



## John Ivey West Jr.

November 11, 1945 - May 14, 2018

Conway...

John Ivey West, Jr., age 72, passed away Monday, May 14, 2018 at the Embrace Hospice House in Myrtle Beach.

Mr. West, who served his country in both military and civilian capacities, was a resident of Conway, where he lived with his wife of 24 years, Mary Ann West.

Born in 1945, Mr. West graduated from Harding High School in Oklahoma City, OK. He joined the US Army and served in Vietnam, Germany, and the US. He retired with the rank of Sergeant Major.

Later, he worked for the National Marrow Donor Program and as a public affairs specialist for the US Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C., where he put his extensive professional expertise in news writing and photography, and with print and broadcast media, to support civilian public health programs.

Mr. West retired to Conway in 2010.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann West; his sons, Daniel West of Seattle, WA and Marcus West of Maryland; his brothers, Kelly and Robert; and his

sister, Pamela, all of Oklahoma.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel 606-610 Beaty Street, Conway, SC 29526.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to your favorite charity.

Please sign an online guestbook at [www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com](http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com)

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel is serving the family.

## Cemetery Details

### Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, VA

## Previous Events

### Memorial Service

MAY 22. 11:00 AM (ET)

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel  
606-610 Beaty Street  
Conway, SC 29526

# Tribute Wall



“ I knew John in Frankfurt Germany. We were good friends. He was in one of the plays that I directed for Dinner Theater at Drake NCO Club in 1990. He was CSM West, but in this production he played a servant. I had him dressed in his best tuxedo, with 2 different pairs of cowboy boots, which he wore one of on each foot, and then switched them around for his next scene, and we gave him an Alfalfa cowlick. He was fun, and totally amazing and did not pull any rank at all during this production! Afterwards, he became my wonderful friend! God Bless You SMAG! RIP, we'll meet again! <3

*Steve and Cindy Yuoconis*

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**Cindy Burr Salsedo Yuoconis** - September 16, 2018 at 07:52 PM

KJ

“ Ken Jackson lit a candle in memory of John Ivey West Jr.



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**Ken Jackson** - May 24, 2018 at 04:52 PM

HH

“ Harvey Harmon lit a candle in memory of John Ivey West Jr.



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**Harvey Harmon** - May 24, 2018 at 07:53 AM

LD

“ I am very sorry to hear of John's passing. I lived 4 houses down from him for many years and he always had a wave and a smile I will never forget. Love and condolences to his family.

~Lyle Dieckmann  
Oklahoma City

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**Lyle Dieckmann** - May 22, 2018 at 09:48 AM

RC

“ My dear friend, you will live forever in our memories. Rest in peace.

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**Ralph Cook** - May 22, 2018 at 08:03 AM

ZF

“ Anne and I had the joy of knowing and working with John during his service with the American Forces Network, Europe in the early 1990's. He was the network Sergeant Major and rendered invaluable assistance and leadership to the men and women of the network as we supported the European Command leading up to Desert Storm. Thousands of service members deployed to the Mideast leaving their families in Europe. This provided the network with an unique opportunity to keep them informed, not only about the war, but also what the command in Europe was doing regarding their welfare. You can imagine the stress of family members left in a foreign country without their husbands, wives, fathers and mothers. Our NCO corps led by SGM West rose to the occasion and provided superb support at both the network and affiliate levels. We have lost a fine soldier leader who overcame many challenges to serve his country. God bless John and his family.

Zack and Anne Fowler, Vidalia, GA

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**Zachary Stephen Fowler** - May 22, 2018 at 06:16 AM

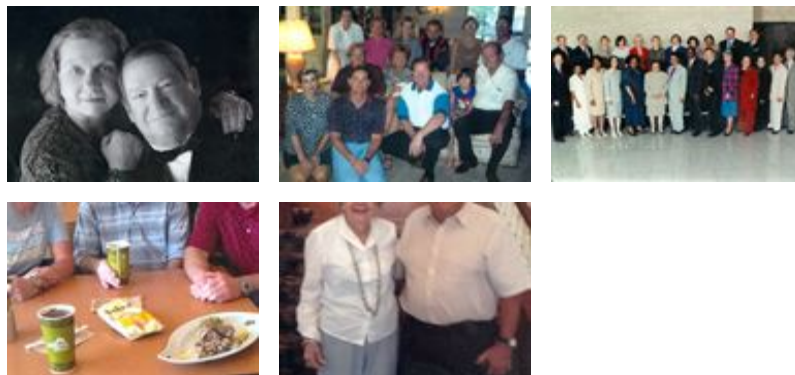
GG

“ Dear Mary Ann, We are so sorry for you're great loss. Love,  
Deborah & Gary Garofalo

