

John Boswell

March 2, 1944 - March 23, 2013

John was born March 2, 1944 in Lubbock. He attended Lubbock High School and Texas Tech University. He was an assistant band instructor. John served in the Navy in Vietnam from 1967 to 1970 on Underwater Demolition team 11 as a frogman, and later was on the Apollo Ten capsule recovery team. John spent several years in Hawaii as a scuba diving instructor.

John volunteered for duty with the Underwater Demolition Teams and underwent the training during 1967-1968. He then took advanced diving training with mixed gas, in 1968 he graduated from the US Army Airborne Training at Fort Benning Georgia and two survival schools including "JEST" (Jungle Environment Survival Training). During 1968-1969 he was the Officer-in-Charge of a swimmer reconnaissance group that conducted clandestine reconnaissance missions in enemy territory. He led as many as four missions in a single day. During this time he earned the respect of men and of commanding officers of the commands he interacted with. He retained the loyalty and friendship of the men he led throughout his life. When members of the Underwater Demolitions Teams and SEAL Teams gather, John's name is mentioned with high regard.

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Combined Circus in the tiny town of Cave Creek, Arizona, and liked it so much that he left with them the next morning and traveled with the circus for several months. John has friends all across the United States, including Pete Seeger. Services will be at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 27, 2013 at Sanders Memorial Chapel.

Visitation will be from 1:00 p.m. until service time on Wednesday.

Cemetery Details

City of Lubbock Cemetery

2011 East 31st Street
Lubbock, TX 79404

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 27. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Sanders Funeral Home
1420 Main Street
Lubbock, TX 79401
(806) 763-6433
director@sandersfuneralhome.com
<https://www.sandersfuneralhome.com>

Service

MAR 27. 2:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

MD

“ I am one of John's Canadian fans/friends, and recently came across his "Friendship Album" which has been in storage for many years. Since I don't have the equipment to lay LP's anymore, I had it converted to digital. It is great hearing John's songs again, and they brings back fond memories of him performing at the Gyro Youth Centre in Nanaimo, and various clubs on Vancouver Island, and around BC.

Thank you to John's Family for providing this tribute site, and opportunity for his many friends to share remembrances with each other.

*Mike Dumler
Vancouver BC Canada*

Mike Dumler - July 10, 2021 at 02:04 PM

GA

“ John and I were Cub Scouts in the same Cub den; my mother was Den Mother at the time. John lived just down the street from us at the time. Later we both played in the Lamesa High School band. John played trombone in the line of trombones that transitioned to baritone horns, I played first baritone horn. We had such fun in band. We ran into each other one time at Tech, but didn't reconnect beyond that.

Years later I learned (thanks to the Internet) about his SEAL experience (I think before they were called SEALs). And his second career as a musician in Lubbock. I learned that a friend's daughter had been a server at a coffeehouse where I knew John had performed. When I asked whether she knew John, it turned out that he was a family friend. So my friend agreed to arrange a meeting with John. The next day I got a call from my friend to tell me that John had passed the previous night.

I have a CD of John' coffeehouse music now. I can't look at his smile without smiling back. Thank you John B.

Gary - July 04, 2021 at 11:03 PM

PC

“ 7-2-14

John was the nicest and kindest person in the music business. I owe him a great debt. His audiences loved him and he always played to a packed house. He by his own request shared the stage to introduce other artist. His humility and generosity complimented his music. His songs were special and deeply human leaving an indelible positive impression. I remember he wrote a song for one of his Canadian L.P releases about that he did not want to have power over other people because he had been in the war and had seen how corrupted power caused suffering. He was a man of peace. His songs and voice were real, resonate and deep. Many beautiful women loved him and followed him like doves eating out of one's hands. His is an incredible story. He should have been a household name but he felt uncomfortable in Hollywood and bailed out when offered stardom.

He just loved the simple people and played the music from their hearts. He smiled a lot.

