



## John S. Christie

January 2, 1950 - October 5, 2019

John Steven Christie, 69, died suddenly at his Upper Arlington home on Saturday, October 5, 2019. John was preceded in death by his wife, Linda Margaret Christie and his parents, Robert Samuel and Sara Jane Kennard Christie of McConnelsville Ohio. Growing up in McConnelsville, OH stayed with John as he never forgot his roots. John would repeatedly tell his friends the story about growing up in an early 1800's stage coach inn on Main St., and being able to identify every make and model of car just by looking at the tail lights as they drove through town. He was a Boy Scout, a halfback/defensive back of his high school football team, and 4-year letterman in four sports. He was also one of the first inductees to the Morgan High school's Hall of Fame. John was a tireless civic, community and business leader. After becoming a member and vice president of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity at Miami University and graduating with a bachelor degree in Business Administration, he went on to Emory University to pursue his Masters in business. He and Linda were married in McConnelsville, Ohio and considered living in Atlanta an adventure. Banking brought them back to Ohio, first in Cincinnati and then to Columbus. Soon, John was tapped to become the President of the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce at age 32 because of his ideas and passion for the city. He would be a strong advocate for businesses during that time and made many trips to Japan to help build the auto supply network in the region. He worked hard to connect the public and private sectors to help advance the city. John then became the Senior Vice President of Corporate Development at Battelle Memorial Institute where he worked to help that organization expand their business model beyond government contracts to include commercial strategic and product development solutions. After becoming President of JMAC, the personal holding company for the McConnell family, he worked with the McConnells and the community to secure the NHL franchise, Columbus Blue Jackets. John became President and Chief Operating Officer of Worthington Industries in 2000 before retiring in 2008 to take care of Linda, who suffered from a debilitating illness until her death a year ago. John loved and adored his family, especially as a doting grandfather while suggesting his grandchildren call him JC. He is survived by his three children and their families all in Columbus, Robert Morgan (Erica) Christie, Lindsey Taylor (Tyler) Burt, Sara Jo (Norm) Harbison; grandchildren, Carsen Jane and Joshua Cole Christie; Hazel Jo, John Harpham and Molly Margaret Burt;

and Austin James Harbison. John is also survived by his brother, Robert James (Chris) Christie and his wife, Marcia Emens Christie of McConnelsville; his sister, Mary Christie McIntyre, her husband, John F. McIntyre; nieces and nephews; and Linda's mother, Sara Prater. John's civic contributions are numerous as he served on the boards of I Know I Can, Franklin University, Ohio Public Works Commission, Battelle Pension Management and Investment Council, and as a founding member and longest serving chair of the Franklin County Convention Facilities Authority. He was a board member of the Crane Group, Fishel Company, Citizens National Bank, Arlington Bank, The Lakes Golf and Country Club, Geosafe Corp., Information Dimensions, and his most cherished, being a member and President of Miami University's Board of Trustees. John also was a member of Upper Arlington Rotary club, founding member of the daily fees club, and founding member of the MNF (Monday Night Football) club. John's incredible spirit, smile and laugh will be missed by all who knew him. He never met a stranger and was always willing to help anyone looking for advice or help. John enjoyed helping those starting out in their career to find their way and he liked being able to connect people. All of his golfing buddies will miss having him in their foursome as he made every round a great round. Family will receive friends to celebrate John's life at SCHOEDINGER NORTHWEST CHAPEL, 1740 Zollinger Rd. on Saturday, October 19 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Columbus Blue Jackets Foundation, 200 W. Nationwide Blvd. Columbus, OH 43215 [www.bluejackets.com/community](http://www.bluejackets.com/community) or to The Upper Arlington Education Foundation, 1950 North Mallway Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43221. [www.uaeducationfoundation.com](http://www.uaeducationfoundation.com). To share a special memory of John or to sign his online guestbook, please visit [www.schoedinger.com](http://www.schoedinger.com).

