



## John Howard Shatzer Jr

September 22, 1945 - December 30, 2023

John Howard Shatzer, Jr., died December 30, 2023, surrounded by his family. He was born Sept 22, 1945, in Oak Park, Illinois. He is survived by his wife, Georganne Harmon, his children Rebecca Shatzer, John Shatzer, III, Jennifer Shatzer, granddaughter Téa Shatzer, sister Janet Di Muro, Betty Shatzer, and the loving memory of his grandson Rowan Shatzer. He was preceded in death by parents Helen Rebecca Shatzer and John Howard Shatzer, and his grandson. He graduated from Evansville University and earned a PhD in Educational Psychology from the University of Illinois, Urbana. His professional life was devoted to medical education.

He was a consummate educator who founded and directed state-of-the art programs at both Johns Hopkins and Vanderbilt Schools of Medicine, advocating for Standardized Patient programs and Simulation Centers at both Universities.

During his years on Guam in the 70's, John was an avid scuba diver, spending hours upon hours under the water exploring local shipwrecks. He later transitioned to golf, where he built and maintained lasting, meaningful friendships. He made his mark on many lives and is loved by many hearts. Friendships and family were his touchstones, along with a powerful love of music and a whole succession of German Shepherd and Irish Setter companions.

John requested that any donations be directed to Larkspur, The Nature Conservancy <https://larkspurconservation.org> or the charity of one's choice.

A private burial will take place at Larkspur Conservation at Taylor Hollow.

What to expect at a natural burial:

Dress for an outdoor hike and wear appropriate shoes.

Use the restroom before you arrive, there is no public toilet or running water.

Carpool to Larkspur - parking is limited.

Plan to arrive 15 minutes ahead of time.

Family and friends will be welcomed at the trailhead by Larkspur staff and volunteers.

The casket or body will be in place at the graveside prior to the arrival of family and friends.

Family and friends will hike up the hill into the nature preserve for the burial ceremony.

Words are shared and the casket or body is lowered into the grave by family and friends.

With guidance the family and friends shovel soil into the grave until it is closed.

Hike away from the graveside and return to your vehicle or explore the preserve.

Leave no trash behind.

Cut flowers are welcome

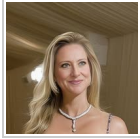
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# Cemetery Details

## **Larkspur Conservation**

155 Bear Carr Road  
Westmoreland, TN 37186  
<https://larkspurconservation.org>

# Tribute Wall



“ To Dr. John Howard Shatzer Jr., PhD (September 22, 1945 – December 30, 2023), my mentor and guiding light. I first encountered you on a clinical unit at Vanderbilt Medical Center, where I was conducting an impromptu mock code using minimal equipment during my tenure as a nurse educator. From that pivotal meeting, through your role as Director of The Center for Experiential Learning and Assessment (CELA) at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, our regular, enriching dialogues on education science and education theory, simulation as teaching method, and debriefing methods sparked my enduring passion for patient safety and quality improvement. Your generosity in sharing educational resources—books, research articles, and invaluable insights—encouraged me to embrace learning through action, iterative practice, and resilience, ultimately shaping my professional growth and practice into one of reliability and excellence. Your mentorship underscored the critical significance of these values in the realm of healthcare education.

When we last talked, you were a distinguished professor at Johns Hopkins, continuing to contribute profoundly to the field. I deeply miss our conversations, particularly those that would have explored intelligent tutoring agents and the future of education. This dedication honors not only your legacy but also the invaluable contributions of great medical educators everywhere. Your influence will be cherished and remembered always.



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Melissa Tully - November 06, 2024 at 06:54 PM

KS

“ January 16, 2024

*Dear John Shatzer's family ,*

*I hope this letter finds you surrounded by love and support during this incredibly difficult time. It is with a heavy heart that I extend my deepest condolences to you and your family on the passing of your beloved John.*

*I had the privilege of connecting with Dr. Shatzer on LinkedIn back in April 2015; and what started as a curiosity since he has the same name as my husband. However, the interaction quickly evolved into a meaningful friendship. Dr. Shatzer not only a mentor but also a dear friend to us. The news of his passing has left us without words.*

*Throughout my Ph.D. journey, Dr. Shatzer played a pivotal role, offering unwavering encouragement during challenging times (Harvey destroyed most of my PhD thesis research data). His support was instrumental in helping me persevere, and I am deeply indebted to him for that. Moreover, he instilled in me the courage to pursue my aspirations, even advising me to rethinking medical school when life's challenges led me to temporarily step back from my initial path.*

