



John Norman White

February 28, 1938 - November 16, 2013

John Norman White passed away at his home on November 16. He was born February 28, 1938 in Hammond Indiana to the late Joel and Sophie White.

White graduated from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, with a BS Degree. Following graduation, he joined Delta Air Lines' Marketing Division in Detroit, Michigan in 1960. Later promoted to Delta's Headquarters in Atlanta GA, he continued his career in Delta's advertising and promotional media programs. Many of his areas of responsibility were related to his creative talents and unusual gifts for writing and presentation. He was responsible for a variety of Delta's internal and external programs and served as speechwriter and speech-coach for Delta's senior executives. In handling Delta's in-flight entertainment, he personally interviewed dozens of the world's top show business celebrities and had an easy familiarity with entertainment celebrities and Hollywood studios.

Following his retirement from Delta in 1990, White and his wife Martha founded Design Affiliates, Inc. publishing the aviation-related magazine AVION. Its worldwide distribution continued for 23 years. White's global reach took the name of Newnan and Coweta County around the world.

His office wall displays numerous plaques and awards highlighting a lifetime of civic contribution, including the local Optimist Club's "Man of the Year" and the

Coweta County Fire Department's singular Lifetime Membership award. He received countless international film and video production awards, as well as a Lifetime Achievement Award from the entertainment industry. In June of this year, he was awarded the Richard Brooks Visionary Award of Distinction for his dedication and contribution to local cultural and artistic enterprises.

White moved to Coweta County in 1969 and immediately immersed himself in civic-related programs. As the primary mover in founding Coweta County's fire department he served twelve years as Chairman of Coweta County's Fire Commission. White served five years as Chairman of Coweta County's Water Authority, served on the City of Newnan's Cultural Arts Commission and has served as host for countless Newnan and Coweta County events.

White was a gifted writer and graphic designer, woodworker, wood carver, metalworker, and outdoorsman. He was an exceptional speaker, a lover of music, and an enthusiastic singer of songs. He took as much pride in adeptly handling a chain saw and driving a tractor while wearing bib overalls as he did in emceeding formal events dressed in a tuxedo. Descriptive introductions of White included "the Leonardo Di Vinci of Delta Air Lines," and "a multi-national, multi-faceted, and multi-talented Man of all Seasons." In his later years, White became increasingly active in local civic affairs including Newnan Rotary, for which he became a familiar voice as Newnan's 4th of July celebration Master of Ceremonies. White was an ardent supporter of the Coweta County Board of Education's Centre for the Performing and Visual Arts.

White is survived by his wife, Martha Smyre White. The two have three children: Mark Lucian White (Janice), Martha Elisa White Martin (Lee), and Julie Kathryn White (Michael). Grandchildren include Lindsey, Sam, and Molly Martin, and Ellie and Ellis Garner-White. White also has a brother Thomas Carlisle White (Beth).

Anticipating his death, White remarked, "It's been said that 'life is a journey,' and most of my life has been a magic carpet ride. I've embraced it fully and so very much embrace the people that have made that magic carpet fly."

The family invites friends to join them for a reception at The Centre for Performing and Visual Arts, 1523 Lower Fayetteville Rd. in Newnan on Thursday, November 21 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. They will receive guests in the Gilot Gallery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made in John's name to the Centre for Performing & Visual Arts, P.O Box 1422, Newnan, GA 30264. Condolences maybe left to the family online at www.mckoon.com

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory (770) 253-4580

Cemetery Details

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory

38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-4580
care@mckoon.com
<http://www.mckoon.com>

Previous Events

Service

NOV 19.

