



John William Burton

February 19, 1926 - September 2, 2015

John William Burton, 89, of Wauchula, died on Wednesday, September 2, 2015 at home. He was born in Arcadia, Florida on February 19, 1926 to L. Grady Burton and Bess Wood Burton. He was a lifelong resident of Wauchula.

John attended the University of Florida where he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega social fraternity. His schooling was interrupted by World War II in which he served as an aerial gunner on a B-29 in the Pacific Theater. He received a bachelor of law degree from Stetson University, DeLand. While at Stetson, he was a member of Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity and president of the law school student body.

Receiving his law degree in 1950, he went into practice with his father. Upon John's retirement in 2004, he was a partner with his son in the law firm of Burton and Burton, P.A.

He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Wauchula, and a Sunday school teacher of classes from the early teens to the Methodist Men. He joined leaders from other churches in teaching the International Sunday School lesson over radio station WAUC.

During his career, John was the City of Wauchula Municipal Judge, attorney for the following: City of Wauchula, City of Bowling Green, Hardee Memorial

Hospital, Hardee County School Board; attorney and director of Wauchula State Bank, member of the Tenth Circuit Court Grievance Committee; president, Hardee County Bar Association; chairman, Hardee County Democratic Committee.

He was past chaplain and commander of the Herger Williams Post No. 2, American Legion; past president and lieutenant governor of Wauchula Kiwanis Club; past exalted ruler of BPOE Lodge #1700, Wauchula. John was honored to be the recipient of the 2003 Hardee County Schools' Hall of Fame Award.

He was preceded in death by his parents, L. Grady and Bess Wood Burton; brother, L. Grady Burton, Jr.; and sister-in-law Edith Savage Burton, Mt. Lakes, NJ.

John is survived by his wife of 64 years, Jean Bostick Burton; daughters, Kathleen S. Burton of Cornelius, NC, and Barbara B. Crowson of Richlands, NC; son, John W. H. Burton of Wauchula; grandchildren, Elizabeth B. Crowson of Wilmington, NC, Grace Crowson Johnston (Chris) of Hillsborough, NC, James B. Crowson (Katherine) of Fremont, CA, Stephen W. H. Burton of Wauchula, and Rachel E. Burton of Wauchula.

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, September 9, 2015 at 2:00 PM at the First United Methodist Church, Wauchula, with visitation one hour prior to the service. Pastor Danielle Upton is officiating. Interment will follow at Wauchula Cemetery with Military Honors provided by American Legion Post No. 2.

Memorials may be made to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home, 51 Children's Way, Enterprise, FL 32725 or to Good Shepherd Hospice, 12470 Telecom Dr., Suite 300, West Temple Terrace, FL 33637.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 9. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church of Wauchula
207 N. 7th Ave.
Wauchula, FL 33873

Funeral Service

SEP 9. 2:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church of Wauchula
207 N. 7th Ave.
Wauchula, FL 33873

Tribute Wall

CW

“ I was so sorry to hear of John's passing. John's grandmother, Adella Wood Robertson, was my great-grandmother. My mother, Adella Robertson Jones, used to bring me to Wauchula to visit Aunt Bess and Uncle Grady and occasionally John. Right before passenger train service was discontinued in Arcadia, Wauchula and elsewhere, my mother put me and my grandmother on the train for a short ride to Wauchula as I had never been on a train. I couldn't have been but about 5, but she drove to Wauchula and picked us up and we went to see Aunt Bess, Uncle Grady, and John. I still have vivid memories of that day. Aunt Bess had given me crayons and a coloring book. It's been many years since I have seen my Wauchula family.
Know that you are all in my prayers and thoughts at this difficult time.

Claudia Jones Waggoner - September 13, 2015 at 05:10 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of John William Burton.



September 03, 2015 at 09:12 PM



“ For over 23.5 years I was fortunate to be employed as a legal secretary and advancing to a certified legal assistant for John W. Burton. He was very supportive in educating me to become a more knowledgeable employee. Being kind and considerate, he was an easy person to work for and admire. He and his family treated me almost like a family member. I watched Kathleen, Barbara and John W. H. grow from young children to adulthood. Since Jean worked in the office for many years, I was fortunate to know what an outstanding wife and mother she was. Because of my health issues, saying goodbye to John and his family was one of the most difficult things I have ever done. John was a generous man and many times would represent those unable to pay without charge. He loved his profession and stressed professionalism both for himself and his employees. He never blamed anyone else for any mistake that was made in the office. His motto was "the buck stops here!" I remember an incident involving the foreclosure and sale of a tract of land. Having been properly prepared and proof read for accuracy, the notice of sale was delivered to the newspaper, but there was a typographical error in the legal description made at the newspaper when it was printed. The client came from out of state to the sale at the courthouse only to be told the notice of sale would have to be re-published because of the error and the sale could not be concluded that day.. John told the client the mistake was his (John's) fault. He never blamed the newspaper nor anyone else. The client was so impressed with his professionalism that he did not get angry and in the future became a very substantial, long-term client.

My deepest sympathy is offered to Jean. Kathleen, Barbara, John W. H. and the entire family. How I wish Leslie and I were in Florida to speak personally to each of you; however, we will be at our summer home in western North Carolina until the latter part of October. We pray God will be your comfort during your time of grief. May God bless each of you. With love and deepest sympathy, Mary Rollins.

Mary Rollins - September 03, 2015 at 07:24 PM