



John Robert Stafford

March 11, 1931 - February 21, 2020

John R. Stafford, 88, of Indianapolis, passed away February 21, 2020. He was born March 11, 1931 in Bedford, Indiana to the late James and Altha Stafford. John was an honors graduate of Tech High School in Indianapolis and received his Bachelors Degree from Indiana University and his Masters Degree from the University of Colorado. He was a dedicated teacher, first in Warren Township and then at Westminster High School in Westminster, Colorado. John excelled in preparing his students academically and revered in the delight of knowing many of them as individuals. While teaching in Colorado, John prepared his AP Biology students so that nearly all of them passed their AP exams, earning them university credit and with the majority of them achieving the highest possible score. He was a champion, not only for his students, but for his teaching colleagues as well, having served three terms as president of the Warren Township Teachers Association. John was a dedicated and generous friend to many, both in Colorado and Indianapolis.

A celebration of life will be Thursday, February 27, 2020 from 2:00 p.m. until the time of service at 3:30 p.m. at Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel, 9606 East Washington Street.

John is survived by his brothers, David Stafford of San Antonio, Texas; Steve Stafford of Napa, California; and sister, Kathleen Bradley of Seymour, Indiana. He was preceded in death by his sister, JoAnn Poindexter.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 27. 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel
9606 E. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46229
(317) 897-9606
<https://shirleybrothers.com/>

Funeral Service

FEB 27. 3:30 PM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel
9606 E. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46229
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Tribute Wall

DS

“ John's kindness and generosity are what stands out in my memories of him. He was always available to talk, always encouraging, and allowed me to be me. His classroom was an oasis in my life. I still have a poster he gave me when I was a just another brat in the 9th grade at Clear Lake - his insistence on gifting it to me is a lesson in generosity I carry with me to this day, 40 years or so later. Years later, sitting and watching a movie together I was still learning from him. He was an incredible friend. Peace be with you, my friend - David S.

David Swift - May 08, 2021 at 03:16 AM

SM

“ John was an incredible teacher and kind human being. He cared about students, teachers and family. I was honored to teach with him in the same high school in Westminster, CO.
Rest in peace, John. You have certainly made a positive difference in this tired world.
Shelly Means



Shelly Means - March 12, 2020 at 03:10 PM

PR

“ Dear Mr. Stafford, You ignited the spark of my love for science. In 7th and 8th grade science classes at Moorhead Junior High in Indianapolis, you recognized my insatiable curiosity and intense desire to dig into just about any area of science., You encouraged me in it and urged me on. I majored in math and physical science in college and ended up spending my working career in software and systems engineering, fields of science that I didn't even dream of then. I have thought of you often throughout my life, and am happy to see how you inspired other students in the same way as you did me.

*Pam Wilson Reynolds, Warren Central High School, Indianapolis,
Class of 1964
Cedar Rapids, Iowa*

Pam Reynolds - March 08, 2020 at 10:04 AM

TW

“ Dear Mr. Stafford, how can me and my friends ever thank you for all you did for generations of students? The unique story of our class in the mid sixties at Woodview and Creston Junior High schools was that many of us grew up in your 7 and 8 grade science class and then were blessed to have you as our freshman biology teacher. You were a wonderful teacher, friend and colleague to both students and staff. You are the reason I studied Biology at IU and became a Science teacher. Thank you for all of the wonderful memories, Terry Woodburn, class of 1969 WCHS.

Terry Woodburn - February 27, 2020 at 02:07 PM

CR

“ *There is no way to adequately express in words my thoughts about John (or "Mr. Stafford" as I first knew him as he impacted my life tremendously in my junior high years at Creston in Warren Township). Every time I try the words fall far short, and are so limited in scope. He was very affirming of the other person's worth, and allowed me to be myself without fear. The fact that we were again able to be in touch over the past few decades as adults was extremely good fortune.*

Carolyn Robey - February 26, 2020 at 05:14 PM

DS

“ *Dave Selby purchased the Delightful Dieffenbachia for the family of John Robert Stafford.*



Dave Selby - February 26, 2020 at 04:57 PM

LC

“ Dear Safford Family,

I was one of Mr. Staffords Westminster High School students in AP Bio (Class of '91!). He was an extraordinary teacher... to all of us. We all did so good on the AP Bio exam because 1)he taught us to understand the subject - not just memorization for a test and 2) we all wanted to impress him and make him happy!

So many of his students are friends to this day because he created such an open and exciting classroom where we could let down our guard and actually enjoy the school part of high school.

You all are in my thoughts - he will be missed by many.

Lance Criley

Lance Criley - February 24, 2020 at 09:05 PM