



John Gordon Wilkerson, Jr.

December 18, 1934 - August 28, 2021

John Gordon Wilkerson, Jr., loving husband, father and grandfather, died August 28, 2021 after a courageous battle with cancer. John faced cancer the same way he lived life-with determination, steadfastness and gratitude. In life's great victories and its most difficult challenges, John's character, integrity, initiative, compassion and strong faith in God led him well.

John was born in Lubbock, TX on December 18, 1934. A lifelong Lubbock resident, John graduated from Lubbock High in 1953 and from Baylor University in 1957. John assumed leadership of Wilkerson Cold Storage Co. in 1956 and remained Chairman of the company until his death.

John married Ruth Collins on June 21, 1958. In a lifetime of good decisions, this was his wisest. They spent the next 63 years together in Lubbock, where their family grew to include four children and they were actively involved in serving their church, schools and community.

A deacon at First Baptist Church, John taught Sunday School and was President of Men's Brotherhood. He worked on numerous church committees and served as Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 9. Ruth and John were gracious in sharing their home with others in countless fellowships.

Baylor University made it possible for John to complete his degree via

correspondence courses and graduate with his class while he worked in Lubbock following his father's unexpected death in a plane crash. This forged a lifelong love for and loyalty to Baylor. He served 18 years as a Regent including two as Chairman of the Board. He was President of the Hankamer School of Business Alumni Board of Directors, a Director of the Baylor Alumni Association and Chairman of Baylor's Development Council.

John was a proud citizen of Lubbock, and he had a significant role in the growth it achieved in his lifetime. He served as Chairman of the Board of City Development, the Lubbock County Appraisal District and the Civil Service Commission. He took an active role in local, state and national political races. He spent substantial time and resources in efforts to secure a promising future for the area he loved.

Under John's leadership, Wilkerson Storage Co. and Wilkerson Properties grew to serve a broad array of commercial and industrial logistics and real estate customers. John served as a member of the board of the International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses. John knew his limitations and valued the chance to work with others whose diverse talents melded with his business acumen to achieve success. John was especially grateful to each member of the Wilkerson Storage Co. team, and he always valued their diligence, professionalism and can-do attitudes.

John had a true heart for helping others. He had a unique ability to reach downtrodden and overlooked individuals, quietly offering inclusion, advice and material resources. John spoke truth clearly. He possessed both the compassion and firmness necessary to help persons in extremely difficult circumstances.

Above all else, John was devoted to his family. He instilled in them the value and rewards of hard work, a heart for service, wisdom and comfort in dealing

with hardships and loss and profound gratitude for the Lord's blessings. He especially enjoyed the company of his grandchildren. He played a mean game of 42 and was often a preferred partner.

John was predeceased by his parents John Gordon Wilkerson and Cleo Hankins Wilkerson Bullard, his brother Howard, his son Ray and his granddaughter Meredith.

Survivors include his wife Ruth; his sister Mary Grady and husband Bill; his sister-in-law Glenda Wilkerson; his son Gordon and wife Lori; his son David and wife Kim; his daughter Sarah Scott and husband Richard; his seven grandchildren: Will Wilkerson and wife Carolyn; Rachel Wilkerson and husband Jon Harrison; Warner Scott; Ellen Wilkerson; Ethan Scott and wife Ashlee; Caroline Wilkerson; and Julia Scott; his two great-grandchildren: Calvin Harrison and Charlotte Wilkerson.

John's family is especially grateful for the exceptional care he received from his team of caregivers, nurses and physicians.

The family will receive visitors Tuesday evening August 31, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Sanders Funeral Home. Funeral services will be at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at First Baptist Church. Memorials for John may be sent to: Ray Hankins Wilkerson Endowed Scholarship Fund, Baylor University, One Bear Place #97050, Waco, TX 76798, Memo: Wilkerson HSB ESF # 434SFNE.

Cemetery Details

Resthaven Memorial Park

5740 West 19th Street
Lubbock, TX 79416

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 31. 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

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

Memorial Service

SEP 1. 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM.

First Baptist Church

Tribute Wall



“ Sanders Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John Gordon Wilkerson, Jr.



Sanders Funeral Home - September 01, 2021 at 04:11 PM



“ Sanders Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John Gordon Wilkerson, Jr.



Sanders Funeral Home - August 30, 2021 at 05:09 PM

RS

*what a video!
simply divine!
praise God for our great friend and his love and service!*

robert snell - August 30, 2021 at 07:55 PM

DL

Precious Video of a Precious Family !!

