



## John Elzie Simpson, III

February 9, 1949 - August 3, 2023

John Elzie Simpson, III, ("Juice"), 74, of Lubbock passed away on August 3, 2023, just one day after celebrating his fiftieth anniversary with his wife, Carolyn Byrd Simpson.

He was born in Tifton, Georgia on February 9, 1949. He was the first son born to John Elzie Simpson, Jr. and Jim Mae Swann Simpson. He was raised in Tifton and Athens, Georgia, as well as Charlotte, North Carolina, where his father was a salesman for Lance Incorporated, a snack food company. The summer before his senior year of high school, John's family moved to Houston, Texas and he graduated from Bellaire High School in Houston, Texas. From there he attended Texas Tech University where he earned his degree in business administration and was a member of the Kappa Alpha Order. John then proceeded on to Texas Tech University School of Law where he received his law degree. John is the first in his family to receive a college and graduate degree.

Upon receiving his law degree, John joined Johnny Splawn to practice law at Splawn Law Office. In 1979 John became a partner and the firm was renamed Splawn and Simpson Law Offices. John spent 49 years at Splawn and Simpson adding his dear friend, Tom Pitts, as partner in 2004 and changing the firm's name to Splawn Simpson Pitts. The only thing that was greater than his reputation in the legal community was his love and loyalty for his staff at Splawn Simpson Pitts. John received many awards and honors for his legal work and trial advocacy. He was appointed to the American College of Trial

Lawyers and the American Board of Trial Advocates. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the Texas Tech School of Law and the James E. Denton Distinguished Lawyer Award from the Lubbock Area Bar Association. John loved the law and practiced it zealously until his death. During law school, John met the love of his life, Carolyn Byrd, whom he married in Lockney, Texas, on August 2, 1973. He was a devoted Kappa Kappa Gamma husband. John and Carolyn had two daughters, Corey and Kendall, whom they raised in Lubbock with the help of John's parents, Megaw and Big Daddy, and Carolyn's parents, Gran and Pop (Fred and Virginia Byrd). John went to countless dance recitals, tennis matches, golf tournaments, school concerts and plays. As the girls got older, he was always ready to help Corey and Kendall with any "projects" they had in their dorms, houses, apartments whether they were in Norman, Oklahoma or Charlottesville, Virginia or anywhere in between.

John was an avid golfer all of his life and counted his golfing buddies among his closest friends. John was a fierce fan of all Texas Tech sports, especially Texas Tech football. He and Carolyn were season-ticket holders for over 30 years. He made "family trips" to out-of-town games against Georgia, Tennessee, Ohio State, Texas, and the 2007 Gator Bowl against his daughter's alma mater, the University of Virginia, because as he said, "How often are Texas Tech and Virginia going to play each other?" John also made family trips to the Sugar Bowl and Orange Bowl to cheer for his "adopted" team, the University of Oklahoma, while Kendall was a student there.

John also had an on-going curiosity for history, religion, and music. He took a three-year course at Congregation Shaareth Israel to learn more about Judaism and frequently taught both adult and youth Sunday School at First United Methodist Church. He loved musicals, especially Phantom of the Opera and Les Miserables. Ever learning, in midlife, John picked up a guitar and began years of weekly lessons. John loved the companionship of his dogs, Honey, his childhood cocker spaniel, Dakota, his beloved Alaskan Malamute, and of late, sweet Lucy, his rescue mix. Being John, he also

enjoyed taking care of a community of rescued box turtles in his backyard.

Some of John's greatest joys were serving his community in various roles. As an avid golfer, John led Hillcrest Country Club Board of Directors from 1987-88. He was very proud to have served as chair of the Staff Parrish committee the year First United Methodist Church hired Cliff Wright as its Senior Pastor. In 2003, the Supreme Court of Texas appointed John to serve as member of the Texas Board of Law Examiners, the board responsible for qualifying applicants for admission to the State Bar of Texas. John lead the Board of Law Examiners as its chair from 2008-2013.

John firmly believed that there were not many problems that could not be solved by eating a bowl of spaghetti Bolognese (preferably from the Lubbock restaurant, Chez Suzette), taking a hot shower, and going to bed early.

John was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife Carolyn of 50 years. He is also survived by his sister, Dixie Cook of Allen, Texas. He is also survived by his two daughters, Corey Simpson Booker of Richmond, Virginia and Mary Kendall Simpson of Dallas, Texas. He is also survived by his four grandsons, John Hilton and Royston Byrd Booker of Richmond, Virginia and Finn Elzie and Sebastian Gordon Simpson of Dallas, Texas. He is also survived by nieces, Lee Bobbitt LeBlond of Washington, D.C., Rebecca Cook Leach of Allen, Texas, Katie Cook Cockerham of Plano, Texas, nephew, Cameron Cook of Forth Worth, Texas, and brother-in-law, John D. Bobbitt of New Bern, North Carolina.

