



## John Shaffner Slye

January 25, 1938 - August 21, 2020

John Shaffner Slye of Tallahassee, Florida, passed away on Friday August 21, 2020 at Capital Regional Medical Center.

A private funeral service will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, August 28. This service will be streamed at <http://youtube.com/stjohnstallahassee>, and available on the St. John's website on Friday afternoon (<http://saint-john.org/online-events/>). The Rev. David C. Killeen will be officiating. Graveside service will be held Saturday August 29 at Evergreen Cemetery in Jacksonville, Florida. Reverend David Ball will be officiating. Memorials may be made to St. John's Episcopal Church of Tallahassee, <http://bit.ly/StJohnsGive>; or to Friends of the Parks, Tallahassee for McCord Dog Park, <https://www.talgov.com/parks/parks-foop.aspx>. Those wishing to sign John's guestbook may do so at [www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com).

John was born January 25, 1938 in Jacksonville, Florida to Ronald Stanly Slye of Ionia, Michigan and Anna Pauline (Shaffner) Slye of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He graduated from the Bolles School in 1955, Duke University in 1959, and Stetson College of Law in 1964. He served two years in the US Army, stationed at Fort Bragg. On February 1, 1964, he married Margaret West in Jacksonville. John practiced law for 49 years, first with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida, then with and Foley & Lardner, both in Jacksonville. In 1990, John joined what became the Florida Department of Children and Families, from which he retired in 2013. In 2010 John received the Claude Pepper Award, given to a lawyer whose character and accomplishments

exemplify the highest ideals of government service.

John worked hard and spent his spare time attending events for his children, playing golf, and planning family vacations. He and his wife Margaret enjoyed getting together as often as possible with their lifelong “Four Seasons” friends and their families.

John and Margaret moved to Tallahassee in 1992, and it became their second hometown. They enjoyed the community of neighbors on Harriman Circle, walking dogs in the dog park, hosting their children and grandchildren, and Tallahassee life in general.

Retirement brought John the joy of being able to visit with his children (really his grandchildren) as often as possible and the freedom to travel around the United States and abroad.

John is survived by his son, David and his wife Madison, of Charleston, SC, and their children Julia, Gabrielle, and Calvin, and his son Hamilton and his wife Kelly of Bridgewater, NJ and their children John, Charlotte, and Andrew; and by his brother Bill and his wife Vicki of Fort Collins, CO. He was preceded in death by his wife Margaret and his son Bill in 2010.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

AUG 28. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. John's Episcopal Church  
211 North Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

# Tribute Wall



“ I had the privilege of knowing John. We met through work. We worked together for two and a half years. What I saw was he was a gentleman. He was kind to everyone. He was respected by everyone. He cared for everyone. However, I saw John mad one time. It made me laugh because even his anger was kind. Anyone who knew John is a better person for knowing him.

---

**Drew Parker** - August 28, 2020 at 07:38 PM



“ I learned a lot about good lawyering from John and more importantly I also learned from him as a great role model in life. Such a wonderful, warm, friendly person who always gave and asked for nothing for himself. John made the world a better place. My deepest condolences.

---

**Jason Dimitris** - August 28, 2020 at 10:06 AM



“ I just want John's family to know I cherished his friendship from the first day we met in Tallahassee in the early 1990s. My wife was a friend of Margaret in the Garden Club too. We worked together at the old HRS and then we managed the legal aspects of spinning that agency into the new Department of Health and Dept,of Children and Families. He was one of the best people and best lawyers I ever knew. I deeply regret that I had not seen him in many months. But my last memory is a positive one. RIP my friend.

*Richard Doran*

---

**Richard Doran** - August 25, 2020 at 10:31 AM

LH

“ I first met John in Gainesville, when he came to work at the Department of Children and Families, and was touring the area offices. The phrase: "he was a gentleman and a scholar" might have originally been penned about John. He was always kind and helpful. Prayers of comfort to his family; he will be missed.

---

**LAUREL HOPPER** - August 24, 2020 at 12:25 PM

BS

“ I am almost exactly three years older than my brother, John. My earliest memories of him was as a "tag-along" little brother. I particularly remember when I was 6 or 7 and went roaming the neighborhood with a friend my age. When I returned home, my parents asked where John was. Apparently he had followed us, we climbed a fence he couldn't get over, so he stayed there and played with a boy he didn't know until my parents found him. That episode cost us both the attendance at a Lee High School football game.

After we graduated from high school, we went our separate ways. He practiced law in Jacksonville and Tallahassee and remained in Tallahassee after his retirement in 2013. I went to a law firm in Cleveland, Ohio, directly from law school, spent 6 months in the Army, and a few years later joined Texaco's legal department and lived in Houston and New York.

Our paths didn't cross much for a number of years. I'd visit Jacksonville for some Christmases, a few weeks some summers, and we'd meet for a few days in Winston-Salem when our mother moved there after our father died.

Then we became closer. I spent some weeks with him in Tallahassee during Margaret's illness and death and the death of his son, Bill. After that, we would schedule at least a week's visit every year. He spent time with my wife Vicki, my two children and her two children at Cape Cod one year and later with us in the mountains at Dillon, Colorado. After that, he and I took trips together to the Grand Canyon; west through the Colorado mountains; and down the west coast of Florida. I visited him several times in Tallahassee. As adults, we became great friends.

I will miss him.  
Bill Slye

---

Bill Slye - August 24, 2020 at 12:13 PM

MW

“ *What a wonderful couple he and Margaret made...he missed her greatly. John was a wonderful man and a gentleman beyond measure. He will be sorely missed. Margie Watkins*

---

**Margie C Watkins** - August 24, 2020 at 12:08 PM

DT

“ *I met John through work. He was a mentor and a confessor, and a deep well of legal wisdom and knowledge. Ironically, he clerked for my father-in-law at Roger Towers in the deep mists of time. He was an old school lawyer of an increasingly rare kind. I didn't know him well personally, but professionally, he continues to be a role model for me for what a good lawyer should be and everything good about the legal profession.*

---

**David Tucker** - August 24, 2020 at 09:58 AM

DF

“ *I met John through work, but really got to know him at the McCord Dog Park. He was one of the finest people I have ever known.*

---

**Dana Farmer** - August 23, 2020 at 06:27 PM

JT

“ *We enjoyed greeting John regularly at the 8:00 AM worship service at St. John's. Knowing John was a pleasure. We will miss John. Roger & Carolyn Turner*

---

**J. Roger Turner** - August 23, 2020 at 03:23 PM

JB

“ *John was a friend and valued counselor. He was a consummate gentleman, and treated all who worked with him with competency, kindness and respect. He will be sorely missed.*  
*John Bryant*

---

**John N Bryant** - August 23, 2020 at 11:22 AM

MM

“ *Prayers for John and his family. His kindness and insights will be missed in our Bible Study.*  
*God's Peace.*  
*Mac McNeill*

---

**Mac McNeill** - August 23, 2020 at 08:30 AM

RH

*I met John at DCF HQ. John was a pleasure to work with, and a great lawyer. I missed him when he retired. He was a wealth of knowledge as well as an outstanding person.*

---

**Robert Henley** - August 24, 2020 at 05:59 PM

RT

*I knew John and Margaret through St. John's Church. I miss them both.*

---

**Ralph Turner** - September 02, 2020 at 06:14 PM