



## John Carroll Beyke

December 3, 1947 - April 27, 2022

John Carroll Beyke, 74, passed away Wednesday April 27th at home after an extended battle with cancer.

John was born in Whitesville, KY. He proudly served in the US Air Force during Vietnam. John graduated from the University of Kentucky Engineering school and was a die-hard Wildcat fan.

John's career as a civil engineer lasted for more than 38 years. He served 4 years as the city engineer of Louisville before joining Louisville MSD in 1985 as the chief engineer. John spent 14 years at MSD where he helped develop the GIS department. After retiring from MSD, John spent 11 years as a water resources engineer at FMSM/Stantec and finished his career as a senior engineer at Jacobi, Toombs and Lanz. He was an active member and held office in multiple engineering associations including KSPE, ASCE, WEF, ASFPM, NAFSMA, USACE. Over John's engineering career he was honored to share his love of engineering and was a mentor to many young engineers. John had a witty sense of humor and was a master joke teller, perfecting the art of the dad joke. Throughout his life John enjoyed all styles of music but particularly loved country. Prior to his illness he enjoyed playing golf with friends, building outdoor furniture for family and expanding his bourbon palate and collection.

John was a dedicated Christian and attended Sojourn Church in J-town since 2017. His strong faith that God had a plan for him was a source of strength during his fight with cancer. God's plan inspired him to witness through his

blog of his cancer journey. [www.Dadjokesandcancer.org](http://www.Dadjokesandcancer.org) John was called to share his experience and testify to God's steadfast love and promise of eternal life for those who believe and trust in him. This was a great comfort to him in the last year of his life.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John H. and Anna Maria Beyke and four brothers, Dwight, Kenny, Dan and Maurice Beyke.

He is survived by his wife of almost 40 years, Kathie Williams Beyke; brother Mark Beyke (Mindy) and sister Linda Major; six children, Angela Mills (Bill), Jon Beyke (Tonya), Michelle Weikel (Rick), Stephanie Bernauer (Keith), Kim Desmond (Travis), and Brian Beyke (Kristen); 29 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews and a host of family and friends especially the USAF Veteran brotherhood of Vietnamese linguists.

While on his journey through illness, John reflected often on his life and accomplishments and sought to reevaluate his priorities in his final months.

He wished to express to those he loves the importance of finding balance in life by making the conscious decision to place family and faith first at all times. Donations in lieu of flowers the family requests donations to Ronald McDonald House or the Home of the Innocents.

Funeral services will be held at 12:00pm Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at Owen Funeral Home-Jeffersontown, 9318 Taylorsville Road, with burial to follow at Resthaven Memorial Park. Visitation will be Tuesday 1:00pm-8:00pm and Wednesday from 10:00am until time of service.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAY 3.** 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Owen Funeral Home-Jeffersontown  
9318 Taylorsville Road  
Louisville, KY 40299  
(502) 266-9655

## Visitation

**MAY 4.** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Owen Funeral Home-Jeffersontown  
9318 Taylorsville Road  
Louisville, KY 40299  
(502) 266-9655

## Funeral Service

**MAY 4.** 12:00 PM (ET)

Owen Funeral Home-Jeffersontown  
9318 Taylorsville Road  
Louisville, KY 40299  
(502) 266-9655

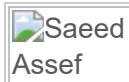
## Burial

**MAY 4.** 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Resthaven Memorial Park  
4400 Bardstown Road  
Louisville , KY 40218



# Tribute Wall



“ Rest in peace my dear friend. May God bless your lovely family 🧑🧒❤️ during this hard time 🙏. I will cherish all good memories. God be with you.  
Saeed Assef

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**Saeed Assef** - May 03, 2022 at 02:24 PM

A square profile picture with the initials 'WM' in white on a grey background.

“ Wayne & Donna Montgomery purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of John Caroll Beyke.



