



Dr. John Whitney

June 4, 1939 - January 28, 2017

Dr. John G. Whitney, 77, of Monrovia, passed away at 7:30 p.m., on Saturday, January 28, 2017, in St. Francis Hospital South, Indianapolis, due to complications after enduring a stroke on Thursday . He was born in Ponca City, Oklahoma on June 4, 1939, to the late John and Opal (Stalman) Whitney.

Grounded with Catholic faith, he graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1957. An energetic and profound scholar, John was dedicated, disciplined, and driven to surpass excellence for his success. He immediately went on to pursue his interest in biology; enrolling at Northern Oklahoma College in September, where he obtained a Junior College Certificate in general science. Three days after his 19th birthday, John was united in marriage with his high school sweetheart, Sherry Hubler on June 7, 1958. He moved on to OSU, earning a B.S. in bacteriology (1961) and Ph.D. Microbiology (1967). Instilled with high morals, solid values and strong work ethic, John established a relationship with professor Ed Grula, who would become a mentor; and was instrumental in obtaining a graduate fellowship that led to a successful career path.

Dr. Whitney joined the fermentation research labs of Eli Lilly & Co. in 1967, where his studies involved the biosynthesis of various antibiotics. In 1971 he was promoted to head of the fermentation research labs. Among several distinct accomplishments, John was recognized for producing two patents and

several publications within the first four years of his colorful career. During the ensuing years, Dr. Whitney held a variety of managerial positions in the research and development of human and animal drug discovery and development. In addition, he was responsible for integrating various R&D components and served as a leading member in venture agreements with several Japanese university labs and pharmaceutical companies. A past member of the American Society for Microbiology, Phi Lambda Upsilon, Sigma Xi, Dr. Whitney retired as Vice President of the Lilly Research labs in 1993. Drawn to the beauty and warmth of Florida, John and Sherry lived in Key West for a period of time and moved to Indiana in 1997, where they settled on a horse farm in Morgan County. A loving husband, proud father of five children, and soft-hearted Granddad to several grandchildren and five great grandchildren, John was able to enjoy living amongst loved ones on the family farm for the last 19 years and was a faithful member of the St. Thomas More Catholic Church. In his spare time, he liked to golf, boat, fish and above all, spend as much time with his adored family and support the grandkids at sporting events and 4-H shows.

Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Pamela Danford and two infant grandchildren, Taylor and Isabella Whitney.

Survivors include his loving wife, Sherry (Hubler) Whitney of Monrovia; daughter, Shellie Brooks (husband, Michael); sons, John Whitney, III (wife, Kathy), James "Jim" Whitney (wife, Angie), Joseph "Brady" Whitney (wife, Holly) and Joshua Whitney (wife, Andrea) all of Monrovia; sisters, June Moffat and Mary Kelly of Norman, Oklahoma; adored grandchildren, Jordan (wife, Meghan), Zachary (wife, Brandi), Alexa (husband, Brett), Jacob, Elizabeth "Renee", Brandon, Cheyenne, Ella, Sophia, Kenzie, Clay, Alexis, Parker and Lane; 5 great grandchildren, Kellen, Paiton, Everly, Ezra, and Harrison.

Friends and family will gather from 4 to 8 p.m., on Thursday, February 2,

2017, at Light Memorial & Funeral Chapel in Monrovia. A Mass of Christian Burial will begin at 1:00 p.m., on Friday, February 3, 2017, at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 1200 N. Indiana St., Mooresville. Burial will follow services in the West Union Cemetery, Monrovia. Memorial contributions may be made to support disabled veterans online at www.v4vfund.org or mailed to the Community Foundation of Morgan County, 11 W. Main Street, Mooresville, IN 46158 or to the Shriners Hospital for Children. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home and church. To share a favorite story, sign the online guest registry, send a condolence to the family, or light a candle in John's memory visit www.lightmemorial.com.

