streamed on Simons Mortuary's Website or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Simons-Mortuary-23209530348> promptly at the time of the service. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, social distancing and attendance limits will be observed.

Simons Mortuary has been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at SimonsMortuary.com.

As the States begin re-opening in response to the Global Coronavirus Pandemic, some people are returning to their previous normal living standards. Unfortunately, we are now in our new normal as unreal and sometimes uncomfortable as the socially distancing and continuous use of protective masks may feel. *In an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, we ask that everyone in attendance: wear a face mask and refrain from hugging, kissing and shaking hands (as hard as it is to see someone you care about and not touch them). Thanks in advance for your cooperation! *It is our responsibility as a Funeral Directors, to do everything we can to advise families in order to honor our beloved Families and to keep everyone as safe as possible. The sanctuary can socially distance and seat a limit of 50 or less people. All others will be able to flow through and view prior to beginning the Celebration of Life Ceremony.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 30. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Victory Christian Church
1003 E. Moneta St.
Peoria Heights, IL 61616

Celebration of Life

JUL 30. 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Victory Christian Church
1003 E. Moneta St.
Peoria Heights, IL 61616

Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr.*



Simons Mortuary - August 04, 2020 at 11:46 AM



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr.*



Simons Mortuary - July 29, 2020 at 04:26 PM



Thank you so much for sharing this amazing story of John's wonderful life. Michael & Maeda Thompson MAY HE REST IN HEAVEN ETERNALLY! 🌹🌹🌹

Maeda Thompson - July 29, 2020 at 06:36 PM

GG

Thanks so much for this beautiful tribute. As the tears are falling from my eyes I am truly praying for the family. I was John's Realtor twice and even then I could tell he was smart, funny and considerate. May the Lord comfort this entire family as only He can. Geraldine Godfrey, Arlington TX.

Geraldine Godfrey - July 29, 2020 at 10:35 PM

CF

*OMG!😭 SO BREATHTAKING TO MY HEART AND SOUL WHAT A WONDERFUL TRIBUTE. I LOVE YOU JOHNNIE AND I AM TRULY GOING TO MISS THAT SMILE AND MY HUG. REST IN HEAVEN MY BELOVED HEIGHTS BROTHER , FRIEND AND MY CHILDHOOD NEIGHBOR.
WE ARE FAMILY😭*

Constance (Connie McGhee) Faulkner - July 29, 2020 at 11:55 PM

SP

My loving thoughts and prayers are with the friends and family of John Dismuke Jr. May God give you all strength and peace at this time. May John rest in eternal life! God bless!

Sandra K Perry - July 30, 2020 at 12:25 PM

JO

Stunning

jodi - July 30, 2020 at 01:13 PM

WT

Beautiful tribute 🙏 Rest well Greek and Saluki brother.

Will Turner - July 30, 2020 at 03:48 PM

MC

Couldn't stop tears from falling Beautiful tribute such a Beautiful Family especially his wife love you all...Rest in Paradise Angel

Maxine Clash - July 30, 2020 at 11:24 PM

AW

To Solivian and the entire Dismuke Family, you have my heartfelt sympathies and condolences. I'm Praying that you find comfort in God's love and care for you in this difficult time 🙏

Alesia Wilkinson - August 01, 2020 at 05:12 PM

BW

BEAUTIFUL Tribute PRAYING For Family And To Are Dear Friend Johnnie You Will Be Truly Missed Heaven Has Gained A BEAUTIFUL Angel Love LARRY An Becky WRIGHT

Becky Wright - August 02, 2020 at 04:12 PM



“ *Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr.*

January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr.*

January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM

CA

“ *It is hard to find words when you lose someone you love. We grieve with you family. Johnnie was our brother and all of our memories include him. Johnnie never changed. He was the same loving, kind, and gentle spirit that we grew up with. He loved our brother as his own brother and that love and mutual respect never changed. All three amigos are reunited and that makes me smile. We say so long for now and we will see you again. With all our love, your other family, The Lillys Dad, Mr. Thomas Lilly, Pam, Cheryl, Bonita, and Tim.*

Cheryl Lilly- Anthony - July 29, 2020 at 08:23 PM



“ 10 files added to the album Funeral Program



Simons Mortuary - July 29, 2020 at 06:58 PM



“ Richard and Theresa Walker



Theresa Walker - July 29, 2020 at 05:57 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Simons Mortuary - July 29, 2020 at 05:13 PM



I feel blessed to have known John. I will remember his smile and laugh. He had an incredible work ethic! Tom H

Tom Howard - July 30, 2020 at 11:44 AM

SI

“ My condolences and prayers goes out to John “Chico” Dismuke family and relatives!!

