



John E. Rhodes

September 25, 2013

John Edgar Rhodes, 69, died Monday, Sept. 23, 2013, at Arbor View at The Willow Valley Communities in Lancaster, PA. Formerly of Springfield, VA, John was born in Altoona, PA, and grew up in Hollidaysburg, PA, the son of the late Wilfred Dean and Christabel Kernie Shaffer Rhodes. John and his wife, M. Darlene Myer, celebrated 24 years of marriage in June.

A 1961 graduate of Hollidaysburg High School, John earned Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1965 and 1969, respectively. He served in the U.S. Army and was a member of the chorus for three years while stationed at Fort Myer, VA. He was a music teacher in the Fairfax County public schools, teaching for 30 years at Lynbrook Elementary School in Springfield, VA. John retired in 1999. After retiring, he continued teaching privately.

John directed various church choirs throughout the Washington, D.C. area. He sang in choirs both in the U.S. and Europe including Paul Hill Chorale, Metropolitan Chorus, Choral Arts Society of Washington, Lancaster Symphony Chorus, Lancaster Opera Company, Willow Valley Chorale, and Highland Presbyterian Church Choir, where he was a member.

In addition to his wife, M. Darlene, John is survived by his brother, James Allen Rhodes of Hollidaysburg, PA, and his sister, Judith Ann Hartzell of

Altoona, PA.

There will be a Memorial Service at Willow Valley on Friday, October 4, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. and a Musical Celebration Memorial Service will be held on Friday, October 11, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. at Highland Presbyterian Church, 500 East Roseville Road, Lancaster, PA, with Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne officiating. Private interment will be at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville, PA.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in John's name to the American Cancer Society, 314 Good Drive, Lancaster, PA 17603, designate for Research.

Tribute Wall



“ *John E. Rhodes*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *John taught music to all three of my children in Elementary School. I worked with him on many musical programs. After John retired, he bowled on same bowling league & became a pretty good bowler. I attended many concerts when John was in the Army Chorus. He really will be missed.*

Anne Renninger - October 15, 2013 at 09:54 AM



“ *Dear Darlene,*

You are in our prayers on this day, as you lay John to rest at the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery. We treasure our years of friendship in The Paul Hill Chorale, our shared European singing tours, and watching you fall in love.

Your friends in Christ,

Paul and Carolyn Zolbe and daughter, Grace

Carolyn Zolbe - October 11, 2013 at 11:15 AM

BN

“ Our prayers are with the family. I bowled with John before he moved to PA. My husband sang with John in a couple of groups. We are shocked and so sorry to hear the news. He was always a delight to be around and have in our bowling league at Edsal Bowl American in Alexandria, VA.

Bonnie Norem - October 10, 2013 at 04:31 PM

RP

“ I will miss John deeply, especially whenever there is a reunion of The U.S. Army Chorus. John was among our most faithful alumni, always eager to join us onstage for an concert where alumni were featured, from annual summer concerts to our major reunions every five years. In addition to being a fine musician he was a wonderful and caring person in whom the light of his savior Jesus Christ shone brightly on everyone around him, and shines yet brighter now in the choir of the Church triumphant. My deepest sympathy to Darlene, James, Judith, and all John's friends and family.

*Robert Petillo
Sgt. Major, USA
The U.S. Army Chorus*

Robert Petillo - October 07, 2013 at 11:48 AM

SC

“ On behalf of the Stephen Ministers of Highland Presbyterian Church, we'd like John's family to know how sorry we are to learn of his passing. Many heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to all of you. May God comfort you and hold you all in His loving arms.
Sincerely,
The Stephen Ministers of Highland Presbyterian Church
Lancaster, PA

Stephen Ministers of Highland Presbyterian Church - October 03, 2013 at 09:47 AM

AC

“ Darlene,

I am heartbroken to hear about John. I will always remember John and his singing while we were in choir together at Saint Lawrence. He used to crack me up with him singing opera choruses at the top of his lungs! I will keep you and your family in my prayers and also say a special prayer for John this Sunday when I'm at Saint Lawrence. Please let me know if you need anything!

*Love,
Alex *hug**

Alexandra Christoforakis - September 30, 2013 at 09:49 PM

SW

“ *With much love and heartfelt prayers to Darlene, Jim, and Judy:*

What a connection I had with John! Elementary school, junior and senior high school, IUP. John sang at our wedding. We would often bump into him and you, Darlene when in Hollidaysburg when we were home on leave throughout the years. Most recently we had the GREAT pleasure of hearing you both sing in the Washington Choral Society. Then there were all the Class of '61 reunions! Always the music connection, along with the "old" friendship. He will be greatly missed.