Funeral Services will be at 3:00 PM, Wednesday August 9, 2023 at First United Methodist Church, followed by a reception at Lubbock Country Club. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the John E. Simpson, III Endowed Scholarship at Texas Tech University School of Law. Donations may be made online or via check. Online donations may be made at [donate.law.ttu.edu](https://donate.law.ttu.edu) and donations via check may be made by mailing or delivering a check made out

to Texas Tech Law School Foundation (with a designation of the John E. Simpson, III Endowed Scholarship in the memo line) to Texas Tech Law School Foundation, Attn. Foundation Office, 3311 18th Street, Lubbock, TX 79409.

# Cemetery Details

## New Generation Cremation

Wills Point, TX 75169

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

AUG 9. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church  
1411 Broadway Avenue  
Lubbock, TX 79401

# Tribute Wall

KH

“ I am forever grateful for all the help and advice Mr. Simpson & Mr. Pitts gave me after my Daddy passed away in August 2020. Mr. Simpson was a dear friend of my Uncle Larry. I am keeping Carolyn, their children, grandchildren, and loved ones in my prayers.

Kelsey Hart - August 11, 2023 at 03:45 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Simpson Memorial Service



Sanders Funeral Home - August 09, 2023 at 07:29 PM

LW

“ A Kindness Shown: JoAnna and I, years ago, dropped in to Chez Suzette to celebrate our anniversary. John was there, and we chatted a bit. We revealed our purpose and then were shown to another room for supper. As we finished our meal, I requested the bill, and was told the gentleman we talked to earlier had already paid our bill when he left. Such a thoughtful kindness endeared us to John. He will be missed!

Larry Willis - August 09, 2023 at 07:28 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Elzie Simpson, III.



August 09, 2023 at 01:28 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Elzie Simpson, III.

August 09, 2023 at 01:28 PM



“ Cleetta J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Elzie Simpson, III.

Cleetta J. - August 09, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ Carolyn, Tex and I were so saddened to learn of John's passing! Our prayers are with you, Corey and Kendall at this time and on this day. We are out of town, but would otherwise be there today. God be with you!  
The Timberlakes

Kay Timberlake - August 09, 2023 at 10:23 AM

JP

“ Joey P. purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of John Elzie Simpson, III.



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Joey P. - August 08, 2023 at 01:23 PM

JP

“ Joey P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Elzie Simpson, III.

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Joey P. - August 08, 2023 at 01:23 PM

RM

“ Sending you all of our love from Richmond.

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Ryan, Ashley, Eliza, and Johnny Marshall - August 07, 2023 at 10:07 PM

DW

“ I had the utmost respect of Mr. Simpson. He represented us in the most outstanding way and gave the best advice in any situation. A great man in my book and I will miss him. He was truly one of a kind.

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Donnie Wren - August 07, 2023 at 08:13 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Elzie Simpson, III.



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August 07, 2023 at 03:56 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Elzie Simpson, III.

August 07, 2023 at 03:56 PM



“ I wish I could be there with all of you today but please know you are in my heart.  
Susie

Mary Hughes - August 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of John Elzie Simpson, III.



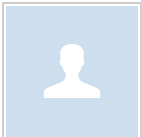
August 07, 2023 at 10:58 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of John Elzie Simpson, III.



August 07, 2023 at 10:33 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Elzie Simpson, III.

August 07, 2023 at 10:33 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Elzie Simpson, III.



August 06, 2023 at 08:40 PM



“ John Simpson was one of the best persons I have ever known. He was in one of my classes when I taught at Texas Tech. He had a sincere love for all people and treated everyone with respect. I am honored to have called him a close friend for over 50 years. He and Carolyn were the best at community work. They put all others first.

**Kent Hance** - August 06, 2023 at 06:21 PM



“ Carolyn, Kathy and I send our deepest condolences. Know you are hurting and we are too - such a good guy and good friend. I will never forget that when I first became Dean of Tech Law - and was in need of supportive friends - John was there. I will miss his smile and his friendship. Sincerely, Walt Huffman

**Walter Huffman** - August 06, 2023 at 02:38 PM



“ Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of John Elzie Simpson, III.



August 06, 2023 at 12:14 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Elzie Simpson, III.

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August 06, 2023 at 12:14 PM