



John Edward Bacon

February 10, 1942 - August 13, 2020

John E. Bacon, age 78, passed away on August 13, 2020 at his home in Fenwick Island, DE. His spouse Carolyn and oldest son, Timothy were by his side. He was the son of the late Dr. Frank S. and Lucille C. Bacon, of Washington, DC and lived there, or in the nearby Maryland suburbs for most of his life.

Though John left to attend St. Vincent Prep High School in Latrobe, PA, he returned to DC to attend George Washington University, where he studied International Affairs as both an undergraduate and graduate student from 1960 to 1966. He was recruited into the CIA in 1966, serving first as an analyst, but subsequently working in several other intelligence disciplines over his career spanning 35 years. John rose to the senior ranks, retiring as an Office Director in 1997. He paused in that career several times; once to attend the University of Indiana in Bloomington, where he earned graduate degrees in Public Administration and Organizational Psychology, and later, when he was assigned to the Federal Executive Institute in Charlottesville, VA, teaching and developing a new and aspiring cadre of Federal senior managers. John loved teaching and taught undergraduate courses in Public Administration and Behavioral Science for the University of Virginia as a part time adjunct professor for almost 10 years.

After his retirement in 1997, John moved first to the waters off the Potomac River in Virginia, where he spent 4 years building a house on his own, restoring old outbuildings, and writing about the Indians who once lived there, for the local historical association. He developed a mentoring program for at risk kids with the local county, acquiring grants from the state from tobacco settlement funds. He finally settled on the Delaware Beaches in 2002 because of his love of the inland bays. John was a sailor and naturalist and could be found in the summer months on the Rehoboth Bay competing in local small boat races, or cleaning up the bays. He was a volunteer for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Sussex County and active in his local community where he was a board member and served on several committees. He met his surviving spouse, Carolyn Bacon, in 2005 and they were married in 2007. John and Carolyn were often seen walking hand in hand along the ocean and bays.

John's favorite times were with his family. He was blessed with three children, Timothy, Joshua, and Brooke, and spent much of his time with them, playing in the yard or coaching sports. They were the delight of his life and with little provocation he could spin long stories about the joys he experienced with his kids. John was an avid camper, and many weekends were spent in the state parks around a camp fire.

In addition to his parents, John was preceded in death by his sister, Mary. He is survived by his spouse, Carolyn; his three children; his step-daughter, Tiffany Climent; his grandchildren: Reed, Sophie, Phoebe, Finn, Emma, Maya, and Tessa Bacon, Hannah DiNinno, and Melanie and Sophia Climent; his sister, Frances Holly; and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held on October 17, 2020 at 1:30 PM at Bethel Mariners Methodist Church, 81 Central Avenue, Ocean View, DE, where friends may visit beginning at 12:30 PM. A celebration of John's life will follow the services at VFW Post 7234, 29265 Marshy Hope Way, Ocean View, DE, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

Contributions in John's memory may be made to any cancer treatment or research institute.

Please sign the online guestbook located on the tribute page.

Comments



“ I had the great good fortune to work with John when we were both at the Federal Executive Institute. I was Dean of Faculty and John was there as an Executive-in-Residence. I remember him vividly and fondly. He was a very gifted teacher, always inventing new ways to engage his students in the classroom. He was a great communicator with the rare gift of being able to focus on the heart of an issue with insight and clarity. He also had the ability to speak directly and forcefully on matters that called for both, without harming relationships. He also had a wry sense of humor, a twinkle in his eye that always made me smile I valued his advice, and I thoroughly enjoyed interacting with him. If he gave to others, which I'm sure he did, as much as he gave to me, I am just one among so many who gained from knowing him. I am sorry for your loss.

Terry Newell

terry newell - September 03, 2020 at 05:32 AM



“ I knew John for years when we were both at CIA. He was a kind and thoughtful colleague and a super educator of upcoming leaders. And had a sense of humor too! Rest in peace.
Peggy Donnelly

Peggy Donnelly - September 01, 2020 at 12:07 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Edward Bacon.



August 19, 2020 at 12:23 PM



“ Dianne Colestock lit a candle in memory of John Edward Bacon



Dianne Colestock - August 18, 2020 at 09:24 PM



“ John was a true example of faith and strength. Rest in peace in the arms of Jesus.

Dianne - August 18, 2020 at 09:27 PM



“ John and I were colleagues in CIA ...we worked closely on many matters of great import with John always bringing good sense, clear thinking and great integrity to issues of the day. He served our country with high honor. John will be missed by those who had the good fortune of knowing him. David Cohen

well

david cohen - August 19, 2020 at 08:52 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John Edward Bacon.



August 18, 2020 at 08:36 PM



“ I'm pleased that I got to know John. He set an example of strength and determination which will be a challenge for everyone to follow.

Ron Lewis - August 18, 2020 at 08:20 PM



“ I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Bacon for many years. I always admired his strength, patience and kindness. He always made me laugh but always shared the truth with me. And I always made sure to check in with him whenever I knew he was nearby.

I will miss seeing him but I know that he never took a day on this earth for granted and is now resting in paradise.



Mark Wilkinson - August 18, 2020 at 01:25 PM



“ While I never had the pleasure of meeting John, his wife Carolyn told me so many wonderful stories about him. She was happy in the marriage and told me John was one of the most courageous man she ever knew. May he Rest In Peace. Dotti Katz

Dotti Katz - August 18, 2020 at 04:41 PM



“ I had the pleasure of meeting and talking with John at several

DelMarVa Penn State Club events and while he was not a

Nittany Lion, he supported Carolyn and her love for the

University. He always shared wonderful stories about the

various aspects of his life and his interests. My condolences

to his entire family.

Deborah Keller - August 18, 2020 at 06:16 PM



“ John will be missed by both of us. We always enjoyed seeing John at Bayville. His strength and determination through tough times is an example for all. Even though he suffered he had a strong will to go on and enjoy every day he had. We send our sincere condolences to Carolyn & family.

Steve & Candy KAISER

stephen KAISER - August 19, 2020 at 01:16 AM



“ What can i say about John...a true friend to the utmost. I have known John for over 50 yrs.....he was an amazing guy. He and my late husband (Marty) were the greatest of pals since GW days sharing stories of the past and hopes for the future. They would sit for hours talking about foreign affairs mostly and the situation of this world and amazing books both have read. Religion was another favorite topic of theirs and, of course, family. When my husband was sick and then passed away, we cried together and tried to help one another thru those horrible days. He was always there for me.

My grandsons also enjoyed John's friendship and knowledge of many things.....especially crabbing. He taught the boys how to crab and supplied all the equipment to them. They really looked forward to summer when they came to visit at the beach. They always talked about crabbing with John....such a treat and so much fun!

Although John faced many physical problems in his life, he never ever gave up. A very strong-willed man with lots of compassion for his friends and family. We shall never forget his kindnesses thru the years. The entire Hertz family sends our heartfelt condolences to the entire Bacon family with much love.

Elaine (and, always, Marty) Hertz

elaine hertz - August 19, 2020 at 12:04 PM



“ Carolyn, I was so sorry to learn of the loss of your husband and send you and your family my sympathy and love. I know he put up a long fight against his cancer. May God send you peace Nancy Palmer

Nancy Palmer - August 21, 2020 at 03:55 PM