



John Erskine Sharp Murrey

June 3, 1954 - April 25, 2022

Pulaski business owner, husband, father, and brother, John Erskine Sharp Murrey passed away on Monday afternoon with his family by his side after an extended illness.

He went to join his parents, Bill and Sara Frances Murrey, and his beloved papillon Vito.

He will be terribly missed by his wife of 31 years, Beverly Murrey; daughters, Rachel (Joe) Weatherly, Lyndsey (Randy) Howell, and Sara Katherine (Cain) Murrey Pierce; brothers, Preston (Patsy) Murrey, and Ed Murrey (daughter Halle); brother-in-law Charles (Cassie) Greene and sisters-in-law Kay Wells and Kathy (Roy) Young; as well as his uncles Nat Murrey and Corky Wakefield, and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Visitation with the family will be held Wednesday, April 27, from 4-8pm at Bennett-May and Pierce Funeral Home. A second visitation will be held Thursday, April 28, at First United Methodist Church of Pulaski from 3-5pm, followed by a celebration of John's life at 5pm.

Born June 3, 1954, John grew up in Giles County amidst the large, but close, Murrey and Sharp families. He was particularly close to his brothers, Preston and Ed, even though Preston and John had asked for a horse instead of a

little brother. The Webb School in Bell Buckle, TN, became a second home for John. He made lifelong friendships among the class of 1972, many of whom gathered each year to duck hunt throughout his life, and remained an engaged alumni.

John briefly attended college before joining the family business at Sharp Motor Company in 1974 in Pulaski, the beginning of a lifelong career in the automobile business. On May 8, 1987, John and his brother Ed established Murrey Chevrolet. He was a member for the Tennessee Automotive Association (TAA), serving as Secretary-Treasurer in 2000 and then, following in his grandfather's footsteps 50 years later, became President in 2001. TAA named John the 2011 Dealer of the Year with their Andrew Jackson Award, and he was named Time Magazine Dealer of the Year for Tennessee in 2012. He continued to serve on the Tennessee Motor Vehicle Commission, TAASIT Board of Trustees, and TAASC Board of Directors until his death.

John led a life of service to his church and his community. He was a lifelong member of the First United Methodist Church of Pulaski, serving in several capacities. He especially looked forward to helping with events like the ham supper and fish fry. He was a leader for the Friends of New Canaan Ranch, former president of the Chamber of Commerce, and a dedicated member of the Exchange Club, having served as president and receiving the Exchangite of the Year Award.

Family was always John's north star. In spring of 1980, he knocked on Beverly's door, the woman he said was the most beautiful he'd ever seen, to take her on a date. As she answered, her 3 and 5-year-old daughters tumbled into the room on top of each other, both trying to see him first. From that day on, John took care of Beverly, Rachel, and Lyndsey as if they were his own. He and Beverly traveled for NADA and TAA conferences and took care of each other through thick and thin. In August of 1991, Sara Katherine set the whole family lovestruck with her arrival. John took being a girl-dad all in stride.

He introduced them to movies and music, two of his loves, from old, black and white war movies to the latest James Bond film, and from classical music to classic vinyl. There was even an unfortunate Yanni stage; they weren't all winners. From meeting boyfriends to arguments about who used his razor, to father-daughter dances, to walking them down the aisle, John showed his girls the kind of love they should come to expect from their husbands. His girls loved animals, and like many dads, he might start out grumping about a new addition, but would always become as attached as any of the family. Through the years, John loved and cared for a menagerie of dogs, cats, fish, guinea pigs, and even a raccoon. He jumped in the river more than once to pull out one of those dogs. Sara Katherine introduced him to the papillon breed with Vito, and Vino is the latest installment. He was a proud puppy grandpa to Mae Mae, Tilly, Stahl, Henry, Vinnie, Chopper, Jack, Mia, Cooper, Buxley, and Charlie.

Honor, service, and sacrifice come to mind when thinking of John's life, contributions, and accomplishments. He was respected and admired as a gentleman. He was a man of great faith and knew all happens according to God's plan, and while he accepted his time was near, he fought for every moment with his family. Beverly stayed right by his side, and he loved having all of his girls home. Of course, there are tears and grief, but when John left this world there was an outpouring of love above all for a good man and a life well lived.

The family would like to extend special thanks to John's cousin Hallie Bensinger, caregivers Chelsey Cardin and Robert Myles, and Compassus Hospice for their dedicated support during John's illness.

For those wishing to honor John, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to First United Methodist Church of Pulaski, The Webb School (319

Webb Road East, Bell Buckle, TN 37020), the Giles County Humane Society, or the Giles County Public Library.

Bennett-May & Pierce Funeral Home and Crematory is in charge of the arrangements for John Erskine Sharp Murrey.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **28**. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (cst)

First United Methodist Church
200 West Jefferson Street
Pulaski, TN

Celebration of Life

APR **28**. 5:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
200 West Jefferson Street
Pulaski, TN

Tribute Wall

DH

“ *DORIS HUGHES lit a candle in memory of
John Erskine Sharp Murrey*



DORIS HUGHES - April 29, 2022 at 04:45 PM

DH

John was a great Boss. Instead of just telling you to do something, he was the type that if he wanted something done he was right in the middle to help.

