



## John Howard Beard

October 23, 1970 - June 15, 2020

John Howard Beard passed away peacefully at his home in Germantown, Tennessee after a long battle with cancer.

John fought the good fight, finished the race, kept the faith, and is now reaping his reward in Heaven.

He is married to his beloved wife Lezlee (Dabbs) Beard of almost 19 years and they have one son, Hudson Cotton Beard, who is 15 years old.

John grew up attending Beaverdam Springs Church of Christ in Centerville, Tennessee where he wrote in his journal about having such great childhood memories and Sundays were all about church, family, and food at his Grandma Talley's house. He also attended Gordonsburg Church of Christ in Hohenwald on Wednesday and Sunday nights before moving to Knoxville to attend graduate school. While in Knoxville he was a faithful member of Ault Road Church of Christ, then West Valley Church of Christ where he made many lifelong friends.

Southside Church of Christ was his and his family's church home for six years where they were loved and cared for and met many more lifelong friends.

After leaving Shelbyville and moving to Valparaiso, Indiana for John's work

with MonosolRX they attended church at Vale Church of Christ.

The family moved back to their beloved Tennessee where John worked as a Manufacturing Engineer II in Product Trauma for Smith and Nephew. When first moving to Germantown he lived with Sequoia and Herbert Henson (whom he loved very much and they took great care of him until his son finished fifth grade and Lezlee and Hudson could join him in the Memphis area.) While living with them he attended Great Oaks Church of Christ in Cordova.

After moving to Germantown, John and his family found a church home at Germantown Church of Christ. Much like Southside, the minute John and his family walked into this church family they knew they had found their place to serve, love God, and a group of Christians who love and care for each other and cared for them with such love and generosity while John fought his battle with cancer.

John graduated from Nashville Tech with an associate's degree in architecture, graduated from Austin Peay University with a bachelor's degree in Manufacturing Engineering, and furthered his college career by graduating from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville with a Masters in Textile Science and Non-Woven Polymers.

John put God first, his family and friends second, and everything else after that. He was loved for his kind smile, his goofy sense of humor, the way he never met a stranger and treated everyone with love and respect. He loved the outdoors and enjoyed riding bicycles with his son and nephews, fishing, canoeing, and taking his niece on special outings.

He shared a love of cars and they were discussed often with his "little" brother Trysten Sherwood along with their faith in God. He and his "big" brother Chris Bobo loved UT football and talked about football, music, and their shared faith

in God.

In addition to his wife and son, he is survived by his parents Gary and Norma (Talley) Beard, a sister Shelia (Keith) Plunkett, Aunt Lucille Talley, Aunt Orpha Easley, Uncle Howard (Christine) Talley.

Mother-in-law Linda Cotton (Jerry) Basinger and Father-in-law Larry (Janice) Dabbs. Brother-in-law Lincoln (Tiffany) Dabbs, Brother-in-law Lantz Dabbs, nephews Neison Dabbs, Avery Dabbs, Cooper Dabbs, Macartney Dabbs, Knox Dabbs, and niece Emery Dabbs.

He is also survived by many loving cousins.

He is preceded in death by his grandparents Uel B. and Lillie (Canady) Beard and Britt and Alice Mae Talley. As well as, grandparents-in-law Allton Lee and Bernice Virginia (Peevyhouse) Dabbs and Marvin Eunice and Martha Vera (Dunn) Cotton. As well as Uncle Rex Talley, Uncle Paul Talley, Uncle Monroe Talley, and Aunt Opal (Talley) Whittle.

If anyone would like to give a donation in memory of John, his favorite charities he donated to were the church of Christ Disaster Relief Fund, and St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

There is also an education fund set up for Hudson and any donation can be made at any Regions Bank referencing account #5267.

# Cemetery Details

## Charles L Nickell Memorial Park

Centerville, TN 37033

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 18. 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

McDonald Funeral Home, Inc. - Hickman County  
102 West End Ave.  
Centerville, TN 37033  
(931) 729-3561

## Funeral Service

JUN 19. 1:00 PM (CT)

McDonald Funeral Home, Inc. - Hickman County  
102 West End Ave.  
Centerville, TN 37033  
(931) 729-3561

# Tribute Wall

JG

“ You were a beautiful soul John. I always enjoyed your jokes and warm smile :) I hope you are peace.

Jenny Gallo - June 21, 2020 at 09:14 AM

JM

“ John and I worked together but more than that we became friends. We just got caught up a few months ago as he would always text me or call every so often. So glad he did as I got to tell me how much I miss him. He talked about trying to get up to Valpo for a visit, told him I would have him any time. John you will always have a piece my heart, you are one of the best men I have had the pleasure to know in my life. Tell Jesus hey for us. God speed my friend.



