



## Harold Eugene John

July 4, 1915 - October 28, 2011

Mr. John, as he was affectionately called by generations of Sulphur (Washington) Elementary students, died Friday, Oct. 28 of natural causes after an overnight downturn in health. He was born July 4, 1915, the third of 3 sons, to William E. and Hattie (Hanabas) John in Lawton, Oklahoma. When he was six years old, the family moved to a farm near Walters where he graduated from Walters High School in 1932.

He attended Cameron Junior College at Lawton for one year and then transferred to Central State University in Edmond in 1937 where he graduated with a B.S. Degree in History and Natural Science. He received his Master's Degree in 1950; his thesis on the Oklahoma Constitutional Convention included a personal interview with Alfalfa "Bill Murray.

In the fall of 1937, he began a 44-year teaching career at Oologah as High School principal. He also taught at Whittaker State Orphan's Home in Pryor. After World War II, Mr. John was an elementary principal in Sunnyside, Washington before coming to Sulphur.

In 1941, Harold married Clela L. Baker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cull Baker of Oologah. He had met and was Clela's High School Principal during his previous teaching position in Oologah. He was later to be Elementary Principal to his two children, Keith and Cheryl. Mr. John was teaching at Foyil in 1941 when the U.S. entered World War II. At the end of that school year, he went to work for DuPont for 18 months and then entered the U.S. Navy in October, 1943. He served 27 months at Pearl Harbor until the end of the war

when he enjoyed telling that the Pearl Harbor Navymen shot off every form of ordinance they could find creating a huge all-night fireworks display.

In 1948 he came to Sulphur where his brother Paul John was then Sulphur Times Democrat Publisher and he was (hired on the spot,) to be Principal at Washington Elementary School on Sulphur's west side. He remained in his Principal role for 34-years until 1982, working two years beyond retirement age, when elementary students from Sulphur's eastside Cameron Elementary School combined with Washington Elementary students at the present day Sulphur Elementary School.

Harold and Clela had two children William Keith John and Cheryl John Caldwell who were both born and graduated high school in Sulphur.

While serving as Washington Elementary Principal, Mr. John was also president of the Murray County Teacher's Association in 1966. He served two years as a member of the board of Directors of the east Central District of the Oklahoma Educators Association. He was a 55-year active member of the Sulphur Kiwanis Club and served as Kiwanis Club President in 1967.

Mr. John was a member of the Sulphur United Methodist Church where he was actively involved in all phases of the church. attended until about a year ago when he could no longer attend.

He was an avid sports fan and attended numerous Sulphur boys and girls athletic events. Late September 2011 he attended his last Sulphur High School athletic event, a Girls Softball championship game. "They need to see me there," he would often explain about his years worth of loyal attendance at football, basketball, baseball, and softball events plus others.

While serving as Washington Elementary Principal, he also served 20 years as a Seasonal Ranger at Platt National Park, now Chickasaw National Recreational Area. He was one of the mounted Rangers who rode the park horseback for 4-5 years in the late 1960's and early 1970's. Mr. John remained true to his countryboy Walters roots and maintained a large vegetable and fruit garden at his home until three years ago. He enjoyed sharing the fresh produce with Sulphur residents and, when he was a Ranger,

he befriended many return families visiting the park and shared fresh produce with them as well. "He was one of the best Rangers we ever had," said former Chief Ranger Steve Miller.

Harold was preceded in death by his wife Cleta Baker John, his parents Mr. and Mrs. W.E. John, brothers Leon John and Paul John, and brother-in-law Robert Baker, sisters-in-law Cleatus John & Lorine John.

He is survived by son Keith John and wife Donna Hopper John of Sulphur; daughter Cheryl John Caldwell and husband Larry of Topeka, KS, plus their two daughters Erin Caldwell, and Ashley Caldwell Dorsey and her husband James y; two great grandchildren Josiah Dorsey and Halle Dorsey, also of Topeka, KS; two nephews Jerry P. John and wife Joetta John, Portland, OR, and James C. John and wife Kathy John of Sulphur; neice Susan Baker of Hoboken, N.J.; and sister-in-law Martha Baker of Sulphur.

Services: 1:00PM Wednesday November 2 at the Sulphur United Methodist Church with interment to follow in Oaklawn Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Sulphur United Methodist Church Building Fund.

The family wishes to extend deep appreciation for all of the many expressions of prayer, love, kindness and concerns during this time of bereavement.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Harold Eugene John*

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October 05, 2023 at 07:47 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Your parents were both such special people. I have such wonderful memories of them at church and at school.##imported-begin##Becky Penner Thompson##imported-end##*

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November 02, 2011 at 01:19 PM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss of a great man. I have many happy memories of him helping me get my first job in Sulphur. Always friendly and kind, so many children were blessed by him. Prayers for your family! Dama McKennell##imported-begin##Dama McKennell##imported-end##*

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November 02, 2011 at 12:57 PM



“ Our family was truly blessed by the presence of Harold John in our lives. He was and always will be one of the finest men I have ever known. Uncle Harold was often a man of few words, but when he spoke people listened.

*Rest in peace, Uncle Harold and know always how much we loved you.*

*Susan##imported-begin##Susan Baker##imported-end##*

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November 02, 2011 at 11:22 AM



“ Mr. John was my favorite teacher...so kind and considerate and fair to all. He taught his students more than what was in the textbooks and made learning fun. He will be missed. You are in my thoughts and prayers. I am out of town this week, but will be praying for you on Wednesday. Susie Thomas Krogh##imported-begin##Susie Thomas Krogh##imported-end##

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November 02, 2011 at 12:26 AM



“ We have many fond memories of Mr John though the years. He was such a role model to all the students who passed through the halls of Washington elementary. He left a long lasting impression on his students and the community. Sulphur was blessed to have such a dedicated Christian man influencing the life of so many students. May God grant you a special peace and comfort at this time.##imported-begin##Larry and June (Clary) O'Gwin##imported-end##

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November 01, 2011 at 12:55 AM



“ Mr. John will be missed by many. I remember him walking the halls of Washington Grade School, but he always seemed to have a smile on his face, yet stern when needed.  
I'm sending prayers to the family.  
Sincerely,  
Ladonna Kirby Stanford###imported-begin##Ladonna Kirby Stanford###imported-end##

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October 31, 2011 at 11:24 PM



“ I went to Washington school from 1st to 6th gr. and had so much respect for Mr. John. He was truly a great educator. Everyone respected him so much and he loved the kids so much. Mr. John you will truly be missed by your community...May God Bless your family....Dena O'Gwin Ball###imported-begin##Dena O'Gwin Ball###imported-end##

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October 31, 2011 at 10:24 PM



“ I attended Wahington all 6 years back in the '50s. Mr. John was my principal and in the 6th grade my teacher. He will be remembered fondly by many. I was sorry to hear of his passing. My sincere symaphty to all his family###imported-begin##Fay Barger###imported-end##

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October 31, 2011 at 09:37 PM