# Events

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**OCT**   **Visitation**   01:00PM - 05:00PM

**19**

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Schoedinger Northwest Chapel

1740 Zollinger Road, Columbus, OH, US, 43221

# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**Schoedinger Funeral Service** - October 16 at 10:21 AM

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“ Very sorry to hear of John’s passing. He was a roommate of my high school friend during our Freshmen year at Miami U. John had the greatest smile and sense of humor of anyone in our dorm. He and my roommate pledged DTD fraternity together. John always provided us with a good story. Later on, I had a meeting with him in Columbus and he was still the same John I knew in 1968. Please accept my sincere expression of sympathy upon his passing.

**Bill Hanrahan, Miami Class of 1972** - October 20 at 11:54 PM

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“ I went to high school with John and I am proud to have called him friend. John didn't care what walk of life you were from, if you wore expensive clothes or got them from Goodwill. I spoke to John a few years ago and I could tell that his personality had not changed. My brother and John graduated from high school in the same class and we would share some good memory of John occasionally over the years. I remember one of the times that I spoke with John I told him that " those of us grew up knowing you, knew that we were going to hear bigger and better things from you based on your personality alone.

**Keith Little** - October 19 at 12:40 AM

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“ Met John first day at Miami...lived and hung together day in day out... first true friend, never changed...Linda too...John cast a large shadow that welcomed all... his roots were deep and cherished... treated me/others with “Golden Rule”...big smile, bigger heart...had sooo many stories...gusto for life was infectious and often set the pace...uniquely gifted leader that consistently walked the talk. Celebrate all memories JC...peaceful knowing John and Linda are arm in arm. To Morgan, Lindsey , Sara Jo and your children.. be secure in your heart that John and Linda still preciously hold you . Be well, G. Brownie Brown

**G.Brownie Brown** - October 18 at 03:57 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John S. Christie.



October 17 at 08:01 PM

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“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John S. Christie.



October 15 at 07:29 PM

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“ JC, my friend, Brother and room mate at the Delt house at Miami University; thank you for your generous, sharing spirit and the smiles you have brought to so many. God Speed.

**Douglas Erbele** - October 15 at 03:32 PM

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“ John was always someone that you could always look up to in high school and as his family paper boy for many years.  
Greg Smith, Class of 70-71 Morgan HS.

**Greg Smith** - October 14 at 08:09 AM

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“ Morgan, Lindsay and Sara Jo  
I'm so sorry to hear of your loss your dad was a great guy a fellow Rotarian with UA Rotary, community servant, and a real funny guy. I also worked with his buddy Mark Olson passed away this year to great guys will miss them both immensely.  
God bless you all the Dewey family.

**Dave Dewey** - October 12 at 03:00 PM

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“ Dear Morgan, Lindsey and Sara Jo,  
I am so very sorry to know that your Dad will no longer be with us in this lifetime. He was an exceptional man who enjoyed life, especially his family and close friends. I was fortunate to have worked for him at the Columbus Chamber and be able to call him a long time friend.  
Your Dad will be missed, but his accomplishments and memories will live on forever. I am sorry I am out of town for John's Memorial Service next week, as I will be attending your Dad's Alma Mater, Miami University of Ohio for family weekend. I know John would prefer that I attend this family event, as he believed strongly in doing for family! He once told me that I should continue to acquire my Bachelor's degree from Franklin University while working full time as it would mean a great deal to my parents and mean more to me later in life. I always took John's support and recommendations to heart. And, yes, I did finish my degree.  
My heartfelt condolences to you and your families.  
Your Dad spoke volumes about your own achievements and beautiful children. He was very proud!  
Affectionately,  
Sue Erwin Dew

**Sue Erwin Dew** - October 12 at 09:43 AM

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“ I grew up with John in McConnelsville, thank you for all the fond memories. I will never forget your warm smile my friend, Rest in peace.  
  