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**Wayne & Donna Montgomery** - May 02, 2022 at 08:28 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Caroll Beyke.



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May 02, 2022 at 03:12 PM

JL

“ My dear Beyke family, I have always been in awe of John's character. As his younger (not by much) cousin, seeing him was always a highlight of my family trips to Kentucky. I looked up to John in so many ways when I was young. After about 40 years of not seeing each other we were reunited. I count that opportunity among my best gifts from God. We picked up our relationship immediately and shared our love of God, strong faith and love of music. We learned, by accident, a few years ago that we had the same guitar teacher and were on Zoom classes together. Our talks were always long, heartfelt and special. Please know that his love of family, along with his deep faith made him the man every man should inspire to be. Heaven has gained an angel of great measure.

John and I discussed the lyrics from "How Great Thou Art" that read "When Christ shall come with shouts of acclamation to take me home, what joy shall fill my heart. Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and then proclaim, my God how great Thou art." His humble and peaceful nature could have written those lyrics. Oh what a reunion of Beykes awaits us all.

My heart and prayers are with each and every family member.

With much love, your cousin Jackie Beyke Leavenworth

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Jackie Beyke Leavenworth - May 02, 2022 at 12:01 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Carroll Beyke.



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May 02, 2022 at 09:29 AM

BB

“ John and I were in the US Air Force Security Service for four years of active duty and two years of reserves. We shared all training as North Vietnamese linguists for 48 weeks at the Fort Bliss Army Language School in El Paso, TX in 1969, which was followed by six of the 72 men in our language class being selected by NSA in Washington to study enemy code breaking. Next came airborne intercept training at Goodfellow Air Base, TX, followed by International Survival School in Spokane, WA, then Jungle Survival training at Clark Air Base, Philippines. John and I spent seven months in DaNang, Vietnam on a ground intelligence assignment and completed the year in Udorn, Thailand on the Laotian border. After 30 days of leave in the USA, John and I were assigned to airborne intelligence assignments flying out of Okinawa's Kadena Air Base on RC135 reconnaissance aircraft that were airborne for 19 to 24 hours over the Gulf of Tonkin, Vietnam or over Laos. I believe John also flew approximately 29 or 30 missions during our second year in the Vietnam War.

I served with John on all the same duty assignments for four years which earned us the title of "Brothers". We have lost one of the finest men I could have served with and Heaven has gained a man of great integrity, faith in God, love for his family, friends and country. John's loyalty and leadership skills were impressive to all. He assured me in our last conversation that he was, "At peace with the Lord and prepared for his next adventure..." May John's family be comforted and at peace with the Lord as John was...

Bruce Birkeland  
Laguna Hills, CA

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**Bruce Randall Birkeland** - May 01, 2022 at 07:31 PM

JW

“ *Jim and Susan Wade purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Carroll Beyke.*



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**Jim and Susan Wade** - May 01, 2022 at 02:21 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Carroll Beyke.*



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May 01, 2022 at 01:16 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of John Carroll Beyke.*



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May 01, 2022 at 10:25 AM



“ *John was a very nice person who always made you feel very welcome and loved to have a good time and joke! I was glad to know him. Condolences for the family and my love to Kathy!*

*Jo*

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**Thelma Diehl** - May 01, 2022 at 03:08 AM

DS

“ My condolences to Kathie, Kim and others in the Beyke family that I may have not met. I did go to the Beyke family place in Whitesville, KY decades ago upon the passing of one of John's close family. I will second all the accolades made, already and those to come, about John's leadership, management, mentoring, wit and humor skills. I will reflect in another direction.

On April 10th a friend-in-common at my home informed me that a decision had been made to suspend John's treatments. I called John the next day. Please know that he was happy and positive, felt good and he sounded really good; just like past years we've all had with him. We shared some overlapping experiences with names back to the 1970's at UK College of Engineering; including Scroggin, Ritchie, Houchin, Lovan and Woolwine to name a few. John and those guys, four years ahead of me, were a collective beacon for me.

