



John A. Richardson

March 31, 1942 - July 29, 2024

Pastor John Arling Richardson ran into the arms of his Savior on Monday morning, July 29, 2024, at Lakeland Regional Medical Center following a three-month battle with large B cell lymphoma. He was born March 31, 1942 in Lakeland, FL and was the fourth child of eleven children born to Noah Lavon Richardson and Daisy Brown Richardson. He married his favorite person in the world, Sharon Kay Dunlap on April 6, 1968 and moved to Lakeland, FL in 1978 where he resided on the home place until his death.

Pastor Richardson served in the United States Air Force and guarded bombers at

Incirlik Air Force Base in Adana, Turkey, entering at the age of 17. Upon his return home to the states he was a golf pro at Par 3 Golf Center in Lakeland where he enjoyed playing with Mr. George Jenkins, founder of Publix Super Markets. During the summer months he was a golf pro at St. Claire Shores, Detroit, MI. Following God's call to preach His Word, Pastor Richardson entered

Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO, graduating in 1969. He pastored Mark

Baptist Church, Mark, IA for five years and Highlands Baptist (formerly Liberty Baptist and Temple Baptist) in Lakeland for 36 years, retiring in 2016. While pastoring Liberty Baptist and being bi-vocational he worked as a supervisor for

State Of Florida Children & Families.

He is survived by his greatest blessings from God, his wife Sharon of Lakeland

and children: Becky Richardson Oldham (Sam) of Colorado Springs, CO, Billie

Jane Richardson Sears (Sean) of Stoughton, MA and John Arling Richardson Jr.

of Charlotte, NC and three beautiful grandchildren: Garrett Sears (Leslie), Boston, Lauren Sears Manseau (AJ), Lebanon, OH and Ryan Sears, senior at Boyce College, Louisville, KY. He is also survived by sisters, Ginger Zekveld (Ari)

Norwich Ontario, Canada, Cynthia Scott, Lakeland, and Grace Donley (Melvin) of

Lakeland, brothers Charles (Brenda), and Thomas E. (Pam) and numerous nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by brothers, Noah Lavon, Bobby,

Chester & Jerry and sister Nancy Plascencia.

A celebration of his life well lived will be held Saturday morning, August 3rd at 11:00 at Parkway Baptist Church, 4210 Lakeland Highlands Road, Lakeland, Florida 33813 with a visitation and viewing to be held on Friday evening August

2nd from 6:00 to 8:00 at the church. Pastor Richardson will be laid to rest in the

Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to First Tee of Lakeland in memory of John Richardson

by calling 863-577-0236, ext. 200.

Cemetery Details

Florida National Cemetery

6502 SW 102nd Ave.
Bushnell, FL 33513

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 2. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Parkway Baptist Church
4210 Lakeland Highlands Rd.
Lakeland, FL 33813

Funeral Service

AUG 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

Parkway Baptist Church
4210 Lakeland Highlands Rd.
Lakeland, FL 33813

Graveside with Military Honors

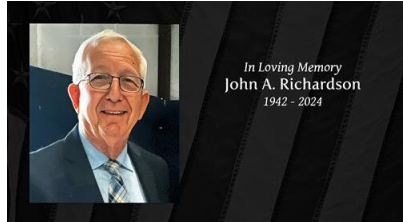
AUG 5. 11:00 AM - 11:15 AM (ET)

Florida National Cemetery
6502 SW 102nd Ave.
Bushnell, FL 33513

Tribute Wall



“ *Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of John A. Richardson*



Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - August 01, 2024 at 11:59 AM

DP

“ *I've known Pastor John since 2012, and without any hesitation i can proudly say that he was truly a man of God, who lives a great exemplary life, always ready to walk an extra miles and a living proof of how a servant of God should love God and loving people. Pastor John Richardson will be greatly missed and his absent left a big hole in my heart. With all that being said, he is in a much better place now, with his Saviour Lord Jesus Christ and i am so happy for him.*



Donald Phaipi - August 02, 2024 at 04:49 PM

PF

“ *Pastor Archer, Alisa Segars and family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of John A. Richardson.*



Pastor Archer, Alisa Segars and family - August 02, 2024 at 03:47 PM

DR

“ Deborah Ruster purchased the Basket Full of Wis
hes for the family of John A. Richardson.



Deborah Ruster - August 02, 2024 at 12:20 PM

DR

“ Deborah Ruster planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John A. Richardson.

Deborah Ruster - August 02, 2024 at 12:20 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of John A. Richardson.



August 02, 2024 at 11:35 AM

LH

“ We know Mr. Richardson through our children's piano lessons with Mrs. Richardson. All these years, I see the hardworking American, providing and loving his wife unconditionally, a dad whose unconditional love and devotion and kind and caring person from him. Wish I could have more time to learn the life lessons from you. You will truly be missed and forever remembered.

