



John Albright

March 2, 2020

On March 2, 2020 John Albright passed peacefully from this life. His body was no match for the ALS that devastated him. John was a person who found joy in many things. He was an outdoorsman --an avid hunter and fisherman. One of his greatest pleasures was hunting antelope with friends and family on the plains of northern Colorado and southern Wyoming. He loved art, particularly that of the American Southwest, and always looked forward to trips to Santa Fe with his wife, where he loved to roam through galleries, talk to local artists, and indulge himself in the local cuisine. Chili rellenos, tamales and posole were among his favorite foods. John also was an enthusiast of opera and classical music, about which he possessed extensive knowledge.

John always loved animals, and found himself particularly enamored of cats after he was assigned to work with them as a volunteer at the Larimer Humane Society. At home He would walk Callie, the family cat, on a leash around the neighborhood, to the great amusement of the neighbors. People would pass by and take pictures of the two of them.

The son of Arthur and Jessie Albright, John was born in 1937 in Panama where his father was employed on the Panama Canal. Growing up in the Canal Zone, he never owned a coat or saw snow until he was 18 years old and came to the States to attend college at Oklahoma State University, then known as Oklahoma A & M. He majored in history.

Upon his graduation from OSU in 1959, he married his first wife, Carole, with whom he raised four children. After completing graduate work at OSU, he entered the military as an officer with the 11th Armored Cavalry that patrolled the Iron Curtain in Germany during the Cold War. At the end of his tour in Germany he returned to the States and became a museum curator at the Woolaroc Museum near Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he enjoyed working among the works of many of the greatest artists of the American West.

In 1966, John was recalled to active duty and rejoined the 11th Armored Cavalry before being deployed to Viet Nam. When his tour as a soldier was over he was hired as an historian by the Office of the Chief of Military History in Washington, D.C. As a civilian, he was sent to Viet Nam three more times to train military history detachments on how to record the war.

After hearing an announcement on the radio in Washington, D.C. that a portion of the National Park Service was being moved to Denver, he jumped at the opportunity and joined the NPS in 1972 and moved with them. He had a long and satisfying career with the Park Service, both in the Regional Office and the Denver Service Center where he was project manager for a number of historic preservation and park development projects in eastern states. He was also was a periodic instructor at the NPS training center at the Grand Canyon. In 1978 he began teaching an historic preservation graduate seminar at the University of Colorado in Boulder, and later at Colorado State University where he joined the faculty full time in 1992.

Always wanting to be of service and make a difference in the world, John volunteered in many sectors throughout the years. He served on the Governor's Board for Historic Preservation, The State Historical Fund Advising Committee, and the Landmark Preservation Commission in Ft. Collins. He was a volunteer at the Larimer Humane Society for six years, and

for four years was the civilian member of the Animal Use and Care Committee of the National Wildlife Research Center.

He is survived by Judith, his wife of 40 years, his brother, Alan and wife Maryann, his sons, Bruce and wife, Jennifer; Martin and wife Liz, and Don, and a daughter, Mary Verity and husband Bill. John is also survived by two step-children, Carolyn Landron and Stephanie Wolff and husband Chris of Denver, as well as grandchildren Rachael, Sean, Avery, Hudson, and step grandchildren Alli and Andrew. Not least, he leaves his two beloved cats, Hazel and Holly who have added humor and great joy to his life.

A virtual/online memorial service will be held at 1:00 pm on June 6. Please contact Goes Funeral Care at 970-482-2221 or info@goesfuneralcare.com for the streaming information.

Previous Events

Virtual / Online Memorial Service

JUN 6 (MT)

Online / Streaming

Tribute Wall



“ *John Albright*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *I'm very sad to hear this news today. Professor Albright was on my mind this morning, and so I decided to look him up to say hi. He was my thesis advisor while I was a graduate student at CSU 1998-99. He was an incredible historian and a great man. He was always a class act, a true gentleman, and an incredible mentor. He is greatly missed.*

Ted Veggeberg - July 30, 2020 at 07:53 AM



“ *Very saddened by this news. During college he was my faculty advisor, mentor and professor. I truly appreciated his guidance and assistance. We were both Blackhorse troopers, so having that connection meant a lot to me. I was reading a book this morning that mentioned him when and thought to look him up today. Prayers*

Ross Graham - June 21, 2020 at 04:22 PM



“ *Dear Judy,
We are saddened to hear of John's passing. We all had so much fun as Tunatics and enjoying creating and singing at Unity! John has an amazing soul and we are blessed to have had you both in our lives. ❤️ We are sending you healing thoughts and hugs. -Shannell, Brian and little Charlotte*

shannell - June 14, 2020 at 11:18 AM

CM

“ Dear Judy and Family,

We are indeed blessed to have had the privilege to know John, initially as a professor and mentor, and later, more closely as a friend and neighbor. He was truly an honorable man who devoted his entire life to service - from his tours of duty in Vietnam, to his Park Service and teaching careers, to serving on the Fort Collins Landmarks Preservation Commission, to serving on various boards with History Colorado. We took John's historic preservation seminar in 1981, while still undergraduates at CSU. In large part due to his influence, we then went through the graduate program at CSU followed by long careers in public history. John and Judy became our neighbors on Dogwood Court in 1993, and we then got to know John on a more personal level. We learned of his love for animals, especially cats, but also dogs, not to mention squirrels, and birds, and even raccoons. For a testament of John's compassion for animals, one needs only to ask Judy to relate the story of "Cooler Cat." We often swapped off pet sitting with John and Judy, and always knew that our pets received better care with them than they did with us. Early morning walks that John, our dog, Abbie, and I went on are a special memory. As we walked, John shared stories of various aspects of his life and I came to realize what a remarkable person he was. John's positive legacy will live on for decades to come - through us, his other former students, his family, and through so many others.