I also recognized and thanked John for his part in 2014, among many, for raising scholarship funds to honor the 20th anniversary of our revered past KSPE/ACEC Executive Director George Binder. This resulted in a scholarship in George's name, and at the annual meeting attendance by about 25 KSPE past presidents to make the surprise presentation. Then George surprised us and announced his retirement. John was always there when it was time for an initiative with a need, goal and deadline. This was one of the last leadership things we all did together with John.

When we talked, John was of clear mind and acceptance of what might come in the weeks or months ahead. He said to me "David, I'll see you on the other side." You've got to love that blessed calm clarity.

*Dave Servis*

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David Servis - April 30, 2022 at 03:59 PM



“*“You Are Loved And In Our Prayers” Comfort Throw was purchased for the family of John Carroll Beyke.*



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April 30, 2022 at 02:58 PM



“*John was a dedicated board member to Monticello Place Community Association and President for many years. I enjoyed his style with dealing with difficult situations with neighbors. His sense of humor served him well.*

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**Donna Hummel** - April 30, 2022 at 09:19 AM



“*1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**Jim Wade** - April 30, 2022 at 04:47 AM



*Bob Ringgold, John Beyke, Jim Wade, and Greg Collins*

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**Jim Wade** - April 30, 2022 at 04:55 AM

JW

“ I met John when we were roommates in 1969 at Biggs Field, Ft Bliss in Texas. I was from Washington, DC and he was from Owensboro, KY. We had just been assigned the duty to learn to speak Vietnamese language. Both of us were in early twenties and full of enthusiasm for life’s possibilities...but being fluent in Vietnamese was not on our bucket list.

Within the first month of meeting John, he gave me the nickname Ernie because he said I looked like Ernie from the 1970s TV show My Three Sons. This was my introduction to John’s keen sense of humor. To this day, none of my fellow USAF classmates call me Jim, the name my parents gave me, preferring instead to address me as Ernie.

I’ve come to love that name...and I love John Beyke for giving it to me. He leaves a strong legacy of loving family, admiring friends, and professional leadership. I miss him already.

Jim Wade...aka Ernie

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**Jim Wade** - April 29, 2022 at 07:43 PM

EL

“ To John’s family, my sincere condolences to you for the loss of this great man. I am among the countless young engineers he mentored over the years and had the pleasure to work for him at FMSM. He always showed interest in me and my career and made me feel like the only one he helped although I knew differently. He pushed me to apply for Leadership PE and later convinced me to give back as a trainer in the program. His guidance is part of my leadership today. Even recently he would send me messages on Facebook encouraging me and my daughter who was appointed to the USAFA. My fellow engineers and I have lost a legend.  
With love, Eric W. Larson, PE

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**eric larsen** - April 29, 2022 at 07:00 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Carroll Beyke.*



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April 29, 2022 at 05:46 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Carroll Beyke.*



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April 29, 2022 at 05:09 PM



“ *John was what KSPE was all about. Having attended many KSPE and NSPE Meetings, John showed me what professionalism and given back to his community was all about. My prayers are with John and his family for devoted professional and friendly time sharing with us all well spent.*  
*Barry J. Burke, PE PLS M.ASCE*

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**Barry Burke** - April 29, 2022 at 05:01 PM



*John was a great mentor to many, including me. I am forever grateful for his leadership in our profession. It took me a while but I finally became an aficionado of his Dad jokes.*

*Stephen Scott, PE.*

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**Stephen Scott** - April 29, 2022 at 05:24 PM

EC

*I send condolences to the Beyke family. I had the pleasure of working with John over many years. He was the consummate professional who was one of the finest men I have known.*

*RIP John.*

*Everett H. Cowan, PE, RLS, MASCE, FACEC*

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**Everett H. Cowan** - April 30, 2022 at 10:37 AM