



Dr John Richard Petry

November 28, 1927 - December 12, 2021

Dr. John Richard Petry, 94, of Memphis, TN, passed away Sunday, December 12, 2021. John was born in Columbus, NE on November 28, 1927 to Arno Louis Petry, Sr. and Audrey Ethel Gibbon Petry. He earned a B.A. (1948) and M.S. (1953) from Hardin-Simmons University, a B.D. from Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary (1953), and a Ed.D. from Peabody College of Education, Vanderbilt University. On July 20, 1956, he married Frances Elizabeth Cunningham from Canyon, TX. He and Frances were married for 59 years until Fran's death in November 2014. Dr. Petry was a member of Colonial Baptist Church. He was licensed to preach and was an ordained deacon. He was an associate professor with the University of Memphis from 1967 until 2009. During that time, he was president of the Academic Senate for five terms, president of Kappa Delta Pi, and a Hall of Fame College of Education inductee. He was an executive board member of the International Montessori Society and the Memphis Union Mission. John received an Outstanding Tennessean Award in 1976 from former Tennessee Governor Ray Blanton. In addition to his parents and his wife, Frances, he was preceded in death by his siblings, Arno Louis Petry, Jr, Arthur Gibbon Petry, Gibbie Eloise Froehlich, and Phyllis Ann Cavarretta. He is survived by his sister, Patsy Culver and her husband, Greg; by his daughter Elizabeth Petry-Welch, her sons, John Michael Welch and James Patrick Welch and her granddaughter, Jaina Elaine Welch; by daughter Rebecca Petry Pitner and her husband, Shannon, and her son, John Thomas Pitner and his wife, Hannah. Funeral Services will be at Memorial Park Cemetery.

Cemetery

Memorial Park Mausoleum

5668 Poplar Ave.

Memphis, TN, 38119

Events

DEC **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

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Memorial Park Fireside Chapel

5668 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN, US, 38119

DEC **Funeral** 11:00AM

21

Memorial Park Fireside Chapel

5668 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN, US, 38119

Comments



“ Dr. Petry was the most influential person in my life to date. He served as my Academic Advisor when I entered The University of Memphis as a 47 year old Freshman.in 1994. He guided me through the challenges of academia all the way to graduation--always encouraging and supportive, He was always available when I had questions or concerns of which there were many. He became a friend and mentor over the years. At the graduation ceremony he sat with my family.

Our connection did not end there, though. Because he was such a great advisor, I set a career goal of becoming one myself. During my graduate school years, we worked together in Kappa Delta Pi honor society. When I became a new Academic Advisor, he frequently called or popped over to my office to see how I was doing in the job. In 2007 when I had surgery, he and his wife were the first to visit me in the hospital. In 2018 when I retired from the U of M, he came to my retirement party,

My deepest regret is that I did not stay in touch these past couple of years due to family circumstances. I did not learn of his passing in time to pay respects at his service but in this message I offer my sincerest condolences to his family.

Mary Brignole - January 19 at 01:05 PM



“ I enjoyed talking with Dr. Petry whenever he called Kappa Delta Pi. Our talks covered a myriad of subjects ranging from music to religion to philosophy. At the end of every conversation he would give me a math "quiz". He was a very kind man and I will really miss our conversations. My deepest condolences to his family.

Kathy Jarrell - January 05 at 01:55 PM



“ Kappa Delta Pi Board and Staff purchased the Memorial Trees for the family of Dr John Richard Petry.



Kappa Delta Pi Board and Staff - January 05 at 11:47 AM



“ On behalf of Kappa Delta Pi's Board of Directors, staff and members, we are deeply saddened to learn of Dr. Petry's passing. His legacy with KDP will live on for many generations to come as KDP members strive to be teachers of excellence and follow in his footsteps. Tonja Eagan, CEO, KDP



Tonja Eagan - January 04 at 05:38 PM



“ John was a friend since before I knew him: Behind the scenes, working with Harry Bowman at Memphis State University, he helped organize and create the Mid-South Educational Research Association in 1972. He went on to be a reliable pillar of the organization and to follow in Harry's footsteps as Executive Secretary from 1997-2006, bringing MSERA into the 21st century. John was a unique personality: friendly, clever, kind and impish. He was everyone's favorite smiling welcomer at the registration table at each year's annual conference. We have missed him there for the past several years...and, now, with his passing, we miss him even more. But we all have wonderful memories of John, and his supportive and caring ways. Farewell, my friend. --Walter M. Mathews

Walter M. Mathews - December 23, 2021 at 01:33 PM



“ Dr Petry was a kind and wonderful man. I am thankful to have known him and cherish his memory. John was kind enough to pay his respects when dad died. I was so happy to see him. It brought back wonderful memories and gave testimony to his caring and kind nature. God bless John Petry and may he find rest in his heavenly home.

Robin Bowman - December 22, 2021 at 05:09 PM



“ I cannot say enough about my Uncle John. He was a wise and gentile man and even though he was well educated he never spoke over your head . I enjoyed listening to his stories about his life experiences and he was always interested what was going on in my life. My mother was so proud to have John as a brother as were his other siblings.

Roy Cavarretta

Roy Cavarretta - December 21, 2021 at 10:03 AM



“ My Uncle John was such a caring and an all around nice man. We will miss you Uncle John.

Gary Cunningham - December 20, 2021 at 05:58 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr John Richard Petry.



December 19, 2021 at 10:30 PM



“ So very sorry for the loss of your father. He was such an interesting person to listen to and knew so much about so many things. I know you will miss him dearly, but there is peace in knowing that he will no longer suffer and can visit with his wife in heaven. Hugs and love to you girls, Liz and Becka.



Tina Brosh - December 17, 2021 at 04:13 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr John Richard Petry.



December 17, 2021 at 10:05 AM



“ Becka,
Your dad was one of my favorite professors at Memphis State. Praying for you
, Shannon, and J.T. Randy Chapman

Randy Chapman - December 16, 2021 at 11:25 PM