No services

Visitation

NOV 21. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

The Centre for Performing & Visual Arts
1523 Lower Fayetteville Road
Newnan, GA

Tribute Wall

AR

“ *Sincere condolences to all the family. An absolute gent of a man*

Andy Reid - November 25, 2013 at 07:49 AM

LC

“ *My late husband "Augie" Cantin loved working with John at Delta. He always remembered his great talent. So sorry for your loss.*

Linda Cantin - November 22, 2013 at 08:33 AM

DR

“ *Dear Martha and the entire family, My prayers and deepest sympathy goes out to you during this time of grieving and celebration of John's life. He was truly an accomplished man and will be missed. "Mr. White," as I was asked to call him when he hired me at Delta in 1968, was a wonderful boss and friend. John was truly a positive influence in my life and the lives of all who knew and loved him. He was one of the most talented, humble men I have ever known. There are so many fond memories of my time working with him and being his friend that he will always hold a very special place in my heart. Thank you, John. Deeny Rutledge*

Deeny Rutledge - November 21, 2013 at 04:00 PM

JR

“ First let me express my deepest and most heart felt sympathy to the family of John White and all the people who knew and loved him. Now I speak directly to John. Compared to you John I will never accomplish very much. But without you being in my life the “very much” would be more like “nothing at all”. In life you taught me almost everything valuable that I know. In death your final lesson to me is stay in touch with those you love, because you never know...one might add to the old adage; keep your friends close, your enemies closer (and those you love closest of all). In the past few years I was too busy to keep you, my best friend and mentor, close enough to know what you were going through. Now I’ll live out my final years remembering that and maybe, just maybe, be a better friend to others. Thank you John, rest in peace and I promise when we next meet to try harder to be less of a burden for you. I cherish the memories of our time together and will take them covetously to my own end. Jim Rutledge

Jim Rutledge - November 21, 2013 at 03:28 PM

KB

“ John and I met through APEX/WAEA, over the years we would talk a lot about common interests such as our love for airplanes and fishing. We both had many stories to share with each other. In the last couple of years we worked on finding a home for our In-Flight Entertainment (IFE) history. John worked hard with many museums and after interviewing the likes of the Smithsonian he settled on the Museum of Flight in Seattle. He would fly out and we would spend the day together working with the Museum to make sure all the IFE items would be shown proudly one day. After one of his trips, John made me a gift that I will cherish forever, it was a part of a historic airplane made up in a shadow box type frame. It’s truly a one of a kind piece of art. It has been proudly displayed on my wall for all to enjoy since the day he gave it to me. We will miss you John, thank you for everything. Kevin

Kevin Bremer - November 21, 2013 at 12:27 PM

CP

“ Martha and Family - I've had the pleasure to know John through the years through our association within the IFE industry. He was a true gentleman and always so kind and upbeat. Having been associated with this industry for over 20 years I can assure you he blazed a trail that paved the way for many to follow. May you find comfort in your memories and knowing he touched so many lives along his journey.

Cindy Phillips - November 20, 2013 at 10:48 PM

FH

“ Martha, I am sorry the passing of John I enjoyed your friendships through the years. He will be missed by all Coweta county. sincerely, Frank Hollberg

Frank Hollberg - November 20, 2013 at 04:47 PM

PM

“ My deepest condolences to the family and friends of John White. Before I actually met John he was just a pleasant, warm voice on the other end of the phone when he called my boss Harvey Applebaum. He was always pleasant and humorous, in his own way. I finally got to meet him at my first WAEA conference. He was definitely tall and he was one of the nicest persons I have had the pleasure of meeting. I remember him walking the conference floor and he would often drop by our booth on his rounds to discuss industry concerns or just to talk with our group. He was a genuinely nice human being who cared about the IFE industry and those who worked within it. People were drawn to him and he to them. Thank you for sharing such a wonderful man with all of us. Peggy Mims-Sledge Twentieth Century Fox Film Corp

PEGGY MIMS-SLEDGE - November 20, 2013 at 03:36 PM

KP

“ Dear Martha and Family-- Words seem inadequate to express the sadness I feel about John's passing. I enjoyed working with John for many years through AVION, he was a true gentleman! Wishing you peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your hearts.

