



John A. Welch

March 25, 1961 - July 10, 2020

John A. Welch,

59, of Wasilla, AK, passed away July 10, 2020. He was born March 25, 1961 in Belmond, IA, to the late Robert G. and Evelyn L. Welch. John was a 1979 graduate of Beech Grove High School and received his Bachelor's Degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. John spent the majority of his childhood years in Liberia, West Africa, with his parents and three sisters. His love of God, adventure, and motorcycles began with treks into the jungle to spread the gospel with his late father.

A few years after returning from Africa, the adventure continued when, 16 year old John fell in love with a girl named Teresa and was married at the ripe old age of 17. Always the overachiever, John started the family right away. Ten months after he was married, his first child was born. John had three more children before the age of 26. John and Teresa served the United States via John's first career in the U.S. military. John spent the beginning six years of his military career in the Army. He flew Cobra helicopters, and through continued hard work and grit he became the youngest commissioned Warrant Officer at the time at 19 years old.

John's spirit of adventure then pulled him toward the dream of flying jets off of aircraft carriers. He moved from the Army to the Navy to chase that dream and the next 14 years he traveled the world, overachieving, and loving life as a Navy Pilot. For a time John flew S3 jets off of those carriers he dreamed about and eventually flew DC9 jets with the VR-52 squadron in Willow Grove,

Pennsylvania. After proudly serving in the military for 20 years, he retired as a Lieutenant Commander and was hired by Northwest Airlines (now Delta Airlines).

As a commercial airline pilot John was able to continue traveling the world, and flew many different kinds of aircraft including the Airbus, 747, and 757-ER to only name a few. He used the blessings this path created to pour into his beloved family, Liberia, his church family, his friends, prison ministry, and even the lives of many strangers along the way. He was a man of impact, when he walked into a room people noticed. There was no one like him and there never will be again.

In life John enjoyed fishing, hiking, hunting, ATVs, racing and playing cards. At the time of his passing he was a member of East Rawles Church of God, Indianapolis, and a member of Northgate Church, Wasilla, AK as well as an active member of Love Liberia Missions.

John is survived by his wife of 42 years, Teresa K. Welch; sons, Rev. Robert A. "Drew" Welch (Jessica) and Stephen A. Welch (Rachael); daughters, Jana L. Allman (Denny) and Marilynne "Brook" Manuel (Christopher); grandchildren, Ian, Kayla, Kirsten, Marleigh and Madison (Aug '20); sisters, Connie S. Dunaway (Rev. Russ), Sherry K. Moore (Rev. Thomas) and Lynn A. Tofts (Kevin); and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be Saturday, August 1, 2020 from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. at Evangel Church, 1221 East Main Street, Greenfield. Funeral services will follow from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. John will be transported to his Beloved Alaska for his final resting place.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Love Liberia Missions for a building project that will be named in his memory at www.loveliberiamissions.org/donate. Final care and arrangements are entrusted to Shirley Brothers Thompson Road Chapel.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 1. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Evangel Church
1221 East Main Street
Greenfield, IN 46140

Funeral Service

AUG 1. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Evangel Church
1221 East Main Street
Greenfield, IN 46140

Tribute Wall

JP

“ I was in the Army with John for years and took over his duties as the B troop NBC officer. I took John for his very first aerobatic plane ride in the Citabria while he was finalizing decision to fly aerobatic jets in the Navy. He once told me the story of while in Africa he contracted some kind of illness that could not be cured by American doctors but when he went back to Africa he reluctantly tried (drank it) a chalky glass of a cure for this illness from as he put it "a witch doctor) and it completely cured him. What an amazing story from a truly amazing individual.
CW2 Joe Prince (retired).

Joe Prince - September 21, 2025 at 02:53 AM

BM

“ John, (Juice) taught me how to fly high speed jets when I joined VR52. Loved him. So sad to hear the news, through fellow pilots/squadron mates. He and I shared motocross racing passion in our backgrounds, instantly bonding. He always cracked me up, just something about him. He'll always be there in my mind. God Bless, mas inmissed the ceremony.
“Moose” Bruce Mackenzie, fellow Navy/Delta brother

Bruce Mackenzie - August 31, 2020 at 01:53 PM

AR

I just found about John this past weekend. We worked together in VR52. Great guy, may he Rest In Peace. My condolences to his family.

