

John P. Claude

November 30, 1930 - June 8, 2018

John P. Claude died on Friday, June 8, 2018, at New Hanover Regional Hospital in Wilmington, North Carolina at the age of 87. He was born in Belgium of Swiss parents, Raoul and Elisabeth Claude. He had three siblings, Ruth, Philippe, and Jacqueline. He, his mother, and siblings were refugees in Switzerland during World War II. John soaked in the sights, sounds, and Swiss culture and later handed his love of Switzerland down to his children and grandchild.

As an adult John visited the USA where he met his future wife and later became a U.S. citizen.

John and Huldah were married for 61 blessed years. They faced joys, adventures, and storms as a team. Their marriage was a true example of enduring love and commitment.

The couple had three daughters, Colette Claude of Arizona, Claire Claude McFall of North Carolina, and Denise Claude Whittington (Jack) of West Virginia. John spoke of his daughters with glowing love and respect for their individuality and creativity. Later, grandson Ryan McFall of North Carolina was born and brought great joy throughout John's remaining years. Ryan was a part of John's heart and was a natural fit for his nurturing, giving spirit.

In the course of their marriage the family lived in Switzerland, were relief workers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and lived in the USA. John was originally an electrician and later went on to earn his bachelor's and master's degrees in clinical social work. Later, John served as Associate Professor/Clinical Social Worker at the Charleston Division of Behavioral Medicine and Psychiatry in West Virginia.

John's upbringing contributed to his capacity for service to others. The expression of his joy was tangible, including when he was helping others experience their own joy. He lived life with passion, exuberance, gentleness, and humility.

John loved life and lived it with gusto. He biked, kayaked, hiked, built and flew model airplanes, skied, parasailed over the pre-alps of Switzerland, had a mini farm with his grandson, and traveled to many places. The time spent with loved ones around a dinner table brought great enjoyment and warm conversation. John delighted in and fostered traditions such as cheese fondue, mussels, cheese pie, candles on the Christmas tree, etc. While appreciating all these activities, he relished the relationships that developed from his endeavors. John nurtured his connections with his family, friends, colleagues, and strangers with a tender consistency that made being with John feel special.



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, Belgium
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His deep love of his family of origin and his immediate family was integral to his being.

He often shared wonderful animated stories about the experiences he had throughout his life. John savored time spent with family and friends, and even people he'd just met.

In addition, John made it a priority to nurture his relationship with God. He was clear that his faith was a source of strength and wisdom for him in times of distress and in times of joy. His service to others was one of the many manifestations of his love for others and God. John was a member of Pine Valley United Methodist Church.

He will be missed by his wife; his daughters; his sisters Ruth Claude and Jacqueline Myers (Bob) of Pennsylvania; his foster brother Christian Amsler (Floriane) of Switzerland; as well as his many family members and friends. John was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Philippe.

There will be a memorial service on Saturday, June 23 at 1 p.m., at Pine Valley United Methodist Church, 3788 Shipyard Blvd., Wilmington, NC. In lieu of flowers, donations in John's memory may be made to either Pine Valley United Methodist Church Discretionary Fund; Samaritan's Purse; or the Salvation Army.

Special thanks to Dr. Todd Kornegay, Dr. James Snyder, and Dr. Douglas Testori for their excellent care of John over the years.

Please feel free to share memories or thoughts about John through emails sent to

johnclaudememories@gmail.com. The family is grateful for all the expressions of love and care during this time.

John Pierre Claude - a beloved gift of God.