



John David O'Bryant

November 26, 1927 - October 19, 2021

John David O'Bryant, 93, of Grand Rapids, formerly of Charlotte, died peacefully on Tuesday, October 19, 2021. John was born November 26, 1927 in St. Louis, MI, the son of Edward and Rhoda (Sanders) O'Bryant. He graduated from Perry High School in 1946 before enlisting in the U.S. Army and proudly serving in Japan at the close of WWII. Upon his return, he married the love of his life, Ruth Wilma Jansen, on September 24, 1949 in Haslett, MI. Early on in their marriage, John and Ruth bought a farm in Charlotte, where they moved to raise their family. Farming remained an integral passion in John's life. He went to work as the Coordinator of County Fairs for the State of Michigan Department of Agriculture, a position he held for 25 years until his retirement in 1988. He also served on the board of the Michigan Association of Fairs and was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions. He and Ruth also loved to travel, especially to fairs across the state and beyond. They were devoted members of First Baptist Church in Charlotte, and kept Faith central to their marriage and their community.

John is survived by his loving wife of 72 years, Ruth; their son, Robert (Angie) O'Bryant; granddaughters, Robin (Robert) Koziol and Andrea (Christopher) Alberts; great-grandchildren, Robert and Johnny Koziol; and brothers, Edward and Daniel O'Bryant; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his son, David O'Bryant; and his siblings, James O'Bryant, William O'Bryant,

Kenneth O'Bryant, Iva Mae Theron, and Uvah Wright.

Friends and family are encouraged to support John's family by attending services or sharing memories on his tribute page at www.prayfuneral.com. Funeral services will be at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 23, 2021 at First Baptist Church in Charlotte. Visitation will be from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m., just prior to the service on Saturday. Interment will take place at Ft. Custer National Cemetery. The funeral will be webcast so you may watch it from any computer, smartphone, or mobile device that has internet access. Go to www.prayfuneral.com, click on John's tribute, then click on Photos and Videos from your computer (or Media from your smart phone). If desired the family suggests memorial contributions to First Baptist Church of Charlotte or Honor Flight. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Fort Custer National Cemetery

15501 Dickman Road
Augusta, MI 49012

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **23**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Charlotte
1110 S. Cochran Ave
Charlotte, MI 48813

Funeral Ceremony

OCT **23**. 2:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Charlotte
1110 S. Cochran Ave
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of John David O'Bryant



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - October 23, 2021 at 10:42 AM



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of John David O'Bryant



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - October 22, 2021 at 09:17 PM

ST

“ What a very special friend that Jack and I had in John. At FBC he would always acknowledge your presence when you walked in the door. Johnny and Jack always shared so much about 'projects' that they each had going....and they were many! 'My' greatest memory however, is the great laughs that he and I both had after his day in surgery at HGB! He awoke in recovery to a fully dressed, baby 'chimpanzee' in his arms, that I told him we'd just 'delivered'! What a great sense of humor he had! Loved by so many!💙

Susan Taylor - October 23, 2021 at 03:07 PM

TK

“ We are so happy that Grandpa John and Grandma Ruth joined in the celebration on our wedding day!



Tom Koziol - October 23, 2021 at 08:55 AM

JN

“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



Jennifer Naude - October 23, 2021 at 07:41 AM

DT

“ Dear Ruth and John were those ever-friends that we only met twice, once in Africa and once their guests in Michigan. I personally have learn from them and their mementoes are my daily reminder of humble Christian believers and role models. Stan & Henrietta in NZ

Dr Stanley W Theron - October 23, 2021 at 02:08 AM



“ 67 files added to the album LifeTributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - October 22, 2021 at 09:13 PM

JV

“ John and Ruth were good friends of my mom and dad. We all loved this sweet couple and will miss them.

Janice Vinson - October 22, 2021 at 06:45 PM

KK

“ My mother, Barbra Kolm, was the Secretary of the Berrien County Youth Fair for 40 years (1965-2005). She held John O'Bryant in the highest regard for his work with Michigan county fairs and for the outstanding man he was. As I have followed in her footsteps, she introduced me to John several times. John presented the Berrien County Youth Fair with #073 of 150 handcrafted wagon - MAFE - 1988 in August of 2013 - it is prominently displayed in our fair office. My mother and John shared being members of the first class of MAFE Hall of Fame in 2015. My mother and I send our condolences and she has fond memories of working with John.

*Karen Klug
Berrien County Youth Fair*

Karen Klug - October 22, 2021 at 08:46 AM

DD

“ John was a skilled wood worker, First Baptist church of Charlotte, received many wonderful wooden gifts a podium, candle holders, a table and a cross. Any time a church building project needed someone with building skills John was present. Many times his flag collection was used to decorate the entrance of the church to honor our country or veterans.

Ruth and John traveled to many places. John shared stories, memories, and purchases that actually made you feel like you were along on the trip. He was a wonderful story teller.

Throughout his life John walked with Christ. His loving smile, helpful demeanor, and giving spirit was ever present of his Christian beliefs. No doubt about it John is one of God's angels. We were blessed to have him in our lives.

Denise M. Droscha

Denise M. Droscha - October 22, 2021 at 07:43 AM

RJ

“ John and Ruth the very best friends my parents could have asked for. They traveled, camped, and spent many weekends at Horsehead Lake enjoying my parents cottage together. When my mother’s health became worse, Ruth and John were the first people to call me and offer their services and any help we needed. They continued to go to my parents home and play cards and talk about “the good times”. They visited my mother when she moved into assisted living, which had to be very hard for them. John and my dad talked on the phone every week until just last week. My dad told me that John wasn’t doing very well, and could tell he was failing. If you look in a dictionary under “Good Christians” John and Ruth’s picture would come up. My dad recently attend another friends funeral and became very emotional, he does not think he can attend the funeral due to his emotional state. He is very sad and wants convey his condolences to Ruth, Bob, and all of their family members. Rest In Peace, John. Rick Johnson

rick johnson - October 22, 2021 at 06:09 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John David O'Bryant.



October 21, 2021 at 08:57 AM

ME

“ I met John for the first time when he was visiting the Eaton County Fair. He lived in Charlotte but he was doing his job overseeing all the fairs in Michigan. His pleasant and professional nature stood out. His role was to share ideas with fair board members on how they could make the fair experience more inviting to the public and help the fair board to manage the issues they were experiencing. John was always positive, helpful and kind in his comments. In Eaton County our fair is run totally by volunteers. The board members appreciated having support especially John’s support. As the Director of Eaton MSU Extension I worked with the fair board for 39 years. We wanted Eaton County Fair to be good clean fun and entertainment for all participants and fair goers. John was an important key person in producing the Eaton County Fair.

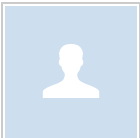
Mona Ellard - October 21, 2021 at 07:50 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John David O'Bryant.



October 20, 2021 at 05:03 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of John David O'Bryant.



October 20, 2021 at 11:29 AM