Abbas Reza - June 27, 2022 at 02:03 PM

TV

“ *The VR-52 purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of John A. Welch.*



The VR-52 - July 31, 2020 at 09:40 AM

LW

“ *Linda Wackerman sent a virtual gift in memory of John A. Welch*



Linda Wackerman - July 31, 2020 at 08:34 AM

LW

“ *Juice was an amazing human being. He was always the center of attention and an example of living life to it's fullest. He knew how to make everyone feel welcomed and important. His vibrant smile was contagious and his genuine caring of others was his trademark. He always had a word of advice and a story to tell. He would share his love for God and how important he was in his life. John is so dearly loved by God, Theresa, his family, his navy family, and his aviation brothers and sisters. He will be sorely missed. Rest In Peace Juice, we have the watch!*

Linda Wackerman - July 31, 2020 at 08:33 AM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of John A. Welch.



July 30, 2020 at 05:23 PM



“ Meat & Cheese Sympathy Gift Crate was purchased for the family of John A. Welch.



July 30, 2020 at 02:58 PM



“ Anne Chouteau and family: Fosters and Walshes purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John A. Welch.



Anne Chouteau and family: Fosters and Walshes - July 29, 2020 at 06:10 PM



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



July 28, 2020 at 03:10 PM

RR

“ Rich "Raz" Racsko purchased the Tranquil Seas for the family of John A. Welch.



Rich "Raz" Racsko - July 22, 2020 at 06:20 AM

RD

“ Roger & I will always be ever so grateful for the warm welcome and whole day spent with John as he welcomed us with great warmth to Alaska and showed us around to all of the beautiful sites and his information about it far surpassed any guide we could have paid. He was also a dear friend both at church and otherwise. We greatly enjoyed his warm & friendly smile and love of the lord and sermons. No one could ever take his place in our hearts and our prayers and best wishes go out to all of his family and friends. He had a business as well as numerous homes to take care of at the time he showed us Alaska but he chose to spend the whole day showing us the sights even though the rest of his family was in Indy and his wife had a cast on her leg and could not be of much help with all of that. We will always treasure his sacrifices for us. It was a great honor to have known him and worshipped with him. Roger & Kay Dickinson

Roger & Wanda Dickinson - July 20, 2020 at 01:09 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John A. Welch.



July 20, 2020 at 12:14 PM

TF

“ Tom and Sherry Moore and Family purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of John A. Welch.



Tom and Sherry Moore and Family - July 19, 2020 at 07:33 PM

JP

“ John will always be remembered by so many of us in Senegal. He reached out to people wherever he went. He came to visit our school for deaf children and took an interest in what they were learning. And what a passion he had for the Lord! Praying that the Lord will comfort each one in the families that are feeling such loss, knowing that one day we will be reunited. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Pastor Guy and Jane Penney, Dakar, Senegal

jane Penney - July 19, 2020 at 05:50 AM

JF

“ Joseph and Myrna Henry Bradenton, FL purchased the *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* for the family of John A. Welch.



Joseph and Myrna Henry Bradenton, FL - July 18, 2020 at 10:33 AM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of John A. Welch.



July 17, 2020 at 11:40 AM

AD

“ My deepest sympathies to Theresa and the family. when I first met John, I met an earnest , caring and genuine human being. He Welcomed me as if he had known me forever. He also put to rest most of my fears about flying In an airplane by giving me knowledge of flying. He was a wonderful story teller and made laughing easy to come along. His love for Liberia was undeniable. He will be greatly missed and his impact in this society will always be remembered. Rest well JOHN!

Amelia Dahn - July 17, 2020 at 07:48 AM

KS

“ John had a loving spirit, a contagious smile and a generous soul. He lived a glorious life and will be deeply missed by all he touched. His greatest legacy is his lovely family and the souls he has helped meet Jesus. We will meet again one day. Love you Theresa and family. ❤️ Kaye Saxon

Kaye Saxon - July 17, 2020 at 12:45 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John A. Welch.



July 16, 2020 at 02:17 PM