



Dr. John Daniel Shackle

March 30, 1945 - July 21, 2020

Dr. John Daniel Shackle, 75, of Indianapolis, passed away July 21, 2020 at his home in Indianapolis. He was born March 30, 1945 to the late Cleve D. and Julia E. Shackle. John was a 1963 graduate of Thomas Carr Howe High School. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1969. John received his Bachelor's Degrees and his Doctorate of Optometry from Indiana University, graduating in 1972. He married Nancy Taylor that same year and was on the faculty of Indiana University School of Optometry (Bloomington) for two years. In 1974, they moved to Indianapolis to start a family and a private optometry practice in Irvington, Doctor's Family Eyecare. He retired from practice in 2020. John was a member of the Indiana Optometric Association and the American Optometric Association for 50 years.

John's primary focus was his family. He enjoyed spending all of his free time with his wife and three children. His favorite family activities included hunting/camping, cheering on the Hoosiers, supporting his daughter's basketball career, and boating. He especially loved attending Camp Brosius in Wisconsin. John will be remembered as a loving husband and father, an exceptional optometrist, and an even better person. His goal in life was to always make everyone he came in contact with smile and laugh.

John is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Nancy T. Shackle; children, Daniel T. Shackle (Amy), J. Mitchell Shackle and Sarah K. Shackle (Alisa Oberle); and two grandchildren, Amelia E. and Charlotte W. Shackle.

Due to concerns surrounding the current pandemic, John's family will be having a small, private ceremony. A larger event celebrating John's life will be scheduled next year. Memorial contributions may be made to the I.U. Foundation and/or the Humane Society of Indianapolis. Personal notes to the family may be submitted at www.shirleybrothers.com.

Tribute Wall

JW

“ I found this announcement while researching John’s father, Cleve Shackle. My condolences to the family of John. I see in John’s obituary, it mentions how kind a person he was. I am certain that this was passed down from his father. I know Cleve as a little boy. He was the Pharmacist Bosart Drugs. Everyone called him Doc. Prayers and comfort to John’s family.

Jay Williamson - January 25, 2023 at 10:38 AM

CK

“ I am a couple years late finding out about the beloved doctor's passing. I went to schedule an appointment for my disabled daughter, and received the news, and was heartbroken. I have known Dr. Shackle for just over 30 years. His practice was just a few doors down from the Subway store I managed. He would come in from time to time and I would give him his food on the house. When my daughter was a toddler she accidentally scratched my eye. Doc told me, "come and see me when you get off work". I told him that I wasn't sure I had vision insurance, and he repeated, "COME AND SEE ME WHEN YOU GET OFF WORK". He got looked at my eye, and gave me some drops, and followed up with me until that eye was 100% healed, and he never accepted a penny from me. That man is one of the most beautiful and genuine human beings to ever walk this earth. If I am hurting this badly at his passing, I cannot imagine what his family is going through. They will be in my prayers.

Christopher Kierner - September 29, 2022 at 05:32 PM

LI

“ I just found out about his passing and I am so sorry to hear this. He was always so incredibly kind and thoughtful. All my love and prayers to his family and friends.

Lisa - January 11, 2021 at 03:00 PM

FR

“ Dr Shackle was my eye guy since moving to Irvington in 1978. He was a great doctor, caring, patient, and funny. I will miss him. Without his guidance, i would not have had cataract surgery and a restored vision to 20/20. God bless his family and friends. I am sad i just found out about his death. I will try to attend his memorial service next year.

fred - December 10, 2020 at 10:32 AM

EC

“ Dr. Shackle had been my Eye Guy since my 20's, now I'm in my 50's. I decided instead of being sad and upset about his loss (which I have been feeling). I've decided to be extremely thankful he had been in my life all those years. He always made me feel good and happy no matter what was going on in my life.

Blessings to his family and friends. You all will be in my prayers.