Carl and Karen McWilliams

Carl McWilliams - June 06, 2020 at 01:55 PM

KN

“ Dear Judy and family,
We are so sorry to hear of John's passing. He was such a kind and happy soul. I'll always remember him in the Christmas play calling you his "little pineapple!" Please know you're in our thoughts and prayers. - Kristi and Kevin Nay



Kristi Nay - June 05, 2020 at 12:17 PM

CC

“ Dear Judy ~ We have just heard of John's passing and are sending you and your family all our love. We will treasure the years we spent with the two of you and will always remember John's unique sense of humor. Sending thoughts of peace and comfort, Colleen and Mark

Colleen Crosson - May 31, 2020 at 01:07 PM

GT

“ Although coming from different professions, John and I often collaborated on projects in the National Park Service. Initially as a historian and later as a project manager, he provided expertise with thoroughness and with good cheer. John was also a raconteur who could recall pithy, and sometimes humorous, anecdotes for the subject at hand.

Gery Tegeder

Gery Tegeder - March 28, 2020 at 12:21 PM

BW

“ John first came up in discussions with my roommate, Robert Felker, when I joined the National Park Service in July 1973. Bob and John worked on common projects on the Southeast Team, including Moores Creek, a Revolutionary War site. Bob was always positive about John. Years later, I traveled with John to Mid- and North Atlantic project sites and regional meetings. In 1980, we became two of the first nine project managers at Denver Service Center. We sat next to each other, working for Gerry Patton, covered for each other while traveling, and swapping projects. In 1983 we were made permanent PM's. In the late 1980's, when I was PM for New River Gorge National River, John was my supervisor. He also supervised Mike Hunter, who ran the New River Support Office in WV. The three of us were soon dubbed "The New River Mafia" by John Reynolds, and did our best to live up to the title. John was always helpful, supportive, and friendly. His later teaching at Colorado State U. garnered many admirers, I am sure. A one of a kind, U.S. Army tank commander, historian, researcher, and boss.
Bill Witmer, NPS-DSC, (retired)



Bill Witmer - March 27, 2020 at 02:57 PM

BA

“ Please know that the memorial service has been postponed until mid May. We will let you all know when there is a date set.

Bruce Albright - March 15, 2020 at 01:08 PM

JA

“ Dear Judy,

What a great soul you were married to for 40 years. He will be sorely missed. I appreciated his sense of humor, his comments on life in general and his service to the Landmark Preservation Commission. He had a full and multi-dimensional life and loved his kitties!

Love,

Jan Waskom

Jan - March 11, 2020 at 03:59 PM

KW

“ *Dear Judy and family, I took John's night seminar a zillion years ago and ended up with a great career in historic preservation and cultural resource management, in fact, retiring myself from the National Park Service at Rocky Mt. National Park. Like the late Liston Leyendecker, John took his students under his wing and believed in them and became mentors to many. Thank you for sharing John with his students. RIP John!*

Karen Waddell Waters - March 09, 2020 at 06:57 PM

PS

“ *I did not personally know John but want to pass on my deepest condolences to family and friends. My mother passed away from ALS in 2010. Sending hugs your way. ~Patti Spicer*

Patti Spicer - March 09, 2020 at 01:23 PM

DB

“ John was a recent friend of mine and we shared many similar memories, he was so kind and knowledgeable about history and life, I felt immediately comfortable with him. I shall miss him immensely!

Dennis Bogott

Dennis Bogott - March 09, 2020 at 10:47 AM

LD

“ Ah, John, you were so much more than an educator. You were a heart. You were laughter. You lived a life full of appreciation, joy, and humor. I'm always a bit happier whenever I think of you. Thank you.

-Lorraine Dunn

Lorraine Dunn - March 09, 2020 at 09:13 AM

SH

“ Such a gracious, gentle, and welcoming person and spirit you have been and always will be!! You helped Connie and myself feel so welcome at Unity Church as well as discovering all of the wonders and tastes in Santa Fe. You will always be in our hearts and memories.

Steve Henry - March 09, 2020 at 12:48 AM

JW

“ John you was a great instructor at CSU. You instilled a tremendous love of history at your seminars one that lasts today!! God bless.

janet wendt - March 08, 2020 at 07:27 PM

LH

“ *Judy and Family,
My sympathy to all of you at this time of the loss of your loved one.
John was a kind and gentle man. I am blessed to have known your
family.*
Lenice Hooverson

Lenice Hooverson - March 08, 2020 at 03:38 PM

MJ

“ *John Albright, you inspired and enlightened your CSU Public History
Graduate students beyond measure, and always with a good dose of
humor. What a large life you led.*
*Thank you for sharing some of it with us. Our deepest condolences
to your family.*
Marion Jones

marion jones - March 08, 2020 at 01:44 PM

MB

“ *Easily the finest professor and educator I ever had the chance to
learn from during my time at CSU.*

Mike Berry - March 07, 2020 at 09:03 AM



“ *Deepest condolences from a former student. Rest in peace, sir.*

Luiz Neves - March 07, 2020 at 08:17 AM

SW

“ *We are grieving with you and praying for your family during this
difficult time.*
The Wakefields (Charlotte, NC)

SWake - March 05, 2020 at 12:32 PM