Jonathan McGinty - June 19, 2020 at 09:21 PM

RO

“ Rose lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard



Rose - June 19, 2020 at 08:46 PM

JR

“ *Jerry/Betty Risner lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard*



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**Jerry/Betty Risner** - June 19, 2020 at 08:13 PM

LH

“ *Loretta Chessor Harrington lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard*



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**Loretta Chessor Harrington** - June 19, 2020 at 02:30 PM

RO

*I am so sad to hear this. He was the most positive person I've ever met. He never vomll OK dined and always looked forward. He will always be a positive influence in my life.*

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**Rose** - June 19, 2020 at 08:48 PM

TH

“ *Thinking of you with our deepest sympathy*



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**Thelma/ClovisJohns** - June 19, 2020 at 10:53 AM

BP

“ It seems so surreal to be writing this. John was one of the faithful attendees of our Fellowship group at S&N and he will be missed severely. No matter what life threw at him, his faith in God was strong and visible. I can say that he was a great inspiration for me and many others. My prayers are for his family that they may be comforted in knowing that John is with his savior and no longer in pain. John 14:3 says, “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to be with me that where I am, you may be also” John is with the Lord now. Well done good and faithful servant!



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**Brenda Partain** - June 19, 2020 at 10:45 AM

JB

“ John & Danielle Barry lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard



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**John & Danielle Barry** - June 19, 2020 at 09:44 AM

CL

“ Chris Love lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard



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**Chris Love** - June 19, 2020 at 08:19 AM

IF

“ *Iva & Mike Farris lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard*



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**Iva & Mike Farris** - June 19, 2020 at 08:14 AM

DO

“ *Prayers for Leslie and Hudson. John always had a smile no matter what and was a great inspiration*



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**Donna** - June 18, 2020 at 09:26 PM

RP

“ John was a key member of our team at Smith & Nephew. In our company, we promote a culture of care, courage, and collaboration. I honestly cannot think of anyone who has better exemplified those values than John Beard. He faced his physical challenges with courage, and he genuinely cared for his team members and co-workers . . . that was evident in the way he interacted with everyone. We will certainly miss John’s contributions, the inspiration that he brought to us, his positive and upbeat attitude (despite the circumstances), and his compassion for others. He was highly respected, and he set an awesome example for us to follow going forward.

*When I think of John in the days to come, I will always be reminded of 2 Timothy 4:7-8:*

*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.*

*My prayers will continue for John’s family. And I’m certain that John’s big smile has made Heaven just a little bit brighter!*

*Rodney Phillips*

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**Rodney Phillips** - June 18, 2020 at 06:10 PM

ER

“ Esther T Redding lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard



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**Esther T Redding** - June 18, 2020 at 06:04 PM

PT

*Thank you Trudy. He was a great guy, and Heaven gained an angel by us losing our friend.*

Paula Coble Talley - June 20, 2020 at 10:56 PM

ER

“ *Esther T Redding lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard*



Esther T Redding - June 18, 2020 at 06:03 PM

DK

“ *Donna F Kelly lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard*



donna f kelly - June 18, 2020 at 01:58 PM

CB

“ *Prayers for Gary, Norma and Sheila during this sad time of saying good bye to John. My children worked with John and always spoke highly of him. The loss of a child leaves a hole in your heart that will never be filled. God gives us our children and it gives us peace to know that our children will always be with our Heavenly Father. John is at home.*



Connie Bowen - June 18, 2020 at 01:58 PM

SA

“ THOUGHTS AND MANY PRAYERS FOR THIS SWEET AND DEAR FAMILY LOVE STEVE AND SUSAN ANGLIN



STEVE OR SUSAN ANGLIN - June 18, 2020 at 11:02 AM

EB

“ JOHN BEARD WAS A VERY FINE YOUNG MAN..HE SURE LOVED THE LORD WAS VERY INTELLIGENT AND TALENTED...HE ALWAYS HAD A SMILE ON HIS FACE AND MADE YOU FEEL BETTER...IT IS SUCH A TRAGEDY THAT A FELLOW WITH HIS TALENT AND ABILITY CAME DOWN WITH CANCER THAT EVENTUALLY TOOK HIS LIFE..SURE PRAYING FOR GARY, NORMA AND SHEILA...SO SAD..BREAKS OUR HEART THAT HE IS GONE..BUT PARADISE IS SURE A BETTER PLACE NOW THAT JOHN IS THERE...HEAVEN WILL BE HIS ETERNAL HOME...VERY FINE CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN !!! GOD BLESS..IF BARBARA AND I CAN DO ANYTHING TO ASSIST YOU IN YOUR GREAT LOSS..JUST LET US NOW !!!

EDGAR C. BEARD - June 18, 2020 at 10:16 AM

BF

“ Only knew him professionally, but always looked forward to our calls with John. He was a special person and a true joy to be around. He will be missed!



