



John W. Avery, Jr.

February 18, 1943 - February 23, 2025

John Welch Avery Jr., age 82, passed away peacefully on Sunday, February 23, 2025, in Atlanta, Georgia, with his daughter by his side. He is survived by his children Leslie and Jay, (Heather Hogan Avery) and grandchildren, grandson Cope Avery (9) and granddaughters Isla Avery (7), and Elliott Avery (7).

Born and raised in Newnan, Georgia, John's roots run deep. He was a proud graduate of Newnan High School, where he played End for the Newnan Tigers, demonstrating an early passion for teamwork and competition. His academic journey continued at West Georgia College for his freshman year, before transferring to the University of Georgia, where he earned a degree in accounting. His unwavering loyalty to the UGA Bulldogs remained a constant throughout his life.

John married his high-school sweetheart, Carolyn Carmical Avery, immediately following graduation in 1965. John and Carolyn settled in Atlanta where he began his professional career at Haskins and Sells (now Deloitte & Touche). John distinguished himself, particularly on the Coca-Cola Company account. In 1967, Coca-Cola recruited him as a Brand Manager in recognition of his talent and dedication.

John's career with Coca-Cola was marked by remarkable achievements and

global experiences. In 1981, he joined McCann Erickson, leading advertising initiatives for Coca-Cola. In 1983, he embraced an exciting opportunity to lead the Coca-Cola advertising team in Tokyo, Japan, where he and his family lived until 1987. Returning to Atlanta, he continued his work with Coca-Cola, eventually serving as Vice President of International Marketing for South America in Santiago, Chile, from 1993 until 1998. He retired from Coke in 1999.

Beyond his professional success, John cherished his personal life. John and Carolyn were married for 59 years, until her death in 2024. John was a devoted father and a loving grandfather. He found joy in playing and watching golf, passionately cheering on his beloved UGA Bulldogs, and spending time with his many friends. He cultivated deep friendships throughout his life, from his childhood in Newnan to his professional circles around the world.

John's legacy is one of determination, wit, and unwavering dedication. His unique "sayings" and the warmth of his presence will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

In accordance with John's wishes, there will be no formal funeral service. He preferred to be remembered with joy, not sadness.

The family expresses sincere gratitude for the outpouring of support, love, and comfort during this difficult time.

Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.mckoon.com. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society at Cancer.org.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory 770-253-4580

Tribute Wall

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“ Johnny was like a family member to me. I grew up spending a lot of time at his parents’ home in Newnan. They treated me like a grandchild, and I spent many holidays with them. I thought Johnny was so handsome, and I had a crush on him when I was 7! I always loved seeing Johnny, Carolyn, Leslie and Jay at family celebrations. Johnny was a great man. He will always be missed!

Sherry Cook - February 27, 2025 at 09:56 AM