Kathy Glaser

**Kathy Glaser** - October 12 at 08:56 AM

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“ What a great loss to his family and to the community. John was one of a kind; I'm glad I got to know him for a few years and to appreciate what he did for so many in the Columbus area.

**Marla Rose** - October 11 at 09:34 AM

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“ We remember John and all the Christie family for years. Our prayers, thoughts and love go out to each of you during this difficult time and the days to follow. John was a remarkable young man. A life well lived. God Bless each of you.

**Rufus & Patty Silvus** - October 11 at 05:06 AM



“ I offer my sincere condolences to John's surviving family. My work with John at Battelle was always a pleasure, for his insights, his integrity and his humor. I will miss him, and I hope that he is at peace. Tony Caxide (Colleague on Battelle's Investment Committee)

**Antonio Caxide** - October 10 at 10:30 AM

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“ I have known John since we started school at age 5. At our 50th class reunion, John reminded me of the time that I threw his cap over the fence at the Alderman home (where no kid should dare to go)! He always tormented me ,every single day) on the way home from grade school. We both laughed and he always called me Kuntzie, since my name was Kunitz at the time. Karol & Dan Downs

**Karol & Dan Downs** - October 10 at 09:59 AM

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“ We remember John as an effervescent boy aged 10 to 16 when we knew him in McConnelville, and have fondest memories of the Christie family. Our sympathy especially to Chris and Mary, whom we knew during those years also. Rev. Jim and Bonnie Magaw.

**James and Bonnie Magaw** - October 09 at 10:27 AM

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“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of John S. Christie.



October 09 at 10:12 AM

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“ Sympathy to his family. I went to school with John, grades 1-10. I remember him well. Peggy Comstock Watson.

**Peggy Comstock Watson** - October 08 at 08:40 PM

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“ I remember John and I competing to see who could wear the most variety of sweaters during our time at M&M High School in McConnelsville.

**Bill Bowles** - October 08 at 05:49 PM

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“ Robert Strong

Sending condolences to the family. Fond memories of the family in McConnelsville.

**Robert Strong** - October 08 at 03:10 PM

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“ John was a proud alumnus of Miami University and our Fraternity, Delta Tau Delta. Through the years I often asked him for advice & counsel. Unfailingly his wisdom & intellect served his Alma Mater and his Fraternity well.

We will miss him. May God's blessing be forever upon him.

John W. Altman  
Trustee Emeritus  
Miami University

**John W. Altman** - October 08 at 12:55 PM

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“ Our deepest sympathy , thoughts & prayers to your family. Linda & my wife Jackie were good friends for years & John & I had many a conversation since both of use were originally Muskingum River guys when we met at the Mulroy gatherings. Your parents were wonderful people. Ken & Jackie Nicol

**ken nicol** - October 08 at 12:23 PM

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“ We will always cherish the many fun times we had together. John's beaming smile and infectious cheerfulness made everyone's life richer. He will be missed.  
Jim & Jackie Pickett

**Jim Pickett** - October 08 at 12:00 PM

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“ Morgan, Lindsey, & Sara Jo and Families:

My deepest sympathy goes out to all of you with this sudden passing of your father. Thoughts and prayers to you all as I was so saddened by the passing of a neighboring classmate, especially so soon after your Mother's passing!! I shed a lot of tears with Linda each time I visited her in your home in UA and always promised to not do that on my next visit but never was able to keep my promise. One of the last times I talked with your Dad I shed many tears during our conversation over the blessing of her "finally" passing - now I am having to share tears with Linda and John's classmates as we discuss John's sudden passing!

Again my deepest sympathy & many many thoughts and prayers to you all & your extended families as y'all work through this loss!!

Ken Budd "KB" / FF '68

**Kenneth Budd** - October 08 at 11:53 AM

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“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of John S. Christie.