*Paul Cypress
paulcypress@paulcypress.com*

Paul Cypress - July 02, 2014 at 05:55 PM

GE

“ 1 file added to the album Photos & Videos



Gary Essary - May 05, 2013 at 01:24 PM

GE

*Seated: John Boswell, Carlos Wright, Jack Parker, John Neill
Standing: Arthur Taylor, Jimmy Curry, Waylon Wright (Den Chief), Larry Johnson, Gary Essary*

Gary Essary - May 05, 2013 at 01:33 PM

ED

“ *So sorry to hear of John's death. We knew him a long time ago and listened to his music many many times, it was great! We even had the privilege of having him stay with us for a while.*

Ellen Darden - May 03, 2013 at 07:51 AM

 Amber Palmore

“ *It saddens my heart to get the news that Mr. John Boswell as left us. It was only one summer but he touch our lives in the summer of 2003 at Keesler Air Force Base. He was our aquatics director and inspiration to all of us. He always had a great attitude, which made it a joy to work for him. He was little odd but in good way, the kind of way that made you smile. He shared stories about his life with us. It may have been lost on some but we were amazed by the life he lived. One of the worlds greatest treasures has been lost. Mr. Boswell you were a true American hero, you touched and inspired so many, K.L.T Strong and Free (his little motto for us), may God Bless you and Keep you Sir.*

~Amber Palmore

Amber Palmore - April 11, 2013 at 09:10 PM

 Lloyd
Turner

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lloyd Turner - April 11, 2013 at 08:47 PM

 Graham
Warwick

“ *John was very instrumental to me growing into a folk/blues singer. From John, I learned how to perform every show as if it is the most important one in my life. He lived on the edge of greatness. He IS great to those who know him!!!*

Graham Warwick - April 02, 2013 at 01:39 PM

KC

John dropped by my house one day when I was just sitting around with a bunch of friends just hanging out. I introduced him around to those who didn't know him. After a few minutes of talking to everyone, he darted out to his truck and returned with an armload of percussion instruments, a couple of recorders, and a banjo. He passed instruments around to everybody in the room, bestowing the banjo on me. When I protested that I couldn't play a banjo, he just said, "Sure you can, Ken. Just plink it a minute." He then started us all jamming, playing both the recorders himself, in harmony. John was an amazing spirit.

Ken Cover

Ken Cover - April 02, 2013 at 10:50 PM

RS

“ John was one of the most interesting people I ever knew at Texas Tech. He was a motivator and a great friend. He began the "Fire Eaters" (Band 2 trombone section) in the Goin' Band and actually convinced Gene Kenney to add Beatle tunes to the repertoire of the Tech Men's Glee Club. He will be sorely missed.

*Richard "RD" Snider
Tech '67*

Richard Snider - April 01, 2013 at 11:41 PM



“ I met John in Lubbock when he was participating in the group Native Land. I was impressed with his gentle manner and kind words, as well as his music. He was generous in helping this fumbling singer along. Last time I ran into him was at the DAV store, and he was complimentary even then. I will miss him.

Tom Nystel

Tom Nystel - March 29, 2013 at 10:42 PM

VW

“ 9 files added to the album John Boswell 1979 Kerrville, Texas



Valerie Warwick - March 29, 2013 at 09:09 PM

WG

“ I first met John at Waterworks in Waco when we split an gig there back in the 80s. Our paths crossed again when we split a show at Waldo's in Waco about 10 or so years later. I thought he was a fine guy and a great entertainer. Wayne Greene

Wayne Greene - March 29, 2013 at 07:19 AM

DB

“ John's family has chosen several charitable organizations where donations in John's memory would be welcomed -- these folks are doing work we know John believed in!

1- Viet Nam Veterans of America:

<http://www.vva.org/>

2- The Emergency Fund of the only Traveling Musicians' Union in the country:

<http://local1000.org/2012/10/emergency-relief-fund/>

3-Texas Tech University Music Dept Fund for Excellence:

<https://securejava.tosm.ttu.edu/onlineGiving/allFunds.do> (then scroll down to Music Dept)

[Posted by Daniel Boling. Please contact me at daniel@danielboling.com if you have questions. Many thanks, friends.]

