



John Osteen

March 11, 1936 - March 13, 2020

John was born in Greenville, SC on March 11, 1936. He was the son of the late John E. and Gertie Aiken Osteen, and husband of Carol F. Osteen.

John was a 1954 graduate of Berea High School and a 1958 graduate of Clemson University receiving a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering. He was also in ROTC and served in the U. S. Army and Army Reserves achieving the rank of captain. He was the plant manager with the Singer Company in Pickens SC from 1969 to 1974. In 1974 he came to Memphis to serve as general manager and president of Layne and Bowler. In 1980 he created the international business SABA, Inc. where he remained until retirement in 2009.

John was a devoted Christian and served the Lord in many capacities. Throughout his Christian life he taught Sunday school, served as deacon and sang in the choir. He was a member of Covenant Baptist Church in Collierville, TN.

John was married to his wife, Carol for 63 years. They have three children together Kathryn Menkel (Dale), John F. Osteen (Lisa) and Teresa Weinman (Chuck). He is survived by 5 granddaughters: Tiffany Roberts, Wesley Dembinski (Jeremy), Rachael Osteen, Leah Babich (Taylor) and Lauren Sheddan (Parker). His granddaughter Anna Menkel predeceased him in 2005. His family also includes seven great-grandchildren. He is also survived by brothers Gary Osteen (Gail) and Gene Osteen (Sallie) of Greenville, SC. His sister Alice Osteen Burchett passed in 2017.

A memorial celebration of his life service will be announced for a later date. Memorials may be sent to The Parkinson's Foundation or a charity of your choice.

Tribute Wall

TS

“ John was my business partner and dear friend for nearly 40 years - an icon of wisdom in more ways than I can count. A trusted mentor, one could count on him to make well-considered business decisions, and deliver on his promises. He loved his family dearly, and never failed to remind all around him of the importance of family above all else. A true inspiration to all he met; stories of John's acumen in both domestic and international business will be told for years. He will be truly missed - our world is a lesser place without him!

Tom Stanfield - March 24, 2020 at 01:25 PM

DM

“ As one of the fortunate ones who had the opportunity to work closely with John during the SABA years, I was always amazed at his knowledge, quick grasp of details and never ending search for opportunities. He had many friends, from many walks of life and he influenced all who knew him. He was never slowed down by issues with Parkinsons, and was not deterred him from working on multi-million dollar ventures. He was an inspiration to all who had the fortune of interacting with him.
Best wishes to the family as they deal with this sad time. John will be missed.
Dennis & Ellen Meyer

Dennis Meyer - March 19, 2020 at 01:38 PM

EW

“ My heart aches for the loss of Mr. Osteen. He treated me like family from the first time I met him at SABA. I learned to love him and his family like my own. He fought a long hard battle, but he is in a better place. Walking the streets of Gold and dancing with Anna.

Elva Waldrop - March 18, 2020 at 07:44 PM

BW

“ Teresa & Chuck,
Our deepest sympathies to you both and your whole family. As I think I've shared, we lost my father to Parkinson's so I have deep respect for Carol's challenge over the past few years. Please know you are all in our thoughts and prayers. With love, Beth & Michael Babich

beth walters - March 18, 2020 at 03:35 PM

DT

“ *Mr. John was a wonderful person and I really enjoyed getting to know him at church. Heaven is celebrating having him there though it is a great loss to all who knew him* 

deborah thomas - March 17, 2020 at 08:34 PM

MF

“ *So sorry for your loss. I served as legal counsel for Saba and its affiliates and have many fond memories of working with John. His smooth deep voice is etched in my mind. He will be sorely missed.*

Mark Field - March 17, 2020 at 02:49 PM