It's been tough to accept that John “Chico” passed away; I had just spoken to him that Sunday before his return back to Peoria,IL. He was visiting here in Dallas to welcome his new grandson and help as needed. John Dismuke was the reason I chose to attend Southern Illinois University and accepted a Saluski football scholarship, he was my hospitality host when I visited SIU. In 1975 with bonded as brothers in Iota Phi Theta fraternity 🤝 we were able to fellowship on many occasions over the past 47 years. We were both excited about the prospect of him moving to the Dallas area to fellowship & enjoy our retirement time.

John”Chico” Dismuke will always be remembered for the cherished memories over the years. R.I.P. my brother 🤝🙏🙏



Steve Angrum III - July 29, 2020 at 02:33 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr..



July 29, 2020 at 02:23 PM

RP

“ To the Dismuke Family sorry for your loss and May God's Angel's Wings spread around you all and bring you all comfort during this time of sorrow!! R.I.P. John!!



Renee Linwood Peoria,IL. - July 29, 2020 at 11:53 AM

MB

“ My husband and I worked with John at Caterpillar. What a gentleman. He was always kind and polite. Never without a big smile when he saw you.

Meredith Bradley - July 28, 2020 at 02:28 PM

PW

“ So sorry to hear of John's passing. We were high school teammates in the Richwoods backfield. John was a great teammate and a great friend.

Packy Watson - July 28, 2020 at 01:10 PM

AI

“ Annette Irby lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr.



Annette Irby - July 28, 2020 at 09:40 AM

DP

“ Great teammate, talented athlete, student leader during a challenging time. Wish we had stayed closer, but the year I knew him at Richwoods is one of my brightest. Dad always remembered John with pride. Happy to know he is home with Christ.

David Peeler - July 28, 2020 at 07:07 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr..



July 28, 2020 at 01:58 AM

FF

“ From Lawrence Washington and Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr..



From Lawrence Washington and Family - July 27, 2020 at 11:02 PM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr..



July 27, 2020 at 09:59 PM

LN

“ Love, The Valley Nupes purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr..



Love, The Valley Nupes - July 27, 2020 at 07:28 PM

BC

“ I knew John through Caterpillar. We struck up a conversation because Janise and my daughter both played volleyball. Each time I would see him, he would ask how my daughter was doing. He was one of those “nicest guys you’d ever meet”. John truly was and will be greatly missed. Praying for you all.

Bo Cox - July 27, 2020 at 05:54 PM

DL

“ I played little league baseball with John. He was fun to be around.
Dave Loyd

David Loyd - July 27, 2020 at 01:39 PM

RW

“ Renessa Watkins sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr.



Renessa Watkins - July 27, 2020 at 12:58 PM

KF

“ I knew John from tennis years ago. He hung with a fellow named Jerome Lilly>>>>>>Both left us too early. Both were true gentleman. Very sorry for the families John touched. He will be missed . Ken ferino

Ken Ferino - July 27, 2020 at 12:21 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr..



July 27, 2020 at 11:31 AM



“ I probably had over 20 supervisors during my Cat career. I don't remember most of them, but I always remembered John. He was one of my favorites. I lost track of John after he transferred to the Tec-Center. I am saddened by his passing. My deepest condolences to his loved ones.

Kris Severinsen - July 27, 2020 at 11:03 AM

KS

“ Kris Severinsen lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr.



Kris Severinsen - July 27, 2020 at 10:54 AM

VP

“ *In loving memory of my cousin John. Love you and all the Dismuke family.* ”



Victoria (Riddle) Perkins - July 27, 2020 at 10:00 AM

PB

“ *Enjoyed the time John and I worked together with John at Caterpillar (Mossville). He always had a positive attitude and accepted challenges as opportunities. I remember at the death of LaVera - he was heart broken after her long ordeal, and focused on his family to find comfort.* ”

Peter Barclay

Peter Barclay - July 27, 2020 at 08:29 AM

MS

“ *John was a great storyteller and caring person. We worked a short time together at Caterpillar. God's blessings to his family. Maureen Sluga* ”

Maureen Sluga - July 27, 2020 at 01:47 AM

KC

“ *Kathy Collins lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr.* ”



