



Robert Wells John

October 31, 2006

Educator, author, beloved husband and father, emeritus professor Robert W. John, 87, died October 31, 2006 at his youngest daughter's home in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Dr. John spent the last 19 years of his career at the University of Georgia in Athens, in the Department of Music as a professor and department chair, and for the last few years as Associate Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences. Prior to coming to the University of Georgia, Dr. John was the Chairman of the Music Department at what was then North Carolina College in Durham, North Carolina. Robert Wells John was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on July 1st, 1919 to the late William N. and Anna Lux John. He was the third of four children, and is survived by his younger brother, William N. John, Jr. of Conway, Arkansas. His formal education included an undergraduate degree from what was then Milwaukee State Teacher's College, a Master's degree from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and a Doctorate from University of Indiana in Bloomington. Between degrees, he served in the army from 1942 in the Second World War, retiring from active duty as a captain in 1946 to join the Army Reserves until retiring as Lieutenant Colonel in 1975. In 1943 he married Jewel Elaine Smith, with whom he had four children: David Clarke married to Sherri Philpot of Harper's Ferry, Virginia; Martha Deane married to Dan Flagge of Frederick, Maryland; Claudia Ann married to Brett Bowen of Woodstock, Georgia; and Nanci Wells married to Wright Penn of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. In addition, he is survived by five granddaughters ? David's children: Meredith and Megan, and Nanci's

children: Katherine, Christine and Elizabeth, and by one great granddaughter: Katherine's child, Emma, as well as several nieces and nephews. Bob is lovingly remembered by his family and friends as an out-going, friendly man with an infectious optimism, and constant humor. His readiness for a new adventure and the next project ? whether it was a new woodworking project, re-vamping an old school bus into a camper, writing a new book, or moving to a new state ? kept him young in spirit and a delight to have as a companion for all of his 87 years. Even in his very last days, when he was bed-ridden and failing, when asked how he was, his instant reply was, "I'm bully!" Dr. John may be best remembered professionally at UGA as:

- \tProfessor of Music Music Education from 1966-1985
- \tHead of the Department of Music 1978-79
- \tAssociate Dean of the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences 1979-84
- \tEstablished the Franklin College Chamber Music Series which is still active
- \tServed for many years as editor of the Georgia Music News, the official publication of the Georgia Music Educators Association
- \tLeader in historical research in music education: publishing numerous articles related to the history of music education;
- \tMember of the editorial board of the Journal of Research in Music Education
- \tMember of the Music Educators Research Council MERC.
- \tMember and officer of the Beta Tau Chapter of Pi Kappa Lambda National Honorary Music Society
- \tWell known member of the Music Educators National Conference MENC and the International Society of Music Education ISME

A memorial service is planned for Friday, November 24th at 4:00 p.m. at Saint Gregory the Great Episcopal Church in Athens, Georgia; the church of which he and Jewel were two of the founding members. Dr. John passed peacefully, holding his daughter's hand, in her home. He died as he had lived: with dignity, a calmness of spirit, and looking forward to the next adventure. He will be profoundly missed. Memorial donations in lieu of flowers may be made to Mercy Hospice and Palliative Care, PO Box 50640, Myrtle Beach, SC 29579 would be gratefully accepted. Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall



“ David and Family, Sure sorry to hear of the passing of your father. I have fond memories of working with him thru the bookstore and working with you. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. George & Deloris Slay delorissla@earthlink.net###imported-begin##George & Deloris Slay###imported-end##

November 05, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Nanci, Claudia, Martha, Mama Jewel and Family: I was so sorry to hear of the passing of your Dad/Husband. I have so many wonderful childhood memories of your living in Cedar Creek and later moving to Winterville. I remember Bob and my parents shared some mutual interests and visited with them in Green Acres on a few occasions to help with mutually enjoyed projects. Of course, Nanci, we share our childhood from junior high through high school at the 'original' Cedar Shoals. My love and deep sympathy is with all of you during this time of grief. Give our best to Wright. Wishing you the very best, Betsy Arrington-Tsao, John Tsao and Evan Arrington-Tsao###imported-begin##Betsy Arrington-Tsao###imported-end##

November 03, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Jewel and Family, You are in our prayers here in Athens. You and Bob are much loved.###imported-begin##Jill Jayne Read###imported-end##

November 03, 2006 at 12:00 AM