

John Allender

July 2, 1940 - August 23, 2011



John's Life Story

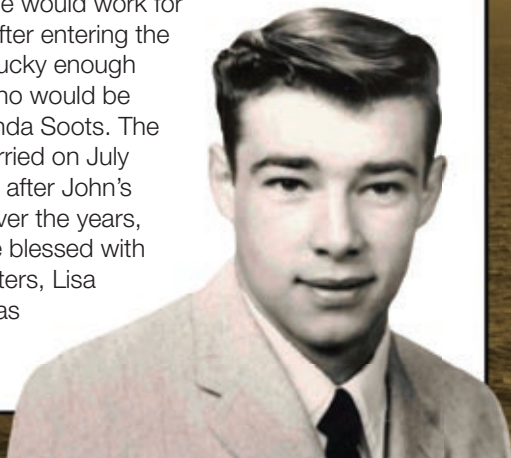
Animal lover, car enthusiast, motorcyclist, good Samaritan - all these words can be used to describe John Allender. The titles that were most important to John, however, were those of husband, father, and grandfather. Loving and dedicated, John spent his life providing and caring for the members of his family, and was never happier than when surrounded by his loved ones.

John Thomas Allender came into the world on July 2, 1940. The place of his birth was Brown County, Indiana, and his proud parents were Elisha Daniel and Dollie Mildred (Childs) Allender.

John grew up in a large and lively family, with a total of ten siblings: five brothers and five sisters. John liked spending time outdoors as a child, and especially enjoyed riding horses.

This early equine enthusiasm later matured into an affection for all animals which would be a lifelong characteristic.

John attended the local elementary school and later Decatur Central High. Resources are spread thin with eleven children, however, and before he was able to graduate it became necessary for John to go to work. He found employment in trucking and distribution, working for ANR Trucking. Later, he would work for Yellow Freight. Soon after entering the workforce, John was lucky enough to meet the woman who would be the love of his life: Wanda Soots. The young couple was married on July 4, 1959, just two days after John's nineteenth birthday. Over the years, John and Wanda were blessed with the birth of two daughters, Lisa Kay and Amy, as well as the adoption of a third





daughter, Betty. John was "an awesome father," and always had time to spend with his three daughters.

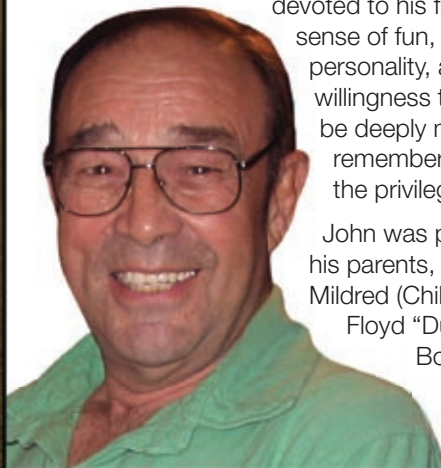
Another important aspect of John's life was his relationship with God. A longtime member of Eternal Life Tabernacle in Indianapolis, John was very devoted to his faith and often participated in church activities. Far from just going through the motions, John truly lived his faith, and was always thinking of ways to help others. At one point, John started a food mission for the hungry - just one of many examples of his genuine compassion and concern for the needs of others.

John always liked to keep busy, and the years following his retirement from Yellow Freight were no exception. His hobbies ranged from fishing and bowling to restoring old cars and riding his motorcycle. His favorite activities, however, were attending auctions and raising birds with his best friend, Shirley Cochran. He was also a proud grandfather, and loved spending time with the younger generation, of which there were quite a number: twelve grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Less than a year ago, John was diagnosed with esophageal cancer. Throughout the course of the disease, John fought bravely and never gave up the struggle for life, despite the physical pain inseparable from such an illness. God had other plans for him, however, and on August 23, 2011, John went to be with his Lord.

John Allender was a kind and caring man, devoted to his family and to his God. His sense of fun, his outgoing and likeable personality, and his inexhaustible willingness to help others will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

John was preceded in death by his parents, Elisha Daniel and Dollie Mildred (Childs) Allender; his brothers, Floyd "Dutch," Wallace "Shug," Bob, Danny, and Jack Allender; and his sisters, Alma Speer, Juanita





Merriman, and Betty Jean Bain. His family includes his wife, Wanda (Soots) Allender; his daughters, Lisa Kay Bonnewell (Mark) of Camby, and Amy Driscoll (Keith) of Indianapolis; his daughter adopted by love, Betty Bolin (Steve) of Camby; his sisters, Patty Sanders (Bill) of Santa Claus and Shirley Gott (Frank) of Brown County; his grandchildren, Allan, Jeffery, and Sarah Bonnewell, Jennifer and Nathan Nolan, Brandyn Collins, and Danyelle and Sierra Bolin; his four step-grandchildren; and his seven step-great-grandchildren.

The funeral service will begin at 11 a.m., Saturday, August 27, 2011, at Carlisle - Branson Funeral Service & Crematory, Mooresville. Friends may call from 3 to 8 p.m., Friday, August 26, 2011, at the funeral home, and from 10 a.m. on Saturday. Burial will be in West Newton Cemetery. Pastor Mark Pingleton will officiate. Memorial

contributions may be made to Eternal Life Tabernacle's Food Pantry. Please visit www.carlislebranson.com to share a favorite memory or to sign the online guest registry.



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