



John H. Sperry

April 9, 1927 - July 2, 2022

John Howard Sperry passed away peacefully at his home on Saturday, July 2nd, at the age of 95.

The family will receive friends at Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Directors Thursday from 5 PM until 7 PM. His Celebration of Life service will be held at 11 am Friday, July 8th, 2022 at Porterfield Memorial United Methodist Church with Rev. Chuck Knight and Rev. Josh Duckworth officiating.

He was born on April 9th, 1927, in Albany, Georgia. He graduated from Albany High School in 1944 where he was the President of the Honor Society.

He

joined the Army Air Force Reserve for pilot training; however, the war with Germany

ended and the pilot program ended as well. John stayed on in the Air Force and spent

his remaining service time in Germany. While in Germany he attended portions of the

Nuremburg Trials. He got home in time to enroll in the Spring quarter at Georgia Tech

and graduated in March of 1950. While at Georgia Tech, he was a member of Chi

Epsilon, the Civil Engineering Honorary Society and served a term as President of the

student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers. While at Georgia Tech, a friend, Billy Bolton, invited him to his home in Griffin, Georgia for the weekend. While there, Billy introduced him to his sister, JoAnne Bolton. John and JoAnne dated for four years and then married in 1951 just before John left Cuthbert for Albany. They were married for 66 years. After graduation he worked with the Georgia State Highway Department in Cuthbert, Ga. After a year and half, he accepted a job with Marbury Engineering Company and moved back to Albany. While at Marbury Engineering he obtained his Professional Engineering License, his Professional Land Surveying License, and his Professional Landscape Architecture License. In 1959, he opened his own office for Engineering and Surveying. During his time in private practice, he did projects with his friend and former boss, Mickey Marbury. He also formed a joint venture known as Lindsey, Sperry and Lewis with Lou Lindsey, Tommy Tucker, Guy Ritter, and Ken Lewis. This group was able to handle Civil, Structural, Mechanical, Electrical Engineering and Land Surveying. Nineteen years later, he merged his firm with Keck and Wood, Inc. as Vice President. After eight years, he accepted a position with the City of Albany as the Assistant City Engineer. After a short while, he became the City Engineer and Department

Head. He

stayed with the City of Albany for eight years and retired a week before the infamous

Flood of 1994. He returned to work during the worst of the flood and continued working

to assist with the backlog of work. After finally retiring for good from the City, he

continued to work on an as needed basis as a storm drainage consultant for Dougherty

County.

John was a charter member of Porterfield Memorial United Methodist Church and

continued his participation in the Church and its many activities and committees until the end.

John is predeceased by his wife, JoAnne Bolton Sperry. He is survived by two sons, Bill

Sperry (Susan), Scott Sperry (Vicki), five grandchildren, Brad Sperry (Lindy), Laura

Lynne Powers (Rory), Parker Sperry (Sarah), Hayes Sperry (Cari) and Hunter Sperry

(Holly) and five great grandchildren, Owen, Emilia, Abigail, Grant, and Weston.

Special thanks to his Care Givers who took such good care of him and made his last

few years peaceful and enjoyable.

Those desiring to make a memorial contribution in lieu of flowers, please do so to either:

Porterfield Memorial United Methodist Church, 2200 Dawson Road, Albany Georgia, 31707 or, the Flint RiverQuarium, 117 Pine Avenue, Albany, Georgia

31701.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 7. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Directors
1503 Dawson Rd.
Albany, GA 31707

Celebration of Life

JUL 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

Porterfield Memorial United Methodist Church
2200 Dawson Rd.
Albany, GA 31707
dmsaby@gmail.com

Tribute Wall

PB

“ I had the pleasure of growing up at Porterfield as a young man with John Sperry as a quiet but constant presence at the church. As I grew older and learned more about his military service and his crucial role during and after the 1994 floods (even after his official retirement from the City), I recognized that John was one of the most modest but most extraordinary men that I had ever met. My condolences to his sons Bill and Scott and their families on John's passing. He was gentle, fair, faithful, and wise- everything that all of us should aspire to be.

Paul Black - July 26, 2022 at 09:59 AM

HB

“ Our deepest condolences to the family of John Sperry. John was highly personable and a very talented civil engineer

Hilliard and Kay Burt - July 08, 2022 at 11:59 AM

CH

“ So sorry to lose this wonderful, kind and gentle man. The Albany community will greatly miss him. Carolyn Hatcher

carolyn hatcher - July 07, 2022 at 01:59 PM

DH

“ Much love and sympathy to the family. Mr. Sperry was always such a kind friendly gentleman at Porterfield through the years. He and his wife were both fine people.

Debbie Hambley - July 05, 2022 at 08:04 PM

BM

“ Dear Bill and Scott, I was devastated to hear this news. I am so glad that I called John two weeks ago. As usual, I got another history lesson. He related a story that I have never heard and I have had the blessing of hearing so many since 1984. It is an understatement to say that I have been truly blessed to work for and work with your dad. He would always ask if I had heard a story, not knowing which story was coming. I would always say I don't think so and he would begin. Most times I had heard the story or stories but it didn't matter, because each time it might have a different spin to it. A true southern gent, knowledgeable professional engineer, land surveyor, and landscape architect (another funny story with Mickey Marbury). Albany and I are better for having been associated with John Sperry. Thoughts and prayers are with each of you.

Bruce Maples - July 05, 2022 at 05:06 PM

LS

“ Dear Bill and Scott, My condolences to you and your families. I have many good memories of your dad. He and Joann were a big part of our growing up years on Eleventh avenue.

