

John W. Stephenson

July 8, 1927 - June 30, 2017



John W. Stephenson, 89, of Bakersfield died June 30, 2017 at home of complications from cancer with his family at his side. He is survived by his brother Ronnie of Georgetown, TX, and two sons John Jr. of Bakersfield CA and William of Las Vegas NV. He is also survived by two grandchildren Justin of Coeur d'Alene, ID and Andrew of Las Vegas NV along with two great grandchildren.

John was born in Kingsville, Texas, but moved to Houston in 1940 where he graduated from Lamar High School in 1945. He was in the Navy and served aboard LST's in the Pacific Area. John attended the Univ. of Houston for two years. He completed his B. S. degree in Petroleum Engineering at the Univ. of Texas - Austin in 1951.

John started his work career with Tide Water Associated Oil Company in West Texas where he developed the first engineered waterflood projects. John came to Bakersfield in 1963 as District Engineer to start the first full scale thermal project in the Kern River Field. John retired from Texaco USA Inc. after 35 years.

John was motivated after his military service to continue to serve. He began his Kiwanis career in 1957 in Robinson, Illinois. He received many Kiwanis distinguished service awards including the "Stephenson Award of Excellence – Dedicated to all those who serve KIWANIS with their hearts." John had 60 years of community service at the time of his passing.

John was married to Shirley for 36-1/2 years before her death on October 29, 1994. Shirley was a volunteer at the Guild House, American Cancer Society and Mercy Hospital.

Services will be held at Hillcrest Memorial Park in Bakersfield on July 7th. Viewing from 9am, Services at 10am.

In lieu of flowers in memory of John W. Stephenson Sr. a donation can be made to the Kern Kiwanis Club. PO BOX 2532 Bakersfield, CA 93302-2532