*I am deeply grateful for knowing Dr. Shatzer and the wisdom he generously shared. His influence reached far beyond professional realms, touching the lives of those fortunate enough to know him. The loss of such a compassionate educator is felt profoundly.*

*During this time of grief, I want you to know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. May you find solace in the memories of Dr. Shatzer extraordinary life and the positive legacy he leaves behind. His impact on both a personal and professional level will be remembered with deep admiration and respect.*

*If there's anything I can do to offer support or assistance during this difficult time, please do not hesitate to reach out. Your family is in my thoughts, and I send my heartfelt condolences.*

*With sincere sympathy,*

*John and Katherine Shatzer  
katherinethuyshatzer@gmail.com*

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**Katherine Shatzer** - January 17, 2024 at 09:55 AM

AP

“ *I wish to send condolences to Georganne and John's children on the death of dear John. He was such a kind and gentle colleague across many institutions. Throughout 30+ years in medical education, I enjoyed meeting up with John at conferences, and then joining him and other colleague-friends over dinners, sight-seeing and the like. I was touched and impressed when he calmly responded when the airline ticket I'd forwarded to him and our other friend never arrived in Baltimore. Here we were in Hawaii, planning to go to another island where he wanted to scuba dive, and he had no ticket. I was embarrassed and flustered but he just got to work and tracked down the ticket. It was a great trip, especially because of his kind spirit. Toni Peters*

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**Antoinette Peters** - January 14, 2024 at 04:36 PM

TU

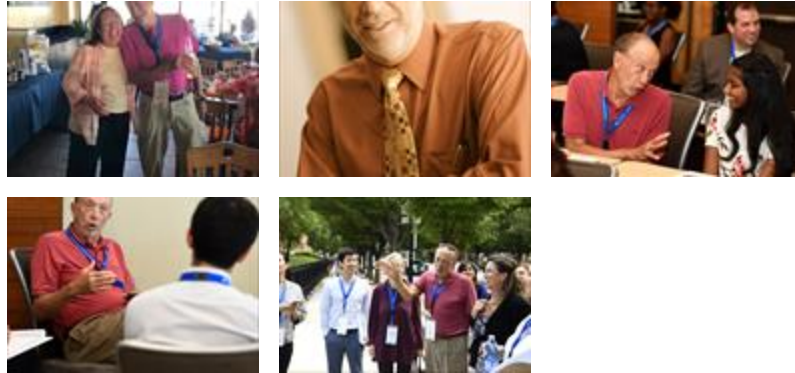
“ *As John's colleague and friend, I miss his presence, his counsel, his support, and his uniquely refreshing sense of humor. Throughout his illness, John remained concerned for his students. His spirit lives on in the fabric of Hopkins' MEHP and his global legacy of accomplished medical educators. Rest well, my friend. My condolences to John's family and friends, and especially to Georganne.*

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**Toni Ungaretti** - January 04, 2024 at 05:16 PM

MS

“ 6 files added to the album *Photos from Johns Hopkins MEHP - Baltimore, MD*



Margaret Shamer - January 04, 2024 at 12:44 PM

MS

*Johns Hopkins MEHP faculty, fellows, staff, and alumni are greatly saddened by the loss of their friend and esteemed colleague, Dr. John Shatzer.*

*As Johns Hopkins School of Medicine Director of Medical Education, John helped create the concept of the Hopkins' Master of Education in the Health Professions (MEHP) in the late 90's to advance the teaching skills of clinician educators. He advocated for its launch until he was recruited in 2005 by Vanderbilt University to establish their Master of Health Professions Education Program.*

*After retirement from Vanderbilt in 2014, John returned to Johns Hopkins to serve as faculty in the Johns Hopkins MEHP Program. He recruited medical education colleagues to help build the MEHP. John was passionately devoted to medical education and a tireless advocate for the MEHP and its fellows. His interest in bringing the sciences of learning and assessment into medical education was an invaluable resource to the program. He skillfully guided the research of numerous MEHP fellows and continued to provide them with career guidance long after their graduation. His dedication to the program and his continuous work to extend its impact on fellows' career development is remembered by all with affection and gratitude.*

Margaret Shamer - January 04, 2024 at 04:45 PM

GM

“ As one of John's students, I appreciate his thoughtful guidance and help. He continued to give throughout his illness to assure the ongoing success of the MEHP program. A true educator and giver whose legacy continues in this program and with his students. He will truly be missed. My condolences to his family and friends.

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**Gary W. Procop, MD** - January 03, 2024 at 10:23 AM