



## John P. Sides, Jr.

November 1, 1936 - May 13, 2024

John Paul Sides, Jr. died Monday, May 13, 2024, surrounded by the love of his family. Born on November 1, 1936, in Walker County, Alabama, John lived a life of service, allowing him an honest application of the epitaph, "He left the world a better place than he found it."

After graduating from Oakman High School, John attended Florence State University (now the University of North Alabama), where he met his wife of sixty seven years, Claudette. After college, John was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army and achieved the rank of Captain. His military career took him to Texas, Hawaii, California, and Thailand, and provided him with not only his impeccable posture and impressive personal discipline, but also with stories of true-life adventures that entertained generations of his family and friends. After leaving the military, John became a teacher, coach, and eventually, a principal. At a time of great division, John was a unifying force, helping to desegregate schools in Alabama. His efforts were so successful, he was recruited to do the same in Newnan, and served as principal at Madras, Ruth Hill, Central, and White Oak schools. John built a community of friends based on service, faith, football (Roll Tide), and tennis. John was an active member of First Methodist Church; he sang in two choirs and taught the Henry Kitchens Sunday School Class for many years.

Of all his achievements, the nearest to his heart was his family. John was the

type of man who taught his children and grandchildren by example, and who was always ready to tell a joke, have an adventure, play a game, or give wise, thoughtful advice. He made sure those he loved knew he loved them, and his steadfast dependability made him a rock of his community and family. John is survived by his wife, Claudette; daughter, Toni Brown; son, John Paul Sides, III (Beau) and his wife Leah; granddaughter Lauren, and her husband Bennett; and grandson Justin, and his wife Sarah. He will be missed.

The service for John will be Saturday, May 18th at First United Methodist Church at 2:00 pm, with a reception following in the Annex Hall. Flowers are welcome, or contributions may be made to Global Partners in Life

Condolences may be expressed online at [www.mckoon.com](http://www.mckoon.com)

McKoon Funeral Home and Crematory 770-253-458

# Cemetery Details

## McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory

38 Jackson Street  
Newnan, GA 30263  
care@mckoon.com  
<http://www.mckoon.com>

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

MAY 18. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Newnan First United Methodist Church  
33 Greenville Street  
Newnan, GA 30263

# Tribute Wall

TG

“ So sorry too hear this just now learning of his passing he was my principal at Ruth hill very nice man was always willing too talk ig you had a problem one on one but used his board of knowledge on your behind if ya needed it too but always fair rip.mr sides see ya again one day

Timothy Gresham - August 18, 2024 at 11:03 AM

LA

“ So sad to learn by way of the internet that Uncle JP had died, and on the 26th anniversary of Grandpa's death. He was a good guy, Mom thought the world of him.

Laura - June 09, 2024 at 11:20 AM

JN

“ The McClinton family is very sorry for the loss of JP. We will never forget him. Praying for the family.

Jodi McClinton Norris - June 07, 2024 at 10:28 AM

TS

“ Tim Shoemake lit a candle in memory of John P. Sides, Jr.



Tim Shoemake - May 23, 2024 at 10:56 AM

DC

“ My sincere condolences to Claudette, Toni, and Beau on John's passing. He was a very good man and I am privileged to have known him. He will be missed by all.

Dan Coleman - May 19, 2024 at 09:12 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Mr. Sides' passing. He hired me to teach at White Oak on Thursday before school started. I went home to Tennessee, packed up my apartment and moved to Newnan that weekend to start teaching Monday morning. He was a great administrator, and I'm thankful that him hiring me altered the course of my life. I remember he loved adventure (rafting), humor, Alabama, Godiva, tennis, and God—but not in that order!

Tammy Kirkland - May 18, 2024 at 09:47 AM

GP

“ Gerrie Petty lit a candle in memory of John P. Sides, Jr.



Gerrie Petty - May 18, 2024 at 07:34 AM

JW

“ Mrs. Sides, Toni and Beau, I can't imagine my years at Ruth Hill without Mr. Sides and his lunchroom traffic light! They were both 'fixtures' at the school. He impacted so many students and their families—and that just through his job. He made a mark on the whole community in his various roles. I'm thinking of you all during these sad days. He will be missed.

Jennifer Welch - May 17, 2024 at 09:02 PM

LB

“ Love, Kendal & Blake Binion-Holliday purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of John P. Sides, Jr..



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**Love, Kendal & Blake Binion-Holliday** - May 17, 2024 at 08:52 PM

LB

“ Love, Kendal & Blake Binion-Holliday planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John P. Sides, Jr..

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**Love, Kendal & Blake Binion-Holliday** - May 17, 2024 at 08:52 PM

LD

“ Love, Vertiv Legal Dept. purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of John P. Sides, Jr..



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**Love, Vertiv Legal Dept.** - May 17, 2024 at 07:59 PM

LD

“ Love, Vertiv Legal Dept. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John P. Sides, Jr..

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**Love, Vertiv Legal Dept.** - May 17, 2024 at 07:59 PM

JW

“ Joy Williams lit a candle in memory of John P. Sides, Jr.



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**Joy Williams** - May 17, 2024 at 12:52 PM

TF

“ The Cross, Lisi and Keating families purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of John P. Sides, Jr..



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**The Cross, Lisi and Keating families** - May 17, 2024 at 12:50 PM



“ John was a sweet, kind wonderful friend and tennis foe/ partner. I lived in Newnan for several years and met John on the tennis courts at the YMCA. He was part of a wonderful group who were called the ORFs. Several of us met at White Oak after tennis for iced tea and discussed the events of the time, personally and globally. John and Claudette hosted a Christmas party every year in their beautiful southern home in Newnan for the ORFs and friends. I know he will be missed. Condolences to Claudette and family.

*Angela St.John*

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**Angela StJohn** - May 17, 2024 at 11:28 AM

DM

“ Mrs. Claudette, Toni, and Beau; I’m so sorry to hear of Mr. John’s death. I have many memories of him from the school system. I still to this day, make his “killer” nacho dip that he shared with us many time at White Oak. May God give you peace and comfort during this difficult time.

Deborah Kendall Marchman - May 17, 2024 at 11:24 AM

TB

“ Sending prayers of comfort for his family. Mr. Sides was a wonderful principal during my school years - so smart and always fair - and he was a good, kind man. I know he will be dearly missed by his family and friends.



Terri Stanford Baker - May 17, 2024 at 11:01 AM

GW

“ May he rest in eternal peace.



Geraldine Welch - May 17, 2024 at 10:25 AM

RW

“ Dear Mrs. Claudette, I am so sorry to hear about Mr. Side’s passing. He was a wonderful principal while I was at Ruth Hill so many years ago. I know that my Daddy enjoyed his teaching the Sunday school class at First Methodist. He will be dearly missed. Praying for God’s comfort during this time.  
Ruth Jones Warren

Ruth Jones Warren - May 17, 2024 at 10:22 AM