October 08 at 11:21 AM

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“ I was fortunate to be appointed to John's seat on the Miami University Board of Trustees after his term expired. Big shoes to fill indeed. As a great Miamian, John's impact on his alma mater, his professional life and community is immeasurable. He will be missed by many and remembered for who he was. Love and Honor John.

Kiiloonaa Myaamiaki - We are Miami.

Mark E. Ridenour '82, Chair Emeritus Miami BOT

**Mark Ridenour** - October 08 at 09:49 AM

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“ The Columbus area business, education and sports communities lost a wonderful man on Saturday. John was so amazingly talented on so many levels that a huge void now exists. Our prayers and sincere condolences go out to the Christie family. May your memories bring you peace and consolation.

## Ed and Nancy Sneed

**Sneed Nancy P.** - October 08 at 08:38 AM

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“ John was a beloved and deeply respected Alumnus of Miami University, which he served and supported with love and honor as Chair of the Board of Trustees. Miami is a finer institution, and we are all better individuals for having known and been inspired by John. John touched so many lives, and will be deeply missed. Our hearts and thoughts go out to his family, friends and loved ones.

**Ted Pickerill** - October 08 at 07:05 AM

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“ I grew up with John in McConnelsville. I'll always remember the bike hikes, the pool games, and the fun times at Hill House. Rest In Peace, John.

**Jim Finley** - October 08 at 06:31 AM

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“ Knowing John for forty years, he never changed from the day I met him to when I spoke with him a few weeks ago. He was my mentor at AmeriTrust, the Chamber, and then at Citizens National Bank in his hometown of McConnelsville. Very few people in Columbus could match his leadership skills and accomplish what he did. I know he will be missed by the scores of people whose lives he touched. Rest In Peace, John.

**Mike Vynalek** - October 07 at 09:59 PM

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“ John was good friend and teammate during his high school days. One time I was letting him(no license) drive my dad's stick shift 1951 Studebaker. It was winter time with snow piled along the roads in the Morgan County Fairgrounds. He managed to get the car stuck on top of that pile of snow. Fortunately some friends came by and got the car back on the road. Our parents were none the wiser! Rest In Peace John.

**Tom White** - October 07 at 09:41 PM

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“ Sincere sympathy to all of John's family. We're so sorry to hear of his passing.



Tim & Michele James - October 07 at 08:26 PM

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“ I met John in 2002 when my company made a presentation for a Caribbean cruise event for Worthington Industries sales and management. John and I became friends and was touched by his unique humor, business acumen and effervescent charm.

Our son Harrison was inspired by John and his relationship with Miami University to make it his choice. Like so many others young scholars he encouraged to experience Miami, John was always eager for news of Harrison's progress as a student and graduate.

There are very few individuals who have the amazing array of skills, talent and character this remarkable man possessed. The community has lost a one-of-a-kind leader. I will remain forever proud that my family and I had the honor of having John Christie as a friend.

Please let express my condolences to the family and may your hearts be warmed by the memories of your time together. Now joined in Heaven, May God Bless John and Linda Christie.

phil mullins - October 07 at 05:00 PM



“ Memories of John's easy smile, energy, and ability to make an instant friend remain vivid from our trade mission trip to Asia some 30 years ago.

His quiet leadership remains inspiring. Rest in peace, John.

Paul Gydosh

Paul Gydosh - October 11 at 09:31 AM



“ I normally check the Obituaries in the Herald every morning with the computer in our kitchen in Knoxville. It sounds morbid, but that's how I keep up with the news on relatives and friends from Morgan County. It was with a combination of shock and great sadness I saw the very familiar name of John Christie this week. John and I were in most classes together from first grade through high school. I'll bet I went to all of his football games (I was in the band). I tackled him once in 8th grade football, which convinced me I was better off in the marching band. I went on to Ohio University while he enrolled with our arch-

nemesis, Miami. But I never held that against him. I guess he did OK there :->) I will miss him greatly. Roger and Peggy Dugan

**Roger Dugan** - October 11 at 09:49 PM