Lynn L Sommet - July 05, 2022 at 04:02 PM

DW

“ Danny & Brenda Gail Wall lit a candle in memory of John H. Sperry



Danny & Brenda Gail Wall - July 05, 2022 at 01:23 PM

DW

“ Our condolences and sympathies are with you all! Mr. John and Ms. JoAnne are/were one of the nicest couples we ever met! Danny & Brenda Gail (Tramel) Wall

Danny & Brenda Gail Wall - July 05, 2022 at 01:22 PM

PM

“ Dear sweet family:
What a guy John Sperry was!!!! He was an 'expert' on so many issues that came up from time to time, and he always knew the answers. I am sad that he is gone, but I know he and Joanne are having a wonderful Heavenly reunion, free from pain and suffering. Know my love and prayers are with each of you as you go through these tough days ahead....

Patsy Martin - July 05, 2022 at 12:02 PM

CM

“ My condolences to you, Bill and Scott. Mr. Sperry was a wonderful gentleman. Talking with him for a minute always made my whole day better.

Craig Mitchell - July 05, 2022 at 11:16 AM

RB

“ John was an amazing man, wonderful teacher, and I'm thankful for our friendship. He had wonderful stories, and most interesting life. Heaven will be brighter because of his presence. My prayers are with his family and loved ones, as you adjust to his home-going.

Ray and Kay Bradley - July 05, 2022 at 10:28 AM

AR

“ Albany has lost a true pillar of the community and one of the finest men I’ve ever known. I was very lucky to get to know him and work for him during the summer of 1974 while I was an engineering student at Georgia Tech. I admired his quiet and calm demeanor and his dedication to professionalism, integrity and service. Bill and Scott, you were blessed to have such a great dad. May wonderful memories sustain you during this difficult time. He will be missed. With heartfelt sympathy,
Al Rakel

Al Rakel - July 04, 2022 at 09:58 PM

DW

“ Mr. John Sperry was a true southern gentleman! He was always kind, gentle and thoughtful of others. Mr Sperry was affectionately known by family and close friends as “Papa”. Mr Sperry had a deep love for history. I enjoyed many hours listening to him tell his family history. He spoke fondly of memories he had of his mother and grandparents. He will be deeply missed. My sincerest condolences to Bill (Susan), Scott (Vicki) and extended family. Sincerely, Darlia Mitchell Williams

Darlia Mitchell Williams - July 04, 2022 at 09:19 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John H. Sperry.



July 04, 2022 at 08:39 PM

CM

“ John and JoAnne meant so much to Mother and Daddy, friends as well as “kin!” I loved to hear Daddy and John get going on old Albany and all the good old stories. He was such a knowledgeable man, as well as one of the kindest! Thinking about all his family during this time. ❤️

Cecelia Champion Merchant - July 04, 2022 at 05:28 PM

BC

“ John has always been one of my favorite people. You could count on John to provide the best answer for almost any question and a delightful person to be around. I will truly miss him and treasure the last lunch May and I enjoyed with him a few weeks ago. God has surely gained a treasure!

Bland Cleesattle - July 04, 2022 at 02:20 PM

EC

“ John H. Sperry, South Georgia’s cordial & most knowledgeable Geologist, has joined his beloved wife. With honesty, integrity, and courtesy, he answered even our ‘foolish’ Earth questions.

He went into depths of Albany- including the cave connecting Hilsman Park and Mills Stadium. Retiring several times he’d get called back after storms. He generously shared his vast knowledge of this area’s unusual geology when needed.

It would be impossible to dislike a man like John Sperry, A void is left by his passing.

Elizabeth Champion - July 04, 2022 at 09:01 AM

DW

Mr. John Sperry was a true southern gentleman! He was always kind, gentle and thoughtful of others. Mr Sperry was affectionately known by family and close friends as "Papa". Mr Sperry had a deep love for history. I enjoyed many hours listening to him tell his family history. He spoke fondly of memories he had of his mother and grandparents. He will be deeply missed. My sincerest condolences to Bill (Susan), Scott (Vicki) and extended family. Sincerely, Darlia Mitchell Williams

Darlia Mitchell Williams - July 04, 2022 at 08:23 PM

SH

To John's family. I just saw this and am so happy I got to stop at your Lake Blackshear place a few years back and talk to him for a little while. He was one of my favorite people during my tenure as City Clerk -- one of the kindest and smartest men I have ever known. And I was also privileged to be the next door neighbor to him and Joanne when I lived at Lake Blackshear. I know you will miss him but he has certainly earned his heavenly reward.

Sue Hammond - July 25, 2022 at 05:17 PM

BC

“ One of the finest men I have ever known.

Bill Cannon - July 04, 2022 at 07:52 AM

PR

“ Phil Roberson lit a candle in memory of John H. Sperry



Phil Roberson - July 03, 2022 at 08:17 PM

FA

“ Brilliant and wonderful man! He was a great leader for this community! Frank Ahouse

frank ahouse - July 03, 2022 at 08:02 PM

AH

“ *A very fine man.*

Anita Hudgens - July 03, 2022 at 01:46 PM

JB

“ *What a wonderful man we have lost. May his memory be a blessing to all. Much love, Janie and Bruce Bitterman*



Janie & Bruce Bitterman - July 03, 2022 at 09:25 AM

LL

“ *Lisa Luke lit a candle in memory of John H. Sperry*



Lisa Luke - July 03, 2022 at 06:13 AM

KP

“ *Kathy And David Prisant lit a candle in memory of John H. Sperry*



Kathy and David Prisant - July 02, 2022 at 10:27 PM

CM

“ John was an amazing boss and friend to my husband, Clay. He was a mentor and taught Clay so much about surveying, honesty, work ethic and integrity. We both loved him and will certainly miss him. Our prayers are with each of you in the family as you travel this new and painful journey.

Clay and Rebecca Miller - July 02, 2022 at 10:08 PM