DL & Alice Lowrie - August 30, 2021 at 10:06 PM

RL

Beautiful video of a very meaningful life.

Ron and Barbara Lowry

Ron Lowry - September 01, 2021 at 03:57 PM

RL

Enjoy and appreciate John, Ruth, and Mother, Cleo for their friendship for over 50 years. Appreciation for his charitable considerations in properties for Southcrest Baptist Church in years past. Blessings to All, RC Littlefield

RC & ANITA LITTLEFIELD - September 01, 2021 at 04:41 PM

GS

“ *John has always been a kind and wise influence upon this community and upon me as an individual. He always took the time to smile and offer help to assist in any situation . Always grateful with a warm smile and good heart John used his many skills to lift up people when they most needed it . His devotion to Ruth was an inspiration to all of us. The world is a better place because of his life and contributions. Few people have touched so many lives in a positive way as John has . May he rest in the everlasting arms of God in peace as he is reunited with his son Ray and his parents. Rest In Peace dear friend. Gwen Stafford*

gwen stafford - September 03, 2021 at 03:41 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Gordon Wilkerson, Jr..*



September 01, 2021 at 03:14 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Gordon Wilkerson, Jr..*



August 31, 2021 at 09:28 PM



“ *4 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Sanders Funeral Home - August 31, 2021 at 05:52 PM



“ *0 file added to the tribute wall*

Sanders Funeral Home - August 31, 2021 at 05:37 PM



“ *Our deepest condolences to the Wilkerson family. May God give you peace and comfort during this time of loss. We pray that happy memories will fill you with joy in the days to come.*



Tracy Baugh - August 31, 2021 at 05:33 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of John Gordon Wilkerson, Jr..*



August 31, 2021 at 05:26 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of John Gordon Wilkerson, Jr..*



August 31, 2021 at 05:19 PM



“ *0 file added to the tribute wall*

Sanders Funeral Home - August 31, 2021 at 05:11 PM



“ *0 file added to the tribute wall*

Sanders Funeral Home - August 31, 2021 at 01:42 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of John Gordon Wilkerson, Jr..*



August 31, 2021 at 01:00 PM

DB

“ John Wilkerson was an ultimate pioneer involved in the growth and development of Lubbock, Texas. His legacy will live on, not only for his many accomplishments, but his kind nature. John was a gentleman who always made one feel welcome in his presence. My prayers will be with the family.

Donna Currey Barnes

Donna Currey Barnes - August 31, 2021 at 12:13 PM



“ 1 file added to the album LifeTributes



Sanders Funeral Home - August 31, 2021 at 11:28 AM



“ A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of John Gordon Wilkerson, Jr..



August 31, 2021 at 10:54 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Gordon Wilkerson, Jr..



August 31, 2021 at 10:33 AM



“ *Sentimental Dreams* was purchased for the family of John Gordon Wilkerson, Jr..



August 31, 2021 at 09:45 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket* was purchased for the family of John Gordon Wilkerson, Jr..



August 31, 2021 at 09:09 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of John Gordon Wilkerson, Jr..



August 31, 2021 at 09:09 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket* was purchased for the family of John Gordon Wilkerson, Jr..



August 30, 2021 at 11:25 PM

SS

“ A great man, a great life. His legacy lives on in his children, as it should. He’s in a better place now, that has no cancer or suffering.

Scott Smith - August 30, 2021 at 09:19 PM



“ Divine Light was purchased for the family of John Gordon Wilkerson, Jr..



August 30, 2021 at 06:36 PM



“ Sweet Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of John Gordon Wilkerson, Jr..



August 30, 2021 at 06:12 PM

RC

“ Roger & Kellie Cantwell purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of John Gordon Wilkerson, Jr..



Roger & Kellie Cantwell - August 30, 2021 at 05:04 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Gordon Wilkerson, Jr..*



August 30, 2021 at 04:14 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of John Gordon Wilkerson, Jr..*



August 30, 2021 at 03:35 PM



“ *John was one of the last great builders of our city. His dedication to his faith, family, and community was unequalled. He was my friend, and my advisor. His final fight for life showed his true character. He was a tireless behind-the-scenes worker for Lubbock, never caring who got the credit, as long as the job got done. I will miss John Wilkerson every day for the remainder of my days. Paul R. Beane*

Paul R. Beane - August 30, 2021 at 02:06 PM



“ 137 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Sanders Funeral Home - August 30, 2021 at 01:57 PM