



John Lee Pell

January 18, 1945 - October 20, 2020

John Lee Pell was born on January 18, 1945, in Jackson TN, to Ruth and Carroll Lee Pell. His precious sister, Elizabeth, had just turned five. Paternal grandparents were Mary Elizabeth and Elonzo Lee Pell. Maternal grandparents were Elizabeth Crenshaw and John Boyd.

John was a member of Bellevue Baptist Church in his high school and college days. He later joined Highland Heights Methodist. John met his wife Maureen Jenkins in Baton Rouge, LA. She precedes him in death.

He graduated from Memphis State in Physics and Math. His graduate studies were at LSU, where he received a Ph.D. in both Physics and Math. John worked at The Center for Nuclear Studies at Memphis State until it closed. He and Maureen moved to Savannah, GA, where he continued work in Nuclear Studies. When his father became ill, they moved back to Memphis. He taught at Memphis State, MTSU, and Southwest, and was an Adjunct Professor at LeMoyne-Owen.

John Loved to run. He ran seven marathons, and several half marathons. He finished The Road Race Series and was a member of Memphis Runners Track Club. His last race was a Memorial for his friend's son killed in action in the Middle East. His running days diminished after he suffered a stroke.

He had a passion for music and learned how to play the trombone in 6th grade. He played in the bands at Central High School and Memphis State. He played and was a member of Bartlett Community Concert Band until Covid-19 hit this year.

John joined the Mid-City Gideon's Camp in 1997, shortly after his beloved wife died. He remained an active member. John was a brilliant man who had a great sense of humor and demonstrated perseverance. He was working out at the Desoto Athletic Club, determined and hopeful up to his death.

John was a longtime faithful of Power Hour at Christ Church. His sister, Elizabeth,

accompanied him every week. They were devoted to Christ Church, attending Saturday's Altar Service with Pastor Chris Carter. John enjoyed listening to Pastor Shane Stanford on the radio when churches were closed during Covid-19. John loved the Lord, worship was very important to him.

He leaves his adored sister, Elizabeth, who he called 'Betty' all his days. Their mother was a language teacher and their father, a language Professor. They decided "Elizabeth" was too much of a mouthful for a toddler. John and Elizabeth lived together almost 25 years, after his beloved wife's death. Special thanks to the Staff at Regional One, Elizabeth appreciates their wonderful care for her brother.

A graveside service for Dr. Pell will be held 2:00 p.m., November 2, 2020 at Memorial Park Cemetery, 5668 Poplar Ave., Memphis TN 38119.

Cemetery

Memorial Park Cemetery

5668 Poplar Avenue

Memphis, TN, 38119

Events

NOV

Funeral

02:00PM

2

Memorial Park Funeral Home & Cemetery

5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis, TN, US, 38119

Comments



“ John was married to my sister Maureen, who was 15 years older, than me, and passed on herself November 12, 1996. John was always a kind, compassionate man, and had an unmistakable dry sense of humor that I'm sure helped Maureen (or Mo as we called her) get thru the darkest days of her own challenges, but yet brought a big smile on the days she was feeling good.

John honored Maureen's legacy in many ways after her passing. He did his best to stay connected to my children, and was a comforting soul and bright light to my youngest sister Jennifer.

They are now finally reunited, and for that we're grateful for God's blessings.

Thank you Betty, for being the rock for John - many years before Mo came into his life, and until his own passing.

Our deepest condolences,
Jack Jenkins and family

Jack Jenkins - November 12, 2020 at 04:26 PM



“ John, my dear brother-in-law. Thank you for caring for my sister, Maureen, in your kind and patient way. Thank you for your acceptance, help and love over the years since her passing. I will miss your loving spirit, John.

Jennifer Jenkins
Burnsville, NC

Jennifer Jenkins - November 11, 2020 at 01:35 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Jennifer Jenkins - November 11, 2020 at 01:28 PM



“ John was in miss Potts home room with me at central. Prayers to his family rip

bobby henderson - November 01, 2020 at 09:43 PM