Daniel Boling - March 28, 2013 at 07:32 PM

KE

“ I met John and Old Blue in Waco when I lived there 1993-96. Some years later we talked on the phone and I offered to sell him my Spanish guitar. It was too big for me, but someone couldn't fit it into his car on a moving day and sold it to me for \$10. Not bad!

So that's how much John paid for the guitar, plus postage. Having heard him play it, I know for a fact that it went to a good home. God bless you, John, and may your music live on forever.

Kathleen Ellis

Kathleen Ellis - March 28, 2013 at 07:58 AM

MG

“ When I met John he was singing for money at the Waterworks tavern in Rockland Maine. The old "space shuttle" van had broken down and he was sing to fix it up. Some how as I was listening to his folk music we became friends. He help me with guitar lessons, taught me a thing or too about history, and just touched my soul. My friends and family became his friends and family.

He came back to Maine a few years later and stayed the winter. During that time he made MANY new friends, started Hoot-in-nannys at a local store, and even had his own Folk music hour on our local radio station. I taught him how to play soccer, and was lucky enough to be the person that set him up for his first goal! I'd never seen that smile bigger! He even got me to play guitar with him at our friends island wedding. He really enjoyed that traditional maine lobster bake!

I married, (John played at my wedding too!), had 2 kids and always would hear from John at least once a year. He was just check in. My kids would love to listen to his "Passin through" album.

Today I found out he has passed and a little piece of me passed with him, but I will never forget the lessons of love and determination he taught me. There will be many sad Mainers today as I spread the word.

Love and Peace my dear friend! You are and forever will be a true Mainer.

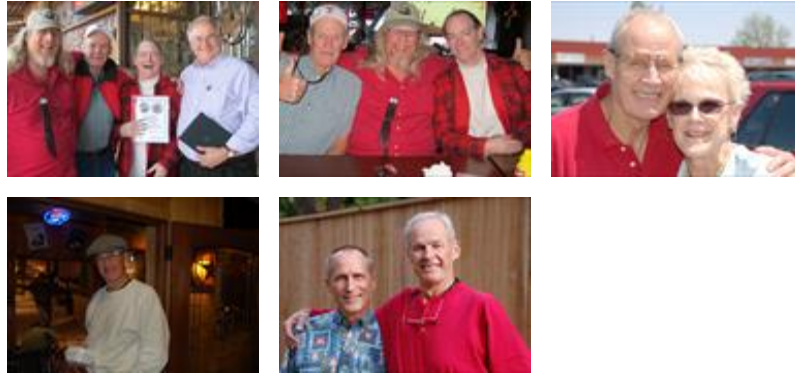
Michael Grey



Michael Grey - March 28, 2013 at 07:35 AM

Loyd
Turner

“ 30 files added to the album *Photos & Videos*



Loyd Turner - March 28, 2013 at 06:36 AM

JO

“ *I served with John in UDT-11. We both were on the Apollo 10 recovery team. John was the guy everyone liked. His out-going personality and lighthearted nature was contagious. He will be missed. My sincere condolences to his loved ones.*

*John Wolfram
Missionary, Philippines/Vietnam*

John - March 27, 2013 at 10:31 AM

“ My good friend John Darlowe Boswell, a true American folksinger, died Saturday, March 23, at the age of 69, from complications of pneumonia.

John was born March 2, 1944 in Lubbock. He attended Lubbock High School and Texas Tech University. He was an assistant band instructor. John served in the Navy in Vietnam from 1967 to 1970 on Underwater Demolition team 11 as a frogman, and later was on the Apollo Ten capsule recovery team. John spent several years in Hawaii as a scuba diving instructor.

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John spent over 30 years traveling the entire U.S. and half of Canada making his living as a folksinger and doing "odd jobs" while living in his truck Old Blue. In his mid-40s he crossed paths with the Culpepper and Meriweather Great Combined Circus in the tiny town of Cave Creek, Arizona, and liked it so much that he left with them the next morning and traveled with the circus for several months. John has friends all across the United States, including Pete Seeger.

