



John Gordon Doak, Sr.

May 17, 1936 - November 20, 2017

John G. Doak, Sr., born May 17, 1936, passed away November 20, 2017. John grew up in Nashville. His dad, Samuel Gordon Doak, was an engineer and the real estate agent for the N.C. & St. L. Railroad and later the L & N. His mom, Anice Turner Doak, was an interior designer and homemaker. His brother, Bill (William M. Doak) was a pediatrician and sculptor. John attended West High School, graduated from Webb School in Bell Buckle, Vanderbilt University, and was 4th in his class at Vanderbilt Law School, a member of the Law Review and "Order of the Coif". He was a pilot and Major in the Tennessee National Guard and served in Vietnam. Admitted to the Bar in 1963, working as a research assistant for the Tennessee Supreme Court Justice Weldon White and analyst for the Tennessee Legislative Council Committee. John started in private practice with Warfield, Entekin and Jones. After the firm dissolved, he moved to Donelson and started his own firm and over the years had several associates. He recently retired as a sole practitioner. Through the years he has been involved in the community, in the Rotary Club, a Scottish Rite Mason and Past Master of Doric Lodge #732 F & M in 1995. he served as chairman of Community Education Advisory Council for Metro Schools, chartered and served as Chairman of the Luton Mental Health Center, and chartered the Percy Priest Sports Fishing Club. He loved racquetball, hunting, fishing, and piddling around in his tool shop. John has done pro bono work for every church he has been involved in, for U.S. military personnel, as well as those in need who couldn't afford a lawyer. John is the

proud father of 5 children, 2 Attorneys, 1 Metro Police Lieutenant, a Senior Engineer on staff with Google, and a Logistics Manager for the largest trucking company in North America. He has 3 grandchildren, 21, 10, and 7. His wife of 43 years retired as a Career Placement Specialist from Metro Schools. He considers himself fortunate to have experienced a loving family and the many opportunities that have come his way. he has always felt his chosen profession "an honorable one". Mr. Doak was a great-great-great-great-great-grandson of Samuel Doak, who founded Washington College in Salem, TN, the state's first college. He was the great-great-grandson of Confederate General Felix K. Zollicoffer, and the great-great-great-grandson of Captain John Gordon, Nashville's first postmaster. John would be humbled by your presence. "pax vobiscum" (peace be with you). He is survived by his wife, Mary Doak; children, Sam C. Doak, Knoxville, TN, Barbara Halverstadt, Fairview, TN, Robert (Bob) Doak, Nashville, TN, John G. Doak, Jr., Los Gatos, CA, and Ashley Baes, Peoria, AZ; grandchildren, Raleigh Doak, Logan Baes, and Emelie Baes.

Visitation will be at Phillips-Robinson Funeral Home Friday, December 1, 2017 from 4-8pm with a Masonic Service at 7pm. Services will be conducted Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 10am in our chapel. In lieu of flowers please make memorials to ASoldier'sChild.org.

Tribute Wall



“ *John Gordon Doak, Sr.*

October 14, 2022 at 08:02 PM



“ *I first met John when I was ten years old. We were friends through high school, college, and although I did not have much contact with him after that it was always a pleasure to see him. The last time I saw him was at a West High Alumni luncheon about two years ago. I could tell some stories about our mutual adventures when we were young and foolish, but that is probably not a good idea.*

Whit Stokes - December 25, 2017 at 02:00 PM



“ *Dear Sam,
We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you today and always. Much love to you and your family.
John and Amy*

John and Amy Gibson - December 01, 2017 at 01:26 PM



“ *My heartfelt condolences. Some of my earliest memories of Nashville include John coming into Donelson Drug Mart and walking behind the counter like he was walking into his own kitchen. He had a manner of comfort and friendliness that was so endearing. He was also a good friend and a skilled and knowledgeable attorney, and I had the privilege to interact with him on both levels. It is sad to think of him no longer being with us. Mary, you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.*

Keith Shelly - November 30, 2017 at 07:43 PM

DE

“ My deepest sympathy to you Sam and your family. I always enjoyed Sam's wonderful stories about his Dad and although I never had the chance to meet him, feel like I knew him through Sam's recitation of his words of wisdom and humorous exploits. Sam has been a good friend of mine for a long time and the lessons his Dad taught were learned well by him. Mr. Doak must have been a truly capable and compassionate man. I am sorry for your all's loss.

David Eldridge - November 30, 2017 at 12:48 PM

JR

“ Sorry for your loss, John was a friend for many years. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family. I know that his family will have a hard time in his passing. John helped many people with his legal knowledge including my family. He was strong man of God, rest in peace my friend.

John Humes. MNPd RETIRED - November 29, 2017 at 07:40 PM

BF

“ A wonderful man, husband and father. We will miss him dearly. I can't count all the ways John helped me over the past 40 years. He was a great friend that will be sadly missed.

Bill Freeman - November 29, 2017 at 02:11 PM

JU

“ Dearest Mr Doak,

I miss you and regret keep putting off the plan to come to visit you and Mary. More than 10 years ago I met you on your way to a neighborhood BBQ, a little Chinese girl bravely signed up for a door to door sales job from a university in England. I was desperately looking for a place to live. Opened a Nashville map and randomly circled your neighborhood, I couldn't believe my luck after knocking on so many doors and getting rejected. I spent a summer in your beautiful house. I remember at times I had no will to carry on after cycling in the heat for hours and getting rejections from people, you picked me and my bike up in your red truck and made me feel so safe and supported. I woke up from a nap finding my broken bike fixed and safety lights added. I was so touched and can never forget that moment, the moment I was given so much strength by your kindness. I'm sure this is just a tiny example of the kindness and love you offered to this world.