DORIS HUGHES - April 29, 2022 at 04:46 PM

RH

My friend, john I love john so much. I am looking at his face as I write this. When I think of john, I think of honesty, integrity. What ever came out of his mouth, you could bank on. I think of three men that could be in the same sentence it would be my father, harold hunter, Mr. Murrey johns daddy and john murrey. I will miss john so much. I won't be able to go down to murrey chevy and sit in front of his desk and just talk. I will miss that so much. A little humor about john. I spent so much time with john. we went to ballgames, skiing trip and to florida many times. one funny story. Been to panama city, leaving and decided to stop at waffle house for breakfast. we walked in and a couple had their baby on the floor in their car seat. John walked by and kicked the car seat and the baby rolled out of the seat in the middle of the floor. john was just stunned. I told john pick the baby up. He did. but the laughter never stopped. Next, JOHN and I always went to the local golf tournaments together. we were in lawrenceburg and lyman brown went with us. He was having a great round. On the 16th hole lyman was in the trees and had to hit a low honk to the green. He hit a great shot, problem a dog ran in front of lymans and he hit the dog write in his side. I tried to hold me lauther but I looked in the fairway and john had hit the ground laughing so hard I lost it and started laughing so hard. Lyman would not even ride to the tournament the next day. All came out alright. I could go on and on about john murrey. But what great person. I will miss my friend so much. I cannot believe his is gone. Love you John forever

robert hunter - May 01, 2022 at 03:13 PM

AR

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. John was a great friend and a lifelong buddy since High school. May He RIP. GOD blesses him he will be missed. See you in a not so long a time. Praying for the family for a bright light for all.*

AMSC Carlton W Huckaby USN RET - April 29, 2022 at 04:18 AM

PD

“ John was first and foremost a man of integrity. I had the pleasure of working with him over the years and servicing alongside him at the Motor Vehicle Commission. Always a gentleman he was a fair and just man who I'm certain will be missed by many.

Paula Shaw Daniel - April 28, 2022 at 04:38 PM

TA

“ Tanya Adams Allen lit a candle in memory of John Erskine Sharp Murrey



Tanya Adams Allen - April 28, 2022 at 12:39 PM



“ I grew up with my mother working at Murrey Chevrolet. I always enjoyed seeing him smile when I was around the dealership. He seemed to always enjoy catching up with me. I will miss seeing him around. I am so sorry for his family's loss.

Tanya Hughes - April 27, 2022 at 08:48 PM

DH

He cared about others like that. A great man.

DORIS HUGHES - April 29, 2022 at 04:52 PM

DC

“ To the Murrey family,
I am so sorry for your loss! You are in my
thoughts and prayers.

John was one of the kindest men I ever met!

*He always had a great sense of humor and a smile on his face
when I saw him.*

He was a true gentlemen and will sorely be missed. Rest In Peace!

Delinda Chomer - April 27, 2022 at 04:41 PM



PP

“ Patrick Price lit a candle in memory of John
Erskine Sharp Murrey



Patrick Price - April 27, 2022 at 02:10 PM

CA

“ All the Murreys I've known were (and are) special people, and John
was no exception. He embodied that courtly gentlemanliness
shared by his father and brothers. I knew John from boarding
school, which can be a pretty raw experience, but in the midst of all
the chaos, John was always the eye of the storm, a gentle soul
among savages, with not an unkind word for anyone.

*We lost John too soon, but we're thankful for the time God gave us
with him.*

Diane's and my thoughts and prayers are with y'all.

Chap Adkins - April 27, 2022 at 02:08 PM

DM

“ *A good friend with a good rare sense of humor and the kind of heart that was encompassing with a sense of well being for his fellow man!*

Don Massey - April 27, 2022 at 11:11 AM

DH

“ *Deborah Hopper lit a candle in memory of John Erskine Sharp Murrey*



Deborah Hopper - April 27, 2022 at 11:04 AM

BW

“ *John was a true southern gentleman in the very best sense of the words. I was blessed and honored to be his friend. Love, prayers and sincere condolences to his family from the officers, directors and members of the Tennessee Automotive Association.*

Bob Weaver - April 27, 2022 at 09:49 AM

PG

“ *Phillip Griggs lit a candle in memory of John Erskine Sharp Murrey*



phillip griggs - April 27, 2022 at 07:32 AM

MB

“ Mike Ballard lit a candle in memory of John Erskine Sharp Murrey



Mike Ballard - April 27, 2022 at 12:36 AM

CC

“ Crystal Cotham lit a candle in memory of John Erskine Sharp Murrey



crystal cotham - April 26, 2022 at 11:52 PM

LD

“ Lyndsey Dunnavant lit a candle in memory of John Erskine Sharp Murrey



Lyndsey Dunnavant - April 26, 2022 at 11:20 PM

SM

“ Sara Katherine Murrey lit a candle in memory of John Erskine Sharp Murrey



Sara Katherine Murrey - April 26, 2022 at 09:59 PM

RS

“ Lit a candle in memory of John Erskine Sharp Murrey 🙏 May God give this family peace and comfort at this difficult time of sadness 🙏🙏
👐



Ruth Stewart - April 26, 2022 at 09:18 PM

MF

“ Beverly and family, I am so very sorry for your loss. John was always such a gentleman.

God bless you all,
Melissa Minatra Firetti

melissa firetti - April 26, 2022 at 09:06 PM

CW

“ Carl (Woody) Woodard lit a candle in memory of John Erskine Sharp Murrey



Carl (Woody) Woodard - April 26, 2022 at 08:26 PM

CS

“ Caroline Scoggin lit a candle in memory of John Erskine Sharp Murrey



Caroline Scoggin - April 26, 2022 at 07:50 PM

LG

“ *Lori Gentry lit a candle in memory of John Erskine Sharp Murrey*



lori gentry - April 26, 2022 at 07:40 PM

SP

“ *Another Giles County icon has left us..... rest sweetly John. There will never be another to match your soul and spirit.*
Sebrina Perialas

Sebrina Perialas - April 26, 2022 at 07:38 PM