



John Milton Colton III

July 1, 2025

John Milton Colton III, 83, of Lancaster, PA, passed away peacefully on July 1, 2025, at his residence at Willow Valley Communities. Born in Hagerstown, Maryland, John was the son of the late John Milton Colton II and Elisebeth “Libby” Kennon Colton. A lifelong learner and educator, he graduated from Mercersburg Academy in 1960, earned his Bachelor’s in English from Lafayette College in 1964, and his Master’s from Johns Hopkins University after returning from his military service.

John proudly served his country in the United States Army where he met his first wife, Ingrid Ellen Eash. They moved to the Parkville area in the early 1970’s for John to complete his Master’s; he went on to teach science for the Baltimore County Board of Education until he retired in 1999. During the summers, he shared his love of tennis by teaching the sport to others. His passion for education and mentoring extended far beyond the classroom.

John was introduced to a childhood acquaintance, Alice Ann, who he married in 2010. They later settled at Willow Valley Communities in Lancaster, PA, where they enjoyed a community of friends, culture, and activities. An active and curious spirit, John enjoyed a wide range of hobbies including tennis, SCUBA diving, sailing, and attending the symphony. His life was deeply rooted in faith, beginning in his youth at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Hagerstown, continuing through his longtime membership at Towson United Methodist Church, and later during his years at Willow Valley with Ascension

Lutheran Church. He was a proud member of the Methodist Men and a supporter of Heart Homes.

John was preceded in death by his parents John M. Colton II and Elizabeth Kirkwood Kennon Colton; his stepmother Margaret I. Colton; his former wife, Ingrid Ellen Eash; his beloved second wife, Alice Ann Robertson Colton; his granddaughter, Heaven Lee Colton; and his grandson, Vernon Eugene Merrifield III aka "Colton."

He is survived by his loving daughters, Ellen Elisabeth "Beth" Colton and Joan Fink (Will); his grandson, Dean Colton; his great-grandson, James Beach Colton; his brother, Kirk Colton (Marcia); stepbrothers Roger Clark (Leslie) and Colin Clark (Lee). Also surviving John and close to his heart are Alice Ann's daughters, Beth Winter and Laura Robertson; and grandchildren Dr. James Kiefer and Lindsey Kiefer Koeckert, and a large extended family of nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends.

A service will be held on Saturday, September 27, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. at Lake Shore Baptist Church, 4613 Mountain Road, Pasadena, Maryland. Following the service, family and friends are invited to a reception at the home of Joan and Will Fink,.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project or The USO—two causes close to John's heart.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP **27**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Lake Shore Church
4613 Mountain Road
Pasadena, MD

Tribute Wall

JM

“ With love, prayers, and deepest condolences.

John and Helen

John Merrihew - September 24, 2025 at 08:07 PM

CM

“ Craig Meisel purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of John Milton Colton III.



Craig Meisel - September 23, 2025 at 04:54 PM

CM

“ Craig Meisel planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Milton Colton III.

Craig Meisel - September 23, 2025 at 04:54 PM

SM

“ I was sorry to read about the loss of John-I enjoyed caring for him and he shared many stories with me!
Stephanie Mackey MD

Stephanie MACKEY - August 03, 2025 at 09:07 AM

PP

“ *We have such fond memories of John and Alice Ann, our next door neighbors in Willow Valley. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*
Pete and Paula Petersen



Paula Petersen - August 01, 2025 at 11:27 PM