What an amazing life you had, the accomplishments in your career, raising such successful children, helping others including someone like me who only had a brief crossing with your life, but will be forever treasure that memory. You inspired me to work hard and be kind to people, which I will always remember. Because of the kind help of you and Mary I successfully completed that summer job which made me stand out in my job interviews in London, leading to the great job I have now, I'm forever thankful.

Rest in peace in heaven, you will be forever missed.

Judy - November 28, 2017 at 08:34 PM

DD

“ My encounters with John Doak were few, but always entertaining. It always intrigues me to observe his traits in my closest friend - his eldest son, Sam. Loyal to a fault and persistent as the rising Sun.

David Draper - November 28, 2017 at 06:18 PM

TB

“ *Mr. Doak repeatedly gave of himself to help me, and shared his experience and thoughts freely. I had on my calendar to call and go see him, and over the last month(ish) I put it off, to my deep regret. He made an impact on my life and I enjoyed his stories, even if, on occasion, it took a while once he got going. I miss him and will continue to do so.*

Tony Burns - November 28, 2017 at 10:24 AM

KQ

“ *Ashley and family, our thoughts and prayers are with you in your Knight family as well as in the Quast family. I read the obituary. He sounds like an amazing man.*

Kevin Quast

Kevin Quast - November 27, 2017 at 08:35 PM

RC

“ *I am so sorry for his family. I have had the pleasure to have known John for over thirty years and have always admired him for his accomplishments. I good attorney and an outstanding gentleman. He will be missed.*

Ray Crocker - November 27, 2017 at 02:04 PM

JW

“ *Mary and family, Sending you our love and prayers. John's life was so full of accomplishments and he lives on in all our hearts and in the lives of his family forever!*

Warmest love, Jack & Janelle

Jack and Janelle Waggener - November 27, 2017 at 10:28 AM

JC

“ John was a dear friend to my father. I know he will be deeply missed by many people. My condolences to his family.

Janet Clodfelter - November 27, 2017 at 06:20 AM

MA

“ Please accept my sincere condolences for your recent loss. Jehovah god loved the world so much that he gave his only begotten son. In God's new system the righteous and unrighteous will be resurrected .By means of the Kingdom, God will eliminate all suffering {Rev. 21:3,4

Marlowe - November 27, 2017 at 03:21 AM

DP

“ Mary and Family,
David and I are so sorry for your loss. We have both admired Mr. Doak for many years and really got to know him well working with him in the same building for the last 20 years. He always answered our legal questions that we had and was a big help in every way. We will really miss him and his passing reminds so many of us of how we are really getting older ourselves. Time goes by so quickly. We will be praying for all of you.

David & Debbie Phillips - November 26, 2017 at 10:08 PM

RS

“ Sam, Mary and family. No words can express our sincere sadness for the loss of your father, husband and grandfather. What a great man he was, both friend to us and mentor to our son Brian. He will surely not be forgotten.

Ralph and Teddy Stevens - November 25, 2017 at 10:14 PM

LH

“ Sam, Mary & me are so sorry for your tragic loss---nothing we could say would not take away your pain & grief-- I know how close you were with your father---fathers are truly special as you know--our thoughts & prayers are with you & your family----Lewis Hagood, Arnett Draper & Hagood, Knoxville

Lewis R Hagood - November 25, 2017 at 09:26 PM

CH

“ Sam, Mary and family, I am so sorry to hear about John. What a wonderful list of accomplishments he has and a wonderful life he has lived . Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time .

Cathey (Stevens) Helton - November 25, 2017 at 04:54 PM

RP

“ Sorry for your loss of Mr Doak. His list of accomplishments and his family past and present are a testament to his life. Prayers for all of you. Rick Powers, Sam's partner in Knoxville

Rick Powers - November 25, 2017 at 04:36 PM

JH

“ Mary, prayers for you and your family at this very sad time.

Judy Hoppe - November 25, 2017 at 12:52 PM

EF

“ We are so saddened by the loss of Mr. Doak. Our hearts are heavy with sorrow but our minds filled with beautiful memories... Thinking of his stories about his days as a airman and how he met his wonderful wife, Mary. Mr Doak taught us so many lessons about life that are of infinite value simply through his conversations and kind, thoughtful words. He will be very dearly missed. We send our love and prayers to Mary and the rest of the Doak family.

Ed & Nikki Hatcher (& Family) - November 24, 2017 at 10:01 PM

PT

“ Love and God's Blessings to all of the family members.

Pat Turner Jumonville (Paula Anice Turner) - November 24, 2017 at 05:40 PM

AC

“ John was one of a kind ,unique in so many ways and yet determined to be equal to anyone that he stood by. He was Cut From a Different Cloth.A fabric yet so "Fine"that you could feel the texture in his heart towards his fellow man. Go in peace my friend. And rest quietly for you will not be forgotten. God bless.

Alan Combow - November 24, 2017 at 04:26 PM

TD

“ With Heartfelt Sympathy to the Doak Family,

May you rely on the God of all comfort to help you to endure the days ahead.

" God is our refuge and strength"
(Psalms 46 : 1)

The Duncan's - November 24, 2017 at 12:42 PM

DW

“ *Pax vobiscum old friend. Paradise will be a greater place with your presence. You will be sorely missed here.* ”

Dave Westerman - November 23, 2017 at 11:12 PM