Cemetery Details

West Union Cemetery

2038 W. SR 42
Monrovia, IN 46157

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 2. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Light Memorial & Funeral Chapel
585 East Main Street
Monrovia, IN 46157
(317) 996-2101
<https://www.lightmemorial.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 3. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Thomas More Catholic Church
1200 N. Indiana Street
Mooresville, IN 46158

Tribute Wall



“ *Per several requests, Memorial contributions may be made online at www.v4vfund.org.*

LIGHT MEMORIAL Light Memorial & Funeral Chapel - February 06, 2017 at 03:54 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. John Whitney.*



February 02, 2017 at 08:59 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to the entire family. Although I was not acquainted with John, I can plainly see his love for family from browsing the photo album. I worked with Mike at Eli Lilly in Medical Information Systems. May God bless you and give you peace.*
Duane Marker

Duane Marker - February 02, 2017 at 08:23 PM



“ *Beverly Phillips lit a candle in memory of Dr. John Whitney*



Beverly Phillips - February 02, 2017 at 07:13 PM

VD

“ *John was a great guy, always had a kind word even after we moved to different departments at Eli Lilly. Condolences and sympathy to his family.* ”



Veronica Daupert - February 02, 2017 at 05:50 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. John Whitney.* ”



February 02, 2017 at 04:53 PM

SF

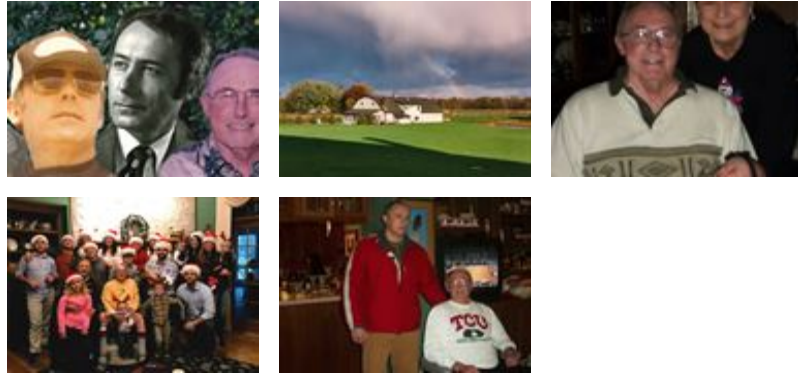
“ *Steve & Angie Walters and family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. John Whitney.* ”



Steve & Angie Walters and family - February 02, 2017 at 04:09 PM



“ 102 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Light Memorial & Funeral Chapel - February 02, 2017 at 11:30 AM

BR

“ *I worked with John at Lilly and always found him to be a kind and fair person. My condolences to the family; may he rest in eternal peace.*

Bill Reid - February 01, 2017 at 09:12 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Dr. John Whitney.*



February 01, 2017 at 08:19 PM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Dr. John Whitney.*



February 01, 2017 at 05:34 PM



“ *Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Dr. John Whitney.*



February 01, 2017 at 04:54 PM



“ *We were shocked and saddened to hear of John's passing. Patrick was a colleague of his for many years at Lilly and found him to be a most understanding and outstanding leader. As a friend, he was great fun and so enjoyable to be around. We send our sincere condolences to Sherry and his family.*
Patrick and Elizabeth Roffey

Patrick & Elizabeth Roffey - February 01, 2017 at 04:50 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. John Whitney.*



February 01, 2017 at 01:34 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Dr. John Whitney.



February 01, 2017 at 10:31 AM



“ *Sapphire Skies Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Dr. John Whitney.



February 01, 2017 at 10:21 AM



“ *Love, Jeff & Kimmy Hodge* purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Dr. John Whitney.



Love, Jeff & Kimmy Hodge - February 01, 2017 at 10:06 AM



“ *Jody Lasiter and Gordon Pitman* purchased the *Fall Fantasia* for the family of Dr. John Whitney.



Jody Lasiter and Gordon Pitman - February 01, 2017 at 08:58 AM

CG

“ Christina Grindle sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. John Whitney



Christina Grindle - January 31, 2017 at 08:33 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. John Whitney.



January 31, 2017 at 03:34 PM

BE

“ Brett, Rebecca & Anna Everett sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. John Whitney



Brett, Rebecca & Anna Everett - January 31, 2017 at 12:42 PM

CT

“ Cadence Team purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. John Whitney.



Cadence Team - January 31, 2017 at 12:39 PM

DM

“ We had many adventures and fun times together in our younger days at Eli Lilly where it was a pleasure to have you as a friend and frequent mentor. Sue and I miss you.

Dr Jerry Mann - January 31, 2017 at 08:31 AM

KB

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the family!



Kelly Bain - January 31, 2017 at 06:33 AM