Kathy Collins - July 26, 2020 at 11:39 PM

DW

“ *Don B. Welch purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr..*



Don B. Welch - July 26, 2020 at 09:21 PM

SP

“ *I knew John through Caterpillar—such a nice guy, taken too young. My sincere condolences. Rest In Peace, John.*

Susie Papenhouse - July 26, 2020 at 08:51 PM

DG

“ *My condolences to Mrs Dismuke, Cheryl, Mark, Carmen and Brett, you are in our prayers. John's presence will be missed, but his memories are with us all.*

Denise Burns Green - July 26, 2020 at 06:55 PM

KM

“ To The Dismuke Family, Ms Barbara, Cheryl Carmen and Brett, My prayers are with you, during this time As you all were there for my family on 2018 when we lost our Mom and Brother (Pat Perry and Ricky Oconner). John Jr was the first to teach me how to swing a baseball bat correctly, at Proctor Center when I was the youngest to play on your Dad,'s ball team. I was trying to follow Carmen every where lol. I will never forget him. Thank you for sharing your family and your brother with me

Bereavement is a tough process, but from his life you will hold the memories that can bring you joy for ever. Just as I recalled that hot day in Proctors field, once I heard the news of his passing. God can give us the strength to get through know He is always in your heart, My prayers are with you all.

*Pastor Kim (OConner) Moore
Federal Way, Washington
The Pacific Northwest is praying for this family.*

Kimberly Moore - July 26, 2020 at 01:59 PM

CR

“ Our love and sympathy to the wonderful Dismuke Family. John has been a part of me since our time at Hines School. You didn't just meet or know John. You melded with him. His goodness washed over and through you. His integrity inspired you to courage. This was no ordinary man. Yes, he was a great athlete--no one could take the option pitch, corner, and streak down the sideline like John. The wind still shakes its head at his speed. He was a natural leader yet never overbearing, unless you needed some correction. Then you felt his integrity again. Bet his kids can relate! I could go on but he's giving me the signal to step it down. Love you, John. Rarely saw you in adulthood but never lost you. Won't. Can't. Simply not possible. Rest, my friend. Feel the love from your family and friends and rest well, knowing that no one has lived better or given more than you.

Clark Rians - July 26, 2020 at 09:59 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr..



July 26, 2020 at 12:31 AM

LH

“ Godspeed, Saluki teammate! We met 48 years ago as we both labored to play college football & study engineering. I was blessed to have your friendship; one we were able to renew the last couple of years at homecoming in Carbondale. May God bless you with eternal life and give your wonderful family peace.

Leonard Hopkins - July 25, 2020 at 01:10 PM

KF

“ Komeka Freeman purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr..



Komeka Freeman - July 25, 2020 at 01:05 PM

NF

“ ND, Trey and your Tri Destined Family purchased the Care and Compassion Spray for the family of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr..



ND, Trey and your Tri Destined Family - July 25, 2020 at 03:50 AM

JB

“ Joanie Brown lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr.



Joanie Brown - July 24, 2020 at 08:06 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr..



July 24, 2020 at 03:56 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr..



July 24, 2020 at 02:50 PM



“ I met John many years ago at a program I ran for the YMCA called "project street corner" John helped me immensely helping get young folk to participate in activities. John was somewhat quiet but respected by all and a great athlete. I hadn't seen him in years but the initial impression he made I shall never forget. Peace and blessings to his family.

Lyle & Lola Smith
Las Vegas, nevada

Lyle Smith - July 24, 2020 at 12:07 PM



“ We were all family, separated only by the alley. He will be missed but God doesn't make mistakes. God has recruited another good man. Rest in heaven my Brother. Peace be with you.



Judy Taylor and Family - July 24, 2020 at 12:00 PM

AL

“ *Annette Lucy sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr.*



Annette Lucy - July 24, 2020 at 10:04 AM

MD

“ *Solivian and Dismuke Family-*

John was quiet in his own way, but when he spoke you heard him and understood exactly what he meant. He will be missed by many, but family most. He is in heaven with the angels and Jesus. May God give peace and strength to you.

