



## John A. Houff

February 10, 1944 - November 16, 2015

John A. Houff,

February 10, 1944-November 16, 2015

Visitation will be Sunday, November 22, from 3 P.M. until 7 P.M. at Shirley Brothers Fishers/Castleton Chapel, 9900 Allisonville Road. Mass of Christian Burial will be Monday at 11 A.M. at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, 46th and N. Illinois St., with viewing at 10 A.M. at the Church.

Born in Lorain, Ohio, John was the son of Harry P. Houff and Dorothy J. Houff (deceased). He attended Christ the King school and Cathedral High School in Indianapolis, and Georgetown University (School of Foreign Service) in Washington, D.C., being elected Vice President of his senior class. John's love of all things Potomac never left him, and he was especially honored when his former Georgetown student-government colleague, President Clinton, invited him and his family to the White House.

John earned his law degree from Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis and served the State of Indiana in the Office of the Attorney General (Jack Dillon) and as Law Clerk to Appellate Ct. Judge White. In his life-long career with the U. S. Government, John served with distinction in the Department of Veterans Affairs. Following his appointment as Regional Counsel for the VA, he served as chief of Legal Affairs and staff for both Indiana and Kentucky. In recognition of his work on behalf of veterans and the hospitals that served them, he was bestowed a Kentucky Colonel by the State of Kentucky.

Among his many accomplishments, John was past President of the Federal Bar Association, President of the Civil War Roundtable (Indianapolis), and Lector at his parish. As a leader, a co-worker, or friend, he was a man of wit and wisdom who loved his family, missed his dog Max, still rooted for the Cubs and Colts, and treated everyone kindly. Those who knew him best will remember his great love of reading, visiting bookstores and museums, family outings along the Eastern Shore and Lake Michigan, and playing golf on Wednesdays

(37 1/2 yrs with the same buddies!).

John's survivors include his brother Harry and sister-in-law Alice, nieces Kathleen and Joanne, nephew David (their spouses and children), brother-in-law James Clidinst. His beloved son Benjamin Patrick and wife Rosie will cherish their memories of a man dearly loved. We are grateful to friends, family and all in the health profession who have provided care and concern. You may honor John by sharing a book, telling a great story, preserving a battlefield, or making a donation to cure Multiple Myeloma (c/o IU Simon Cancer Center, Indianapolis, or the International Myeloma Foundation ([www.myeloma.org](http://www.myeloma.org))). Memories welcome at [www.shirleybrothers.com](http://www.shirleybrothers.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **22**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Fishers-Castleton Chapel  
9900 N. Allisonville Road  
Fishers, IN 46038  
(317) 841-7878  
info@shirleybrothers.com  
<https://www.shirleybrothers.com>

## Visitation

NOV **23**. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (ET)

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church  
4625 Kenwood Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46208

## Mass of Christian Burial

NOV **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church  
4625 Kenwood Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46208

# Tribute Wall

RH

“ Rosie Houff lit a candle in memory of John A. Houff



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**Rosie Houff** - July 04, 2016 at 10:37 AM

DB

“ I worked with John for many years at the VA. What for several years I mistook for quiet shyness soon became John's vintage smile and welcoming "what'd ya know kiddo".

*He was/is a fine man Rosie and always knew the secret of life: treat those around you with softness, dignity and respect, with no exceptions and no "regardlesses".*

*Did not know of John's passing or the funeral, but John, consider yourself thought of and remembered, all for and for all the good things in you.*

*Dave Busse*

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**dave busse** - February 09, 2016 at 03:04 PM

KB

“ Dear Rosemarie,

*I saw the sad news about your husband in the Indianapolis newspaper. Deepest condolences on your loss. I well remember him doing the readings at St. Thomas over the years. I will have a mass said for him at our little church up here in Delphi.*

*Sincere sympathy,  
Karen Baer*

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**Karen Baer** - November 25, 2015 at 12:06 PM

JF

“ To Rosie, Ben and family:  
Jackie and I certainly were saddened to learn of John's passing. We wish we could have kept more in touch after we left the VA and Carmel for life and practice in Bloomington. John was a friend and colleague in caring for our nation's veterans. We always enjoyed his excellent counsel and friendship. He had an excellent legal career and was a role model for others in our community. Terry and Marilyn Johnson also wanted to extend their sympathy to Rosie and the Houff family for the family's loss. You are in our prayers. May God be with you and bless you in this time of transition.

*James V. and Jacqueline C. Faris  
Bloomington, IN*

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**James V Faris** - November 23, 2015 at 08:39 AM

 Dave  
Kenney

“ I wish to express my condolences to the Houff family. I met John at Christ the King grade school and shared a friendship through High School. We rode together in the back seat of his father's car nearly every school day. We attended many school activities together, but went "our separate ways" after graduation. It sounds like he had a "Life Well Lived"!! GOD BLESS and Rest In Peace, John.

*Dave Kenney*

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**Dave Kenney** - November 22, 2015 at 11:59 AM

TW

“ *The Pace Family (Joanne, Alva, Alexander & William) purchased the Summer's Light Bouquet for the family of John A. Houff.*



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**The Pace Family (Joanne, Alva, Alexander & William) -**  
November 21, 2015 at 08:51 AM

VM

“ *To the Houff Family,*

*John brought great joy and love to his wife, my friend Rosie. He gave us both great advice, often mixed with humor. My prayers are with you and may the Lord comfort you during this difficult time.*

*Vernell Miller*

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**Vernell Miller -** November 20, 2015 at 08:49 PM



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



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November 20, 2015 at 03:08 PM

RC

“ Dear Rose,

*I am so sorry to hear about your husband, John. Our family is getting smaller this year. I look forward to seeing you again soon!*

Love,

*Robert E. Clidinst, III  
Brownsburg, IN*

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**Robert Clidinst** - November 20, 2015 at 01:41 PM

MH

“ Rosie, Ben and family:

*I was saddened to learn of John's passing. He was a kind and thoughtful man. You are in my prayers*

*Mimi Hinrichs*

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**Marilyn (Mimi) Hinrichs** - November 19, 2015 at 05:10 PM



“ To Rosie and Family,

*So sorry to hear about your loss. John was such a wonderful and kind man. He will truly be missed. You all are in my prayers...Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine on him forever! Amen.,*

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**Diane Orr-Schafer** - November 19, 2015 at 12:46 PM