Most sincerely, Susie (Davis) Wagner

Susie (Davis) Wagner - September 30, 2013 at 03:14 PM

MM

“ John and I served and sang together in the U.S. Army Chorus from 1966 to 1969 and have since enjoyed a great friendship as Alumni of that premiere choral ensemble.

He was always a pleasure to be around with his quick wit and wonderful musicianship. We looked forward to seeing John and Darlene at the Chorus' Reunions as he brought his cheerful and positive outlook to every gathering. The Army Chorus Alumni will miss him greatly.

Mike & Pinky Malovic - September 30, 2013 at 12:07 PM

EA

“ Having grown up with John and his family on Jones Street, we have many fond memories and will always remember John. We send our thoughts, prayers, and sympathy to Darlene, Jim, and Judy.

Ellen, Ann & Tom Akers - September 30, 2013 at 09:47 AM

TT

“ Would like to express my deepest sympathy for the loss of John. We have known each other for over thirty years, singing opera together. I regret now that we did not get to have lunch together, he asked me several times.

TONY TORCHIA - September 29, 2013 at 06:50 PM

EK

“ I Am The oldest Child Of The Christenson Family And I And All Five Of My Siblings Had The Pleasure Of HavIng Mr. Rhodes As Our Music Teacher At Lynbrook. We All Have Many Fond Memories From His Classroom And Can Still Sing Songs We Learned From Him. We Were Also Members At Prince Of Peace In Springfield, Va Where He Was Choir Conductor. My Deepest Condolences To You, Darlene.MyFamily Will Always Remember Mr. Rhodes With Great Fondness.

Erika christenson kosterlitzky - September 28, 2013 at 10:33 PM

KH

“ Mr. Rhodes was my general music teacher all throughout elementary school at Lynbrook Elementary. I had him kindergarten through graduation, in 6th grade in 1996. He was and still is my favorite teacher I have ever had. He was so talented, knew exactly how to get kids excited about music and I have never seen anyone more dedicated to that cause! I couldn't wait for every general music class we had with him. He is an enormous reason that music is such a large part of who I am today. I am so sorry to hear of his passing! He will truly be missed by all the students who have had him!

Katherine Holisky - September 28, 2013 at 07:32 PM

NB

“ Extending sincere sympathy to Darlene and the Rhodes' family. While growing up, my family and the Rhodes' family were very good friends, and I have many fond childhood memories of being on vacations together. John was also in my class through elementary and secondary school. He will be missed.

Nancy Benn - September 28, 2013 at 03:16 PM

SS

“ *Deepest sympathy to Darlene and John's family. I worked at Lynbrook with John for many years and I'm glad to see he continued to use his musical talents in Pennsylvania.*

Salley Sutton - September 28, 2013 at 12:00 PM

TK

“ *My condolences to the family. Tom Kelley*

Tom Kelley - September 28, 2013 at 10:31 AM

BS

“ *I was one of the soloists at First Presbyterian Church in Alexandria, VA when John "came on board". We continued as friends and were both Music Instructors in the Fairfax County VA School System for many years. Our association lasted until I retired from the profession and moved elsewhere. My sincere condolences to John's family and to his many friends and associates.*

Bruce Shaffer - September 27, 2013 at 07:28 PM

AA

“ *Sorry to hear about Johns passing. We grew up together in Hollidaysburg and spent many years together playing in the neighborhood. He was a good friend and will be missed by many.*

Allan Andrew - September 27, 2013 at 07:01 PM

JC

“Darlene and family, I remember with fondness all the good times Kirsten, me and the Revelers had. I never knew how much fun one could have "palling around" with a bunch of musicians until Kirsten and I met up with the Paul Hill Chorale and then the Revelers. John was such fun to be around. Please accept my deepest sympathy and be assured that he will be remembered in my daily devotions. God's speed John - you will be missed.

Jack Cook - September 27, 2013 at 01:31 PM

JS

“So sorry to hear of John's passing. John and I were classmates at IUP for all four years. Played in the band and in many other musical organizations. My prayers go out to all members of his family. He will be missed.

John (Jack) Sears - September 27, 2013 at 07:38 AM