



## John H. Emhuff

March 9, 1936 - February 10, 2022

John Hayden Emhuff passed away peacefully on February 10, 2022 at the home of his daughter, Susy Hall, in Evansville, Indiana.

John was born on March 9, 1936 in Seymour, Indiana to William and Thelma (Hayden) Emhuff.

John attended Indiana University, where he earned bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees. His career as an educator spanned 41 years, beginning with teaching roles in California and Indiana, followed by a principalship at Blackford County High School in Indiana. In 1970, John joined ISUE (now the University of Southern Indiana) as a professor of education, Dean of Students, and Director of Alumni affairs. In 1975, John joined the Metropolitan School District of Mt. Vernon. After serving as the principal of Hedges Central Elementary School, he held the position of Assistant Superintendent of Instruction until his retirement in 2000.

John's tenure with the Mt. Vernon school district culminated with the creation of the Dr. John H. Emhuff Alternative School, now known as the Opportunity Center.

In honor of John's service, the Indiana School Boards Association conferred the Lorin A. Burt Award, recognizing overall excellence in contributions to Indiana education. His most cherished honor, though, was being named Teacher of the Year during the early years of his career.

Following retirement from the field of education, John began a second career, working in the Posey County Circuit Court of Judge James Redwine and

assisting at the Austin Funeral Home.

Throughout his life in Mt. Vernon, John broadly served the community as an active member of the Kiwanis International Service Club, as a board member for the Posey County Red Cross, and as a board member for the Community Action Program of Evansville.

In recognition of his community and career service, John was named a recipient of the Sagamore of the Wabash award, the highest honor bestowed by the Governor of Indiana.

John attended the First United Methodist Church in Mt. Vernon. He volunteered as a statistician for the men's basketball team at the University of Southern Indiana, he officiated high school football, and he held season tickets for his beloved Indiana University football team.

John enjoyed fishing, traveling, sharing the bounty of his vegetable garden, and playing hearts at the Dogtown tavern. In his later years, he loved shopping at Schnucks, meeting for coffee at McDonalds and Starbucks, and playing poker at the Aztar riverboat. More than anything, John enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, treating them to movies, to tailgating at IU football games, and to his world-famous chocolate milk shakes.

John showered his family and friends with boundless love. He was devoted to Beverly, his wife of 65 years. He was a champion for the hopes of children, and he was a respected mentor to colleagues who shared his passion for developing kids. John nurtured enduring friendships, and his warmth and unparalleled generosity extended to everyone he knew.

John approached every interaction with humility, with tolerance, and with an abundance of kindness. He touched the lives of so many, and within them, John's legacy will live.

John is survived by wife Beverly (Knott), children Betsy Emhuff, Erich Emhuff (Bridgett), Susy Hall (Kirk), Janey Albin, Krista Whipple, and Katey Smith. Grandchildren Hannah, Grace, Shaun, Dylan, Austin, Anderson, Colin, Meghan, and Aidan. Great grandchildren Justice, Bishop, Kash, Cy, Oakleigh, Olivia, Amarah, Amaya, and Lavada.

A private service will be held at Pierre Funeral Home in Evansville, Indiana on February 19.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Wildcats Remembered, PO Box 120, Mt. Vernon, Indiana, 47620.

# Cemetery Details

## **Black Cemetery**

Mt. Vernon, IN 47620

# Tribute Wall



“ *Pierre Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John H. Emhuff*



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**Pierre Funeral Home** - February 18, 2022 at 03:36 PM

DG

*Precious memorial memories* 💕

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**Don Grantham** - February 19, 2022 at 02:23 PM



“ *John H. Emhuff*

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January 16, 2023 at 06:53 PM

VS

“ *John will be deeply missed by many. I cherish my memories of working together, sharing stories and a passion for our loved ones. John and Bev are two of the most amazing and loving people I've had the honor to call friend. Blessings to the family.*

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**Valerie Seifert** - February 19, 2022 at 12:59 PM

AW

“ *LOVE & STRENGTH to your family throughout this very difficult time.  
~deepest sympathy  
Angie Woolems*



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**Angie Woolems** - February 19, 2022 at 09:48 AM

MH

“ *Martha Horton lit a candle in memory of John H. Emhuff*



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**Martha Horton** - February 19, 2022 at 07:44 AM

JK

“ One of the wisest decisions MSD Mt. Vernon ever made was to select Dr. John Emhuff as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum. He was transformative in leading our school system to be one of the most progressive in the State of Indiana. He was always, always supportive of news ideas the staff wished to pursue. If you needed buses, money, or staff, he would find a way!