Elizabeth Cress-Tucker - November 23, 2020 at 11:31 AM

AH

“ This is "TMI" folks, but I have to say it:

I met John in September, 1963. We both graduated high school that year. Same age. We were inducted as pledge brothers in the Phi Delta Theta fraternity at IU in Bloomington. There were about 25 pledge brothers. We all soon became "brothers in arms", when the active members started the daily "hazing" rituals. We didn't quite know what to expect, but you either had to stand up or quit (tail between legs). Some left, but most of us buddies stuck with the ordeal. Some of the hazing was so ridiculous that it was funny. (If you had a sense of humor, that is.) Some of it was not so funny. John and I, and the rest of us "victims" saw the humor in it, and we weren't about to be cowed. One of the more minor rituals that the active members came up with was to assign nicknames to us poor victims. Mine was "Bullwinckle", which to this day, I have never figured out. John's was "Sugar-Shack". If you knew John (and you all do), this was a most unusual nickname you could give to a mere pledge, since most nicknames were meant to be insulting. But John was so genuinely "sweet" to everybody (including the fraternity actives), that he soon became "Sugar-Shack". (It actually came from the popular song of the same name, popular in 1962 by Jimmy Gilmer and The Fireballs.)

I left IU because I really wanted to be an engineer. But I never forgot "Sugar Shack". We went separate ways. When I graduated from University of Evansville in 1974, I moved to Indianapolis to work at U.S. Naval Avionics Facility (NAFI) as an electrical engineer. I had several truly great mentors who helped me to develop into a useful, effective engineer. After about a year, I needed to see an optometrist. One of my main mentors (Rudy Tatay) told me, "I have this great optometrist named John Shackle". I immediately shouted "SUGAR-SHACK!". Rudy got quizzical and then, after I shared the above story, said "It's the same guy!" Of course, it was.

I have seen "Dr. Shackle" (no, my buddy Sugar Shack) every year

since 1975. 45 years. It was never just an eye exam. It was at least an hour of telling stories, laughing about the guys we both shared "hazing" with, and catching up about our respective family stories, our kids, wives, careers, hobbies, businesses, etc." We always had to end it with "Alan, I have other patients waiting in the lobby". Every single year. I apologize to you people who had to wait for me and Shack over the years. But then you got to share his love the way I did, and he took the same time with you people who all know and love the same kind man that I have known and loved all these years.

That's my "short-story" of Dr. John Shackle. This is what a "Good Doc" really is. I am blessed to have grown up in a family of beloved "Good Docs" (and a Good Lawyer or two). How blessed I am to have been his friend. I have more to say, but I don't want to hog the whole thing.

Except one more thing: When Dr. John left to join Ossip, I originally thought, "Is John selling out to "The Big Company?". It has been about 10 years now. (That many?) The Ossip office folks and Docs have all been just like John's Dr's Family Eye care. In fact, Ossip brought his entire wonderful office staff into their family. Friendly, loving, attentive, competent, professional. Who could ask for more? This is a great country. Please let us count our blessings.

Alan Hoover - September 24, 2020 at 09:18 PM

LS

“ I have been a patient for over 20 years....he was wonderful. ...a great sense of humor. .I will truly miss him....blessings to his family .Linda Suesz

Linda Suesz - August 28, 2020 at 12:50 PM

TC

“ Dr. Shackle was my eye Dr. for many many years..... it was always a joy to see him. always a kind word very caring and concerned for your health more than just the eyes.
He will truly be missed..... I am so sorry for your loss !!!

Toni Clendenin

Toni Clendenin - August 25, 2020 at 01:04 PM

NL

“ I also have been a long time patient of Dr Shackle's and so appreciated him as a caring and kind eye doctor and truly missed him when he was no longer available last year. I looked forward to my yearly visits with him where we would always trade family stories. He never failed to remind me that he liked that my name is the same as his wife's. When I got married 6 years ago I urged my husband to see Dr Shackle for his glasses. My husband also very much enjoyed his annual visits and Dr Shackle's great sense of humor. We both were shocked and saddened when we opened last Sunday's paper and saw his obituary. Our sincere condolences to his wife and family. He is and will be missed.

Nancy Lee and Steve Munden

Nancy L Lee - August 23, 2020 at 04:31 PM

KF

“ We were long time patients of Dr. Shackle. During appointments, his abilities as an optometrist were appreciated, but the sense that we were in the presence of a truly caring doctor and man kept us as patients as we followed him from his E. Washington St office to Ossip Optometry. He will be truly missed. Our sympathies to his family.