Loyd L Turner

Lloyd Turner - March 27, 2013 at 09:54 AM

JL

“ *John will be remembered for his infectious smile and boundless energy. I am thankful that he touched my life and those of so many others in a positive, kind manner.*
John Leonard

John Leonard - March 27, 2013 at 08:26 AM

DF

“ *John, I settled far away after returning, but was aware of your service and return. I am honored to have been a brother in arms, to wish you a final "Welcome Home ", and God Bless.* *Doug Foster*

Doug Foster - March 26, 2013 at 08:57 PM

TM

“ *To a teammate: Rest in peace. It sounds as though you had a life well-lived with many good friends.*

TM

Ted Mosure - March 26, 2013 at 03:29 PM

LW

“ *To John's family, I went to High School and Tech with John. I remember a giant, gentleman with a smile that was never ending. You are in my prayers for understanding and peace. One day we will all be together again.* *Linda Neighbors Wooldridge*

Linda Wooldridge - March 26, 2013 at 01:19 PM

DR

“ JOHN AND HIS FAMILY WERE VERY SPECIAL FOLKS. HIS DAD & MOM TAUGHT ME IN SUNDAY SCHOOL. JOHN WAS IN RA'S AND WE SURE HAD FUN THOSE SUNDAY NIGHTS THROWING THE FOOTBALL AND PLAYING RUN THROUGH. JOHN WAS A REAL FINE T-BONE PLAYER AND LEADER IN THE BAND IN LAMESA AND THE TECH BAND AT TEXAS TECH. WE ALWAYS PLAYED FOOTBALL BEFORE AND AFTER BAND REHEARSALS. ONE OPEN WEEKEND WE PLAYED THE ANNUAL PHI MU ALPHA FOOTBALL GAME..AGAINST THE WISHES OF MR. KILLION OF COURSE...THE NEXT MONDAY JOHN WAS ON CRUTCHES TRYING TO CARRY HIS TROMBONE PAST KILLION...THEN DEAD SILENCE OVER THE BAND. JOHN WAS SURELY A BRAVE PERSON TO HAVE EVEN SHOWED UP! JOHN WAS ACTIVE IN MENS GLEE AND TH TECH BAND. HE JOINED THE NAVY AND WE WERE VERY PROUD OF HIM AND HIS ACHIEVEMENTS AS A FROGMAN. A VERY FINE MAN AND MUSICIAN. I WISH I COULD HAVE SPOKEN TO IM ONE MORE TIME BUT WE'LL SEE HIM AGAIN!

DAVID RIKER - March 26, 2013 at 12:53 PM

ML

“ John made my sophomore year in band a lasting experience. He was a great leader and a truly good person. You'll be missed John.

*Martin Lucas
Pflugerville, Texas*

Martin Lucas - March 26, 2013 at 12:33 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of John Boswell.*



March 26, 2013 at 07:10 AM



“ *John, you were one of a kind. We have so many great memories. I know you're rejoicing now with the Lord! Will see you again in the wink of an eye.*

Wes Chesser - March 26, 2013 at 06:26 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Janis Ling - March 25, 2013 at 07:52 PM



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



Janis Williams Boswell Ling - March 25, 2013 at 07:16 PM

GE

“ John, you left too soon. Remember Cub Scouts together? Then high school band – what a grand drum major you were as you led us onto the field for our half-time show! A mutual friend in Lubbock was planning to bring me by to visit you this week before I return to Indiana. So much to catch up on. Save a place for me next door.

Gary Essary - March 25, 2013 at 05:54 PM

PA

“ I will remember you,
will you remember me?
Don't let your life pass you by,
Weep not for the memories
-- Sarah Mclachlan

Pam - March 25, 2013 at 05:32 PM

PA

“ 1 file added to the album Photos & Videos



Pam - March 25, 2013 at 05:27 PM

BK

“ John was a special free spirit and an American hero. I am thankful for his service to a grateful nation. May he rest in peace.

Bill Ketchem - March 25, 2013 at 12:54 PM