-Bryan Fox

Bryan Fox - June 18, 2020 at 09:56 AM

JK

“ For my brother who made me a better person in life , who showed me there are still good people in this world , who talked with me and shared laughs and hardships , who always found a way to make my day better by simply smiling and shaking my hand .  
I will miss you Mr beard !!!  
I am grateful to have met you and call you brother in my life , the respect I have for you will never change , thank you for being a genuine human being , I miss you and will miss our conversations , I know I'll see you again and we can catch up , Rest In Peace brother !!!

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**jerzy krawczyk** - June 18, 2020 at 09:22 AM

DC

“ Donnie & Linda Carroll lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard



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**Donnie & Linda Carroll** - June 18, 2020 at 08:58 AM

ST

“ Sherrie Talley lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard



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**Sherrie Talley** - June 18, 2020 at 08:42 AM

WV

“ *Wanda Vineyard lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard*



wanda vineyard - June 18, 2020 at 08:39 AM

PT

“ *Seems like I have always known John. He has always been a strong person; always willing to help whenever he could. Heaven gained a great angel as we lost our friend.*



Paula Talley - June 18, 2020 at 08:17 AM

MC

“ *Maelynn Campbell sent a virtual gift in memory of John Howard Beard*



Maelynn campbell - June 17, 2020 at 11:41 PM

CH

“ *Charlene Hall lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard*



Charlene Hall - June 17, 2020 at 11:00 PM

LR

“ *Linda Riley lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard*



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**Linda Riley** - June 17, 2020 at 10:05 PM

LF

“ *Lisa F. lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard*



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**Lisa F.** - June 17, 2020 at 10:00 PM

PH

“ *Paula Hay lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard*



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**Paula Hay** - June 17, 2020 at 09:44 PM

TA

“ *Talitha lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard*



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**Talitha** - June 17, 2020 at 09:42 PM

KC

“ *Kay Campbell lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard*



**Kay Campbell** - June 17, 2020 at 09:27 PM

TC

“ *John was like my third son!!! He was getting his Master's Degree in Human Ecology in Textiles Sciences. John and I were so close he would call me his second Mom!! John planed a lot of plants for me in Maryville. John I love you so much!! You were a excellent Husband and Father to Lezlee and Hudson!! I will never forget you I will see you one day!! Please watch over me from Heaven!! God will take care of you cause he loves you and I love you bunches* ❤️🥺  
😊✨🌟💖💜💗💙🙏🙏🙏🙏!!

**Teresa Crabtree** - June 17, 2020 at 08:59 PM

KM

“ *I know your hearts are broken. John was a man of Faith. I feel blessed to have known him. May you find peace and comfort in the beautiful memories you have of a life so well lived.*



**Kay Lynch Murphy** - June 17, 2020 at 08:36 PM

BE

“ John was what a true gentleman is, I just loved working with him, we had some good times just laughing, he had a great sense of humor. I miss my friend already. Sad when 1 so young and full of life passes.He's in Gods hands now and no more pain. Your in my thoughts and prayers.

Brenda L Evans - June 17, 2020 at 07:59 PM

BE

“ Brenda L Evans lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard



Brenda L Evans - June 17, 2020 at 07:55 PM

HF

“ So sorry for your loss. John was an awesome person



Hayley Gordon Flynn - June 17, 2020 at 06:47 PM



“ Tracey Dawson lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard



Tracey Dawson - June 17, 2020 at 06:43 PM

IR

“ *Ira & Florine Riley lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard*



Ira & Florine Riley - June 17, 2020 at 06:11 PM

DL

“ *Diane Lomax lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard*



Diane Lomax - June 17, 2020 at 05:37 PM

DC

“ *Darlene Hicks Chappell lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard*



Darlene Hicks Chappell - June 17, 2020 at 03:52 PM



“ *Lisa Orman Owen lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard*



Lisa Orman Owen - June 17, 2020 at 03:27 PM



“ I am a better person for having known John. Just seeing this picture makes me smile. He was all about encouraging others even when he was in pain or frustrated. All you saw was his smile and no sign of suffering on his part. At least at work. Gosh, I will miss him when we all go back to work at the office. He was one of the good ones!

Debbie Phillips - June 17, 2020 at 03:25 PM

RS

You could not keep from loving John and his family!

