



## John Spencer

June 24, 1933 - May 17, 2019

John Riley Spencer, age 85, of Broken Arrow, OK, died at home on May 17, 2019. He was born on June 24, 1933, to David E. and Effa Jewel (Walker) Spencer in Edmond, OK. He was the third of three children. His brother John David Spencer was born and died in 1920. His sister, May-Belle Spencer Arnold was their next child.

John grew up in Coal County, Oklahoma, and graduated from Coalgate High School in 1951. He graduated from Oklahoma A&M College in 1955 with a Bachelor's degree in accounting. He went to work for the Internal Revenue Service as Internal Revenue Agent in 1962 and retired in 1989. During that time, he instructed 12 tax law classes for Revenue Agents. He also served as a group manager and for half of his career, John served as Team Coordinator in the Large Case Examination Program. Following retirement, he was self-employed, doing financial, tax, and estate planning. He published a Handbook for United Methodist Ministers which he used during minister tax seminars. He turned in his professional certificates in 2002. During his service with the IRS, he received numerous awards and commendations.

John served in the Army (active and reserves) from October 1954 to June 1993 at which time he was transferred to the Retired Reserves. During his active duty time he was the Propulsion Specialist on the Corporal Guided Missile where he was stationed at Ft. Bliss, TX and Zweibrucken West

Germany. John attained the enlisted rank of Master Sergeant and was commissioned Warrant Officer W-1 in 1968 at the time he became an accredited Special Agent, U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command. Upon his retirement in 1993, John had risen to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer W-4. In February 1994, John was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for Meritorious Service as a Citizen Soldier, the highest award in the Army Reserves.

Following graduation from Oklahoma A&M College, he married Susan Kay Thornham on August 11, 1956. They were blessed with four sons: John David, Robert, James, and Todd. John David died of meningitis in 1959 at the age of 14 months.

John was predeceased by his parents, son John David, brother John David, and sister May-Belle. He is survived by his wife Susan; son Robert, a physician in Denver, CO and wife Tammy; James an architect in Dallas, TX and wife Stacy; and Todd a United Methodist Minister in Colorado Springs, CO and wife Debi. He is also survived by six grandchildren: Matthew, Madeline, Bobby, Brenna, Lukas, and Ethan all of whom he enjoyed visiting and spoiling during his retirement years. He loved the name his grandchildren called him, Buddy. He is also survived by his niece Alena Jo Gleason.

During the years that his sons were growing up, John was active with them in scouting, Y-Indian Guides and supporting their programs in United Methodist Youth Fellowship at St. Stephens UMC in Broken Arrow, OK. From the time he and his family moved to Broken Arrow in 1972, John served St. Stephens in many offices and as Sunday School teacher. Following retirement from the IRS, he was accepted into membership of the Oklahoma Society of Public Accountants. He and Susan were members of the National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees, Tulsa Day-Lite Chapter 2184 where he served as President, Vice President, and Chaplain.

John was a member of the Broken Arrow, OK American Legion Post 110 where he served as Chaplain for many years.

Besides traveling, John enjoyed working in his woodworking shop and tinkering. Broken appliances and whatever, were a challenge to meet and overcome.

A Committal Service will be held at 10:00 am, Thursday, May 23, 2019 at Hayhurst Funeral Home Chapel in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. Burial will follow at a later date at Ft. Gibson National Cemetery. Memorial services will be held Saturday, June 15, 2019 at 2:00 pm at St. Stephens United Methodist Church with Rev. Dr. Kirtley Moelling officiating. Viewing will be on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at Hayhurst Funeral Home from 11:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Memorials may be made to United Methodist Circle of Care % St. Stephens UMC, 400 W. New Orleans, Broken Arrow, OK 74011.

# Cemetery Details

## Fort Gibson National Cemetery

1423 Cemetery Rd.  
Fort Gibson, OK 74434  
(918) 478-2334

# Previous Events

## Viewing

**MAY 21.** 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home  
1660 South Elm Place  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
(918) 258-9623  
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

## Committal Service

**MAY 23.** 10:00 AM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home  
1660 South Elm Place  
Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
(918) 258-9623  
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

## Memorial Service

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JUN 15. 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Stephens United Methodist Church  
400 W. New Orleans  
Broken Arrow, OK 74011

# Tribute Wall



“ *John Spencer*

October 23, 2023 at 01:21 AM



“ *My mom and I send our sincere condolences on John's passing. He was always so kind and friendly. He will be missed.  
Martella and Genevieve*

**Genny** - June 15, 2019 at 02:11 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of John Spencer.*



May 21, 2019 at 08:58 PM



“ *I always loved time spent with the Spencers! So many wonderful memories next door, at the pond, and glooping in the creek. Mr. John will be greatly missed.*

**Will B.** - May 20, 2019 at 06:53 PM



*Will! I remember you from those pond and creek years! Mom and Dad both loved your presence and kindness. Thank you for this note. You bless is still...*

**Todd Spencer** - May 21, 2019 at 05:50 PM



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



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May 20, 2019 at 05:09 PM



“ *One of my fondest memory at OSU & Tulsa was the time spent with the Spencers. Thanks to James who invited me to my 1st American Thanksgiving dinner at Broken Arrow. John & Susan both shared so many good stories & jokes that a Malaysian student from North Borneo felt right at home. John was a kind man with big heart. Returning to US after 25 years & saw him last time in January, the parting words to my son starting out in college was "I'm here when you need help coz your dad will be far away." says a lot about John's kind soul & generosity. We will dearly miss him.*

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**Kiong Chong** - May 20, 2019 at 04:47 PM



*thank you so much Kiong! He will be missed and he loved spending time with you as well.*

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**James Spencer** - May 21, 2019 at 05:22 PM



*Yes, Kiong, your words are such wonderful solace to us. I really enjoyed you being with us those years ago.*

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**Todd Spencer** - May 21, 2019 at 05:48 PM

JY

“ John and Susan have been friends for many years .When my husband died they were the first to be their to help me with arrangements,and they visited when he was sick .Afterwards John helped me to get all my financial needs put in order and what I needed to do for the future .I lasts saw him in Braums ,he give me the biggest hug,and we had a nice talk old times .John was always their to help ,a very giving person.

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**joanne yarwood** - May 20, 2019 at 02:43 PM

LB

“ So many of our family memories of Broken Arrow and St Stephen's UMC include Mr John and his Ms Susan. He was dearly loved by his pseudo-son and daughter (Lamar and Laura); and has a lasting place in the hearts of the neighbor boys he helped "grandparent" - Andy, Will, Luke and Simon. He will be missed, but his legacy of love, and integrity live on - in those he raised and those whose lives he influenced.

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**Laura Barnett** - May 20, 2019 at 12:11 PM



John was always ready with quick wit or thoughtful advice, as needed. Living next door and knowing if it was too late to call or if "the light was still on" was a time filled with neighborly love we will always hold dear.

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**Lamar Barnett** - May 20, 2019 at 01:45 PM

LG

“ John touched our life all the time we lived in Broken Arrow. He and Susan blessed us and our family. We have many fond memories of our time with them. He was a very devout Christian man and many looked up to him.

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**Leslie Graves** - May 19, 2019 at 07:27 PM