Blessings

Venus Michelle Jones-Douglas

Michelle Douglas - July 24, 2020 at 01:26 AM



“ *Reflections of Glory Wreath was purchased for the family of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr..*



July 23, 2020 at 11:29 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr..*



July 23, 2020 at 11:09 PM



“ *Jon Gruebele — Chicago, IL purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr..*



Jon Gruebele — Chicago, IL - July 23, 2020 at 10:46 PM



“ *Teresa Rather & Family purchased the Bright and Beautiful Spray for the family of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr..*



Teresa Rather & Family - July 23, 2020 at 09:23 PM



“ *So sorry for the Dismuke Family's loss. Praying your strength in the Lord. Sending hugs to Solivian. God bless you all in your time of sorrow.*



Frank & Veronica L Ball, Rantoul, IL

Veronica L Ball - July 23, 2020 at 08:24 PM

BP

I played Football with John at SIU - he was a running back - very fast and great moves - I remember one run - probably about 70 yards - I saw him at homecoming last year - he always had a smile- I told our coach about John- he was sadden by the news - he said he was much too young ! John liked me but we had not seen each other since 1974, he was loved by all of his teammates - my wife will watch over him.

Bruce Puhr - July 25, 2020 at 11:08 AM

MY

“ *My deepest sympathy and love are with The Dismuke Family in the homegoing of our loved one.*

May your numerous memories and faith be sources of strength as you face the days ahead. My continued prayers are with the family.

Michael Young - July 23, 2020 at 08:14 PM

JL

“ *Jac, MK, Aubrey, Justine, Molly, Sara, Tracy, Liv purchased the With Distinction for the family of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr..*



Jac, MK, Aubrey, Justine, Molly, Sara, Tracy, Liv - July 23, 2020 at 08:11 PM

ZB

“ *Solivian, I am so so sorry for your loss. I am praying for you and the entire family.*

Zerlyna Burse-Taylor - July 23, 2020 at 07:44 PM

ZB

“ *Zerlyna Burse-Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr.*



Zerlyna Burse-Taylor - July 23, 2020 at 07:43 PM

CF

“ *The Dismuke Family: Wife, Mother, Children, Siblings, Grandchildren, Nieces, Nephews and Cousins.*

My HEIGHTS Family, May the Lord be Your Guidance and Comforter during Your Time of Sorrow. Today I ask Our Heavenly Father to Keep His Loving Arms Wrapped Around Each and Everyone of You. Wow, My Heart❤️ is so Broken😞 My Beloved Heights Brother Johnnie, My Childhood and Teenage Neighbor Living on Boulevard Street, hanging out at Their House coming through the back door. Attending Hines School and Richwoods High School Together Johnnie or (Junior) was Always My Brother Friend Always Giving Me that Big Smile and My Hug when We Seen Each Other. What a Great Loss to Our HEIGHTS FAMILY JOHNNIE, YOU MAYBE GONE NOW BUT YOU'RE TRULY NOT FORGOTTEN.😞 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE AND MISS YOU MY BELOVED HEIGHTS BROTHER AND FRIEND: LOVE CONNIE



Constance Faulkner - July 23, 2020 at 07:36 PM



“ *Love's Journey* was purchased for the family of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr..



July 23, 2020 at 07:22 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr..



July 23, 2020 at 07:07 PM



“ *Mark Lampkin lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr.*



Mark Lampkin - July 23, 2020 at 06:58 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams* was purchased for the family of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr..



July 23, 2020 at 06:58 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr..*



July 23, 2020 at 06:49 PM



“ *Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr..*



July 23, 2020 at 06:48 PM



“ *Jeremy and Dorothea Burse*

Dorothea Banks - July 23, 2020 at 06:43 PM



“ *So sorry for the loss of such a fun loving, amazing father and all around great man. Praying for the entire Dismuke family.*

*With Love,
Jahun Smith*

jahun smith - July 23, 2020 at 06:39 PM

KA

“ Karen Ashby sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. John Leon Dismuke, Jr.



Karen Ashby - July 23, 2020 at 06:18 PM

FB

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the entire family. Peace & Blessings....
Felicia Barnes

Felicia Barnes - July 23, 2020 at 03:52 PM

MD

Truly one of the good ones! I don't like a lot of people but this guy was one that I immediately got along with. He was a great laid back guy, no drama just laid back. A true grill master. We both shared the love of grilling. My niece Mariah would always brag on his ribs. I am fortunate I had the privilege of meeting him. Rest Well John. 🙏

Mike D. - July 23, 2020 at 05:53 PM

HK

“ So many great memories with John in our tennis group. We went to Bloomington, Springfield, Indianapolis. One of the greatest guy on the court, very likeable and so athletics. You will be missed on the court. Peoria tennis community will be missed you dearly. Hans



Hans Kurniawan - July 23, 2020 at 03:51 PM

AW

“ *Sending prayers to Solivian and the entire Dismuke family.*

Anthony and Ava Williams - July 23, 2020 at 03:08 PM