Gary Garofalo - May 20, 2018 at 11:28 AM



“ 20 files added to the album Life Tributes



Goldfinch Funeral Home - May 19, 2018 at 09:45 AM

CM

*I was so very sorry to hear about John. We were good friends and neighbors growing up in Oklahoma City and classmates all through the years at Harding. My thoughts are with Bob, Kelly, Mary Ann and family.*

*Cheryl Ekern Moore*

Cheryl Moore - May 20, 2018 at 10:56 AM

KE

“ *The best big brother anyone could ever have. John loved his family, his many friends from Harding and the Army, OU football, and golfing with his buddies. I will miss you, Bro.*

Kelly - May 18, 2018 at 09:38 PM

SG

“ Susan Gray purchased the Secret Garden Basket for the family of John Ivey West Jr..



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**Susan Gray** - May 18, 2018 at 09:05 PM

MW

“ I went to Harding with John and absolutely adored him. I called him my 5 Star General as he helped us locate classmates for our 50th in 2014. John lived in the Kansas City area for a while and became a huge fan of Gates BBQ. He told me that he had the sauce shipped to him so he could keep enjoying it. My friend John was always an officer and gentleman. I will miss him as will all of our Harding and Oklahoma City friends.

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**Mary Walker** - May 18, 2018 at 04:46 PM

RB

*How saddened I am to learn of John's passing, a well regarded member of Oklahoma City's Harding High School's Class of 1964. And I'm so sorry I did not know he had been in hospice in Myrtle Beach. I remember John from the days of working together on the staff of the Marionette student paper. But more recently I had the pleasure of working with him as we compiled our class reunion yearbook in 2014. John had an impressive career, retiring from the U.S. Army as sergeant major. And it appears he had an impressive civilian career, too. My prayers are that God will provide comfort to his wife, his sons, and his siblings. Richard Bard HHS '64*

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**Richard Bard** - May 18, 2018 at 06:07 PM

JP

“ *It is with my utmost respect to remember and honor a mentor, colleague, and friend. I was exceptionally fortunate to have been assigned to the American Forces Network Headquarters then in Frankfurt, Germany at the same time as John. He exemplified the very best of leadership skills and shown by example the importance of each person working together to always produce the finest outcome. John insisted that regardless of your rank, you, the individual, had something important to contribute.*

*Now my friend, it is our time to thank you for making many of us, the people we are today. There will never be another John West...we, are the fortunate ones to have had you.*

*I know your family misses you...and I know they will continue on.*

*James Paul*

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**James Paul** - May 17, 2018 at 07:39 PM

WU

“ *Thanks for your service Soldier !!!*  
*Wayne Williams*  
*United States Marine Corps*



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**Wayne Williams - USMC** - May 16, 2018 at 07:57 PM

SC

“ We've lost a fearless, superb warrior who loved his wife, Mary Ann, the Army and his country. I've known Army Sergeant-Major John West since 1976 when he was a staff sergeant in an organization in Kansas City where we served together and became life-long friends. We stayed close over the years and we found an opportunity to work together again as commander and command Sergeant-Major of the American Forces Network-Europe, the largest and oldest radio-television network in the Defense Department. Of all the Sergeants-Major I worked with over my career, no one was more loyal, devoted and supportive than John. He excelled at every endeavor he undertook, from earning his college degree to obtaining his Army parachute "jump wings" and selection to attend the prestigious U.S. Army Sergeants-Major Academy.. He was promoted to the top Army enlisted rank and was much admired by young soldiers, colleagues, and superiors alike, who are all better for knowing John.

*I've lost a great friend and the Army community has lost a dedicated Soldier. May he rest in eternal peace.*

*Sonny Craven*



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**Sonny Craven** - May 16, 2018 at 04:52 PM

PA

“ I am so sorry for your loss - I 1st met John when we golfed together - I always enjoyed spending time with John as he always tried to be upbeat despite what he was going through - all of our memories of John will be happy ones - prayers for John, you and your family -  
*Phil Anctil*

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**Philip Anctil** - May 16, 2018 at 12:36 PM

AN

“ Marianne we are so sorry for your loss. Joe amd Anna.

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**Anna** - May 15, 2018 at 02:09 PM