



Michael John Herz

August 6, 1947 - January 27, 2018

Born in Boulder Colorado August 6th, 1947 to Marcia and Werner Herz, Michael John arrived the day his father received a PhD - a day of double celebrations for the Herz family. The young couple and toddler were part of the wave of '49ers transitioning Florida State College for Women into the newly coeducational Florida State University.

After graduation from Leon High School, Michael John received his BA in American and Asian History from Jamestown College, North Dakota where he reveled in the northern winters. His love of books led to obtaining a Master's degree in Library Science from FSU. He began his professional career in the Georgia regional library system, eventually focusing on library services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in the US Southeastern region. Michael John subsequently returned to Tallahassee and worked in the local hospitality industry for 15 years before retirement. Following a 2013 heart attack, Michael John made his home at Westminster Oaks, where he was renown as the Trivia master extraordinaire and for his congenial engagement with residents and staff alike.

Michael John had a soft spot for the elderly, children, the disadvantaged and disenfranchised, beginning with the nascent civil rights movement of his youth. He embodied kindness, courtesy, and respect for all human beings, combined with a quick wit and a love of terrible puns, sure to bring a smile to everyone's face. No one expected such a big heart to fail so suddenly.

He is survived by his siblings Patrick (Anna), Monica (John) and Andrea

Lauren, niece Lucy (Joe) nephew Ezra (Katie), family friend Ruby Dickey (Sylvester) and a multitude of friends spread across the globe.

A memorial service will be held at Westminster Oaks' Maguire Center on Sunday, March 18th, 2018 at 2 pm. Todd Wahlquist with Bevis Funeral Home, (850-385-2193, www.bevisfh.com) is assisting the Herz family with their arrangements.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be made in Michael John's honor to the Adult Literacy program at sister Andrea's nonprofit, www.AidStillRequired.org.

Tribute Wall

AL

“ I first met Michael John when I was a temporary resident at Westminster Oaks in 2014-15. Someone thought it would be a fabulous idea to schedule the two of us in a Scrabble Competition. I checked on Michael John's career and education, and determined He was a genius and master word smith, while the longest word this Georgetown School of Foreign Service graduate was confined to 3-4 letters. In the face of certain defeat, I cancelled the game. However we managed to quickly bond via our quick witticisms and dry humor. I will truly miss Michael John, our conversations, his intelligence, and quips about seeking to be cremated when the time came, having his ashes placed in a glass container so that Monica would have see him from hour-to-hour. Rest In Peace my good friend!

Andre Libert - February 03, 2018 at 02:26 PM

LB

“ John and I liked to say we had known each other longer than anyone! I think we met when we were four years old and were together often because our parents were friends. John was my special friend and I will miss him greatly. Although we didn't see each other often, I tried to know where he was and that he was doing well. Jack and I had diner with John when he was a librarian at Fredericksted on St. Croix...what a treat to see him there. John had a huge heart...his kindness and thoughtfulness extended to so many people, especially those who were disadvantaged. I used to marvel at his voracious appetite for books and how he could read a book a day...WOW! Michael John...you will be sorely missed, but I want to believe we will meet again.

Lucy Baney - February 03, 2018 at 12:41 PM



“ I knew John for 60 plus years, always enjoyed talking to him.
Sorry for your loss.
Larry Strong

Larry Strong - February 03, 2018 at 10:08 AM

JK

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Michael John & I would often meet each other in the halls of Westminster & share a few laughs. He was such a good man. He never lost his sense of humor/quick wit and intelligence. Being the Trivial Pursuit champion was quite an honor! I fondly remember inviting him to be my guest for one of my Westminster birthday lunches. Being on one of my on-going (& unsuccessful) diets, I gave John my Dove candies and cupcake --- only to have him give me that famous grin of his as he "inhaled" them --- telling me that he usually wasn't allowed to eat these sweets because he is a Diabetic! He was sooooo bad! I will miss our hallway meetings & laughs ... and that BIG grin which took over his entire face.



God Bless you all,
Joyce Keuling

Joyce Keuling - January 30, 2018 at 10:12 AM