Karla Thompson & family - August 21, 2020 at 04:00 PM

TB

“ I went to Dr. Shackle for about 40 years. I was so saddened to hear of his passing. I looked forward to each visit. He always talked about his family and was interested in hearing about mine. He was truly one of the greatest. I am fortunate to have met him. My condolences to his family. May he rest in peace,

Tina Burkhart

Tina Burkhart - August 20, 2020 at 06:46 PM

LC

“ When I turned the page in the newspaper and saw Dr. Shackle's picture with his obituary, I was shocked and sadden knowing I won't be seeing this wonderful person again. He was not only my eye doctor, but he was my friend. I am not surprised that I am not the only one with the same sentiments. I also started going to Dr. Shackle when he started his practice. He saw me through contacts, Lasik and Cataract eye surgeries. I don't recall ever seeing him upset about anything. He had the best disposition and will be greatly missed. May he rest in peace.

My husband, Larry and I send our deepest condolences to his wife and family.

Linda Card

Linda Card - August 20, 2020 at 01:47 AM

JH

“ My most sincere condolences to the Shackle family. Dr. Shackle was my optometrist for many years. It was always a great pleasure to keep my eye appointment with him. His love for his family and pride in all of you was always on display. He was interested in what I was doing and made our time together enjoyable. I think the sentiments expressed in his obituary said it best: "John will be remembered as a loving husband and father, an exceptional optometrist and an even better person. His goal in life was to always make everyone he came in contact with smile and laugh." He achieved his goal many times over and I shall miss seeing him.

John Hanley - August 18, 2020 at 01:23 PM

DV

“ Such a loss to the world. John's contagious smile and laughter along with his positive attitude is leaving a huge void in all the lives he touched. Keep smiling down on us sweet man.

Alan & Debra Vickrey

Debra Vickrey - August 17, 2020 at 10:40 AM

PJ

“ We first knew John as "Nancy Taylor's fiance" - and then it was my privilege to officiate at their July 15, 1972 wedding at Trinity Church, Crawfordsville. Then he was our good doctor and good friend after we moved back to Indianapolis east side. We've missed him since we retired - and even more so now. May God's peace be with you!
Paul and Dee Jump

Paul T. Jump - August 16, 2020 at 11:45 AM



“ *Dr. Shackle may you REST IN HEAVEN. great man and a wonderful doctor .I will truly miss you man.*

Ronnie Webb - August 16, 2020 at 10:08 AM

MC

“ *I have known Dan since he was a very little boy as he grew up directly across the street from my home at 42 North Colorado Avenue, Indianapolis Indiana. He and his parents, Cleve and Julia were dear friends of my parents, George Lyle and Stella Johnson. We went to his Little League Base ball games and watched him grow up into an exceptionally fine man. He and Nancy created their wonderful home and raised their two children Dan and Sarah there, and are proud of grandchildren, Amelia and Charlotte, I was one of his first patients of his Doctor's Family Eyecare after his graduation from I.U. I shall always be grateful for his friendship, his professional skill, his love. Love and Blessings, Thoughts and Prayers for his family. Marjorie Johnson Carmony, Manilla, Rush County, Indiana*

Marjorie Carmony - August 16, 2020 at 09:35 AM

JC

“ *Dr.Shackle was my eye doctor for many many years and he was a great doctor, personal and caring. While we all have a limited time on this earth, he made a great contribution. I for one will miss him. James Clinr*

James Cline - August 16, 2020 at 09:31 AM

LC

“ Nancy ~ just saw this in today's paper. What a shock! I'm so very very sorry. He was a terrific man, wonderful doctor!, great father & husband. I know he will be missed terribly. Please know I'm thinking of you and your kids and sending prayers for peace in the coming days, weeks, months.

💙 Lezlie (Schneiter) Ceglio
317-459-1988

Lezlie Ceglio - August 16, 2020 at 08:46 AM

SF

“ We had the great pleasure of using John as our eye Dr. from the first day he started his practice in Indy. It included my wife and I and then our two children and then our two grandchildren. He was a great man, always had time to talk to us and catch up on family and current events. Will miss him but will always remember him as a friend.

Shearon family - August 14, 2020 at 12:21 PM

SG

“ Hello Nancy & Family, So very sorry for your loss. I was a 1963 Howe classmate of John. He was an extraordinary person! ALWAYS kind, highly respectful and genuine, one of those people on everybody's team, we all loved him. My sympathy goes to his loving family. Sincerely, Susan Downey Graybill

Susan Graybill - August 10, 2020 at 04:06 PM