Li Lin Hall - August 02, 2024 at 09:46 AM

BH

“ Barb H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John A. Richardson.

Barb H. - August 01, 2024 at 11:18 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of John A. Richardson.



August 01, 2024 at 11:18 AM

JO

“ John. purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of John A. Richardson.



John. - August 01, 2024 at 11:02 AM

DJ

“ Or special thoughts to Sharon and their family he was a great servant of our lord - sending our love and ask our lord for peace at this time. David always remembers him as the great golfer

david and patricia johnson - August 01, 2024 at 10:31 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John A. Richardson.*



August 01, 2024 at 09:27 AM



“ *Adam Ward purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of John A. Richardson.*



Adam Ward - July 31, 2024 at 10:48 PM



“ *Debra, Amanda, Tisa, Madison, and Ethan purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of John A. Richardson.*



Debra, Amanda, Tisa, Madison, and Ethan - July 31, 2024 at 08:49 PM



“ *Li Lin Hall lit a candle in memory of John A. Richardson*



Li Lin Hall - July 31, 2024 at 04:38 PM

LL

“ Li L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John A. Richardson.

Li L. - July 31, 2024 at 04:17 PM

CE

“ Monnie and my first visit to Highlands Baptist, little did we know, was Johns retirement Sunday. I remember an awesome duet John and Sharon sang. We loved them from our 1st meeting. We have celebrated such wonderful times in and out of church. John and Sharon attended our wedding on the beach in 2017. Although we have not heard John preach very much, we have had the pleasure of hearing his teaching and his wisdom on various subjects. What a wonderful, caring, spiritual man whom we loved and admired tremendously. What a warrior to go thru so many health trials. Rest in the arms of Jesus dear friend, we will miss you always❤️



Carol & Monnie Ethridge - July 31, 2024 at 03:28 PM

DL

“ David Lasly purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of John A. Richardson.



David Lasly - July 31, 2024 at 02:48 PM

DL

“ David Lasly planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John A. Richardson.

David Lasly - July 31, 2024 at 02:48 PM

BB

“ Bob and Tami Banker planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John A. Richardson.

Bob and Tami Banker - July 31, 2024 at 08:05 AM



“ Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of John A. Richardson.



July 31, 2024 at 08:05 AM

DR

“ There are many cherished memories of Pastor Richardson through the years. In particular is his singing "I'll Fly Away with John Jr, Marty and Scott. The memories go back to the little Baptist Church on Main Street in the late 60s as he was heading off to boot camp. The deacons and pastor prayed over him, and then when he returned after boot camp dressed in his uniform. The love he demonstrated for his people was evident in so many ways. After my husband died he showed up one day with a helper to dig the irrigation system searching for an underground leak. My son has fond memories of the times they played golf together at Wedgewood. I have many notes on the book of I John from Liberty years ago when he went verse by verse. Especially fond to me is the salvation message he preached at my husband, Phillip's funeral. Each of us could write a book of the different memories we have of Pastor Richardson. He will be greatly missed and never forgotten. The crowns will be many...

donna J Rose - July 30, 2024 at 08:22 PM

PB

we prepare to go there!

Pastor Tommy Trammel, Fellowship Baptis - July 31, 2024 at 08:23 AM

CA

“ 2 files added to the album Church Family



Cathy - July 30, 2024 at 08:06 PM

CT

“ *Cathy and Ray Taylor purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John A. Richardson.*



Cathy and Ray Taylor - July 30, 2024 at 06:49 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John A. Richardson.*



July 30, 2024 at 04:44 PM

TC

“ *The Ladies Connection Class purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of John A. Richardson.*



The Ladies Connection Class - July 30, 2024 at 04:34 PM

SB

“ When we came to Lakeland 11 years ago we went to Highland Baptist Church. We were welcomed with open arms. That was a reflection of their pastor, Pastor John Richardson. He was patience, loving, caring and loved life. I will never forget the bags of coffee that he will bring us every Sunday or fruits from his back yard. I won't forget how much he enjoyed the Air Shows. But mostly, I won't forget how much he loved the Lord and enjoyed singing praises to his Heavenly Father. We will never forget him and will always thank the Lord for the opportunity He gave us to meet Pastor Richardson . His Christian spirit will live long.

Sonia and Jim Bryant - July 30, 2024 at 03:32 PM

SB

“ Earth's loss was Heaven's gain yesterday. We will always remember Pastor Richardson with fond memories. He was loved beyond words and will be missed beyond measure. Thoughts and prayers continue for Sharon and the family.

Scott & Lisa Boyd - July 30, 2024 at 02:42 PM