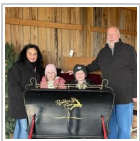
Richard E Slagle - June 17, 2020 at 04:09 PM

TF

“ Thomas McMeen & Family sent a virtual gift in memory of John Howard Beard



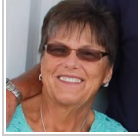
Thomas McMeen & Family - June 17, 2020 at 03:22 PM



“ Sandi Westover lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard



Sandi Westover - June 17, 2020 at 03:14 PM



“ *John always had a smile for everyone.*



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**Mary Baker-Bragg** - June 17, 2020 at 03:03 PM

AB

“ *Lance and I met you and John this past fall while working with the Pit Crew for the Houston Band. John was always so happy and witty, and always willing to help. He always had a smile on his face even though he might not have felt like smiling. Prayers for you and Hudson during this time.*

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**Amy Burgess** - June 17, 2020 at 02:42 PM

EQ

“ *Erin Qualls lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard*



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**Erin Qualls** - June 17, 2020 at 02:28 PM

SR

“ John was never without a smile. He had the biggest heart and would do anything for you. I can hear him now do not cry for me. But celebrate my life because now I am finally home. And I never will be far away. I am with the ones that passed before me. And I am with Drew. Kaye, Grandma Alice. And Uncle Gus. Never forget how much I love all of you. I can hear him saying that now. I love you John. And I will help the family as much as I can. Love you. Your cuz



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**Sarah Rogers** - June 17, 2020 at 02:27 PM

LF

“ Lance Family lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard



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**Lance Family** - June 17, 2020 at 02:17 PM

SR

“ Sarah Rogers lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard



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**Sarah Rogers** - June 17, 2020 at 02:17 PM

Lisa Elliott

“ Lisa Elliott sent a virtual gift in memory of John Howard Beard



Lisa Elliott - June 17, 2020 at 02:17 PM

KF

“ Kilpatrick Family lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard



Kilpatrick Family - June 17, 2020 at 02:16 PM

DS

“ John was a special person. My deepest sympathy goes out to all his family and friends. God bless each and everyone of you.



Debbie Semore - June 17, 2020 at 01:40 PM

VS

“ There was never a time that I talked with John, even in his most difficult days, that I didn't leave feeling uplifted! He was the most gracious, kind, loving man who lived his faith every minute. What a blessing to know him and his smile! ! He will be missed terribly!

valerie speed - June 17, 2020 at 01:33 PM

JD

“Loved John dearly. Met him when he was at The University of Tennessee getting his Master’s. Worked with me in the Dean’s Office in the College of Communications. He was close friends with my sister, Teresa Crabtree who worked in the College of Human Ecology for years. She and John and Lezlee continued to be friends since his UT days. No more pain and suffering! He’s with God now and resting in a peaceful place in Heaven.

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**Judith C Dockery** - June 17, 2020 at 01:21 PM

JS

“John was all of the things mentioned in the obituary, and more. His good spirit and curiosity for all things made him a joy to be around. He encouraged me and our whole Southside family during those wonderful years he was in Shelbyville. His passing hurts, it is not fair, and by every standard I know, it was too soon.

*John has not lost, he won! His victory is assured by God's Grace in Jesus. Lezlee & Hudson and all the rest of us have a deep sense of loss, but it is tempered by John's victory. It is only God's grace in Christ that brings any understanding to the death of those we love. John my friend, you were an encourager and Christian in every since of the word. You will not be forgotten. The good you did as a disciple of Jesus will reap much good far into the future. May the God of all grace comfort the Beard family and all those who loved John Beard.*

*Jeff W. Smith, Southside church of Christ in Shelbyville, Tennessee*

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**Jeff Smith** - June 17, 2020 at 01:19 PM

CB

“ *Carmela Brown lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard*



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**Carmela Brown** - June 17, 2020 at 01:17 PM

DH

“ *While at Austin Peay, John was an active part of the church of Christ Student Center. If I remember correctly, he also filled in at the Shiloh COC during that time as well.*

*John was a kid at heart and was not about to let age make him old. He is loved and will be missed.*

*Hugs and prayers Lezlee and Hudson  
From The Hights*

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**Diana Hight** - June 17, 2020 at 01:16 PM

JB

“ *Lezlee and Hudson, John was one of my best friends! I will dearly miss him. He was my hunting and fishing buddy. He was my Boundary Waters co-pilot. He was my co-worker, advice giver, joke teller, friend and role model. Could there be a better father or husband, no way. God put John on this earth to touch many lives and he definitely was a huge part of my life. My family will be praying for you and if you need anything just say the word.*  
*John Barry*

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**John Barry** - June 17, 2020 at 01:13 PM

DG

“ *David & Jeannine Grimes lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard*



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**David & Jeannine Grimes** - June 17, 2020 at 01:05 PM

AD

“ *Always loved his beautiful smile and the example he set for others. Prayers for the family*



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**Arelus & Ernestine Dye** - June 17, 2020 at 01:03 PM

RM

“ *Roy And Sharon McCoy lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard*



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**Roy and Sharon McCoy** - June 17, 2020 at 12:56 PM

ME

“ *Marty & Jody England lit a candle in memory of John Howard Beard*



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**Marty & Jody England** - June 17, 2020 at 12:50 PM