As a prime example, he initiated the district's twelve-year involvement in the Teachers' Teaching Teachers program, which sent a cadre of teacher trainers across the country to be exposed to state-of-the-art teaching strategies and methods. Those teachers would return to the district, practice those strategies in their classrooms for a year, then train hundreds of staff in our district, as well as those in New Harmony and North Posey. I was fortunate and will be forever grateful that I was included in that group. Starting in 2005, the Emhuff Opportunity Center was another innovation that has helped hundreds of at-risk students graduate on time with their classmates. He generated the funding and support of the board for numerous other cutting-edge programs.

He was my best friend and mentor, and I will sorely miss him.

*Jerry Kuykendall*

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**Jerry Kuykendall** - February 18, 2022 at 05:45 PM

JK

*My apologies. The Emhuff Opportunity Center began in 1996.*

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**Jerry Kuykendall** - February 19, 2022 at 11:55 AM



“ 174 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



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**Pierre Funeral Home** - February 18, 2022 at 03:23 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet* was purchased for the family of *John H. Emhuff*.



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February 18, 2022 at 02:22 PM

GC

“ Dr. Emhuff was my first administrator when I graduated from U of E and began teaching at Hedges Central. He was a true gentleman, kind friend, and most professional mentor to someone like me just starting my career. He talked about his family all the time as we shared many stories of big families (I came from a family of 9). I only had one year under his tutelage as the US Air Force took our family elsewhere, but he had a long-lasting effect on my career. I enjoyed reading about all of his community endeavors. I am certain that you, as a family, feel very blessed to have had him in your life. I pray that your memories of his time with you bring you peace and joy. Know that his spirit for helping others lives on! Ginger Conrad



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**Ginger Conrad** - February 17, 2022 at 03:01 PM

RF

“ You have our sympathy and are in our prayers.

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**Ron and Norma Bray Faust** - February 16, 2022 at 11:02 PM

DM

“ Such a wonderful man and a precious family!

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**Debbie Morgan** - February 16, 2022 at 07:32 PM

PF

“ Paula Fraliex lit a candle in memory of John H. Emhuff



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**paula fraliex** - February 16, 2022 at 02:16 PM

DM

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the entire family with Dr. Emhuff's passing.*

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**Dave Mitchell** - February 16, 2022 at 01:00 PM

KR

“ *As the current Director of the Children's Learning Center of Posey County, I wanted to express our deepest condolences to Dr. Emhuff's family. Dr. Emhuff was instrumental in planning, campaigning for, and ultimately building our facility. We are working very hard everyday to revive the center and make Dr. Emhuff proud of our progress. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family of such an inspirational man who recognized the value of a quality education regardless of age. Thank you Dr. Emhuff for all you accomplished.*

*-The Administration and Staff of the Children's Learning Center of Posey County*

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**Karissa Rushing** - February 16, 2022 at 10:48 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John H. Emhuff.*



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February 15, 2022 at 10:47 PM

LM

“ *Katrina, I am so very sorry for the loss of your father. Sending love and prayers to you and your family.*



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**Lynn McMahon** - February 15, 2022 at 07:22 PM

TM

“ *There are persons and families in our lives which foster great memories, relationships and smiles. To our family, Dr. John, Bev and their children were these blessings. It has unfortunately been many years since we have visited with the Emhuff's. This has simply been due the the demands of careers and family. Nonetheless, my memories of our families coming together are still vivid and joyful. Additionally, communication with our friends is still natural and genuine. Dr. John was always kind, supportive and encouraging. I am confident that, consistent with what Dr. John would want, our relationships will continue.*

*Tom Miller*

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**Tom Miller** - February 15, 2022 at 02:37 PM

KD

“ John taught at Martinsville High School during my junior and senior years there.

When I returned from the military to complete my college education, I did so at ISUE where I was in at least one class John taught.

Then, after graduation I was hired to teach in Mt. Vernon and a few years later John came to serve as principal at Hedges Central Elementary where my wife, Linda, was teaching at the time. So John and I had quite a connected history, and I couldn't have had that with a better guy. John was an absolutely wonderful person in every way, and I feel blessed to have known him as a mentor and a friend.

Karl Dorff

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**Karl Dorff** - February 15, 2022 at 09:04 AM



“ Such a wonderful man who truly made the world a better place. He had a way of making everyone feel special. I will be forever grateful that his love and devotion spilled over into the Opportunity Center and has been a second chance for so many. Love and hugs to all of you.

Jamie Peck McKee

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**Jamie Peck McKee** - February 15, 2022 at 06:37 AM



“ I was blessed to know John and his family for 45 years. Growing up with Jane, Krista, and Katy was a lot of fun, as was the pickup basketball games in his driveway. A lot of kids who have now grown up are grateful to the Doc for letting us have fun playing the game he loved so much. Thank you, Doc, and may you Rest In Peace

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**James Willhide** - February 14, 2022 at 08:33 PM