Kristi Phelps - November 20, 2013 at 02:49 PM

LH

“ To the Family of Mr. White: I never had the pleasure of meeting any of you, but Mr. White was such an inspiration to me as a member of the Fire Commission Board. I first met him at the March, 1975 meeting of the Board. I had been employed to be the Secretary for CCFD to begin the next month. He was such a dedicated person to the department, and I feel that because of his hard work along with the other members of the Board and the volunteer fireman at that time, the fire department would not be what it is today. I saw him several months ago at a local restaurant, and he spoke to me and told my husband that I was the Queen of the fire department. That really touched me. My prayers and thoughts to the family. Not only have you suffered a great loss, but also the entire county has. His accomplishments in everything that he did will always be remembered. Liz Hughie - Retired Administrative Asst.- CCFD

Liz Hughie - November 20, 2013 at 02:36 PM

BF

“ Please accept our deepest sympathy. We are grateful for John's efforts for our county and neighborhood. This kind man will be missed. Sincerely, Bil and Mary

Bil and Mary Fowler - November 20, 2013 at 12:09 PM

JM

“ Praying for comfort & peace during this time in your lives. May God Bless You All Joyce Millians, Halcyon Hospice

Joyce Millians, - November 20, 2013 at 09:50 AM

CB

“ Dear White Family: Like so many, I'm saddened to hear of John's passing. John was a constant force in the airline entertainment industry. His dedication and passion for it was obvious to all who came in contact with him. He always had time for a conversation and a good joke, and was supportive of all those he came in contact with. Many fond memories of John will continue as part of his legacy. My heartfelt condolences to your entire family. Sincerely, Cathi Breza

Cathi Breza - November 20, 2013 at 09:45 AM

SG

“ Martha and Family: I am so sad to hear of John's passing. He was truly an exceptional person. I know exactly what you are experiencing at this time, but just think, he and Jim are together and I'm sure hunting and fishing already. God bless you and your family. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Sharon Greer - November 20, 2013 at 08:42 AM

CU

“ Reading the obituary was enough to say John was a remarkable man. He supported our fledgling business based on a small Island off the south coast of England and spoke to us with respect and charm. Amazing that he remembered people and that was one of his great skills. WE appreciated his support and are in awe of his great joy of life. With best wishes for his family. Claire and Geoff at IFPL

Claire and Geoff Underwood - November 20, 2013 at 05:30 AM

MR

“ You rarely meet people as driven and positive as John. In WAEA/APEX over the last 15 years, my key memories of him were unexpectedly bumping into him in a hotel in Bangkok over breakfast (neither knew the other was there - a truly random 'what are you doing here?' moment) and sharing the 4WD ride with him and Martha over the sand dunes outside Dubai on the way to the 'desert dinner'. I also worked closely with him and his team publishing an article for Avion Magazine when the TV market was held in Kuala Lumpur. John was always beaming with energy. His passion for everything he did was obvious. I am not surprised to read of his extensive civic activities in his home town and I'm sure he was always there for his family as well. I often wondered whether his batteries ever exhausted or whether he just kept going. Sadly, such is life, his relentless energy has come to an end. However, no-one could say that his life was anything but a life lived to the full. I'm very sorry to hear of his passing - he was definitely an icon in our industry and one that we are unlikely to see again. Rest in Peace, John - and commiserations to your family. Michael Reilly, Stellar Entertainment, Sydney, Australia.

Michael Reilly - November 19, 2013 at 11:07 PM

DT

“ I am truly saddened to hear of your recent loss and would like to express my sincere condolences to John's family on the recent passing of a great friend.. I can only imagine how difficult this must be for the entire family. We hope that you find courage and strength to bear this irreparable loss. John was such an amazing person who touched the lives of many. With deepest sympathies. Art

Dr. Art Trejo - November 19, 2013 at 05:04 PM

KF

“ Dear Martha and Family: I am so sorry to hear of John's death. He was one of the most talented people I ever had the privilege to work with. There are many wonderful memories but the one that sticks out is his comment in 1979, "Some day we will remember these as the good old days. He was so right. My condolences to the White family and to all those who valued John. Kathy Field

Kathy Field - November 19, 2013 at 02:56 PM

DH

“ Martha, I am very sad to hear of the death of John. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Please know of my concern for you and your family.

Darlene Higgins - November 19, 2013 at 01:47 PM

SB

“ You are in my thoughts and prayers. May you experience God's grace and peace in your life. Chaplain Sam Braswell, Halcyon

Sam Braswell - November 19, 2013 at 11:05 AM

JH

“ I am very sorry to hear of John's passing. During 1986-1987 I had the opportunity to meet John during my temporary assignment at the DLATL General Office. John was the funniest guy I encountered on the 5th floor. He always was in a good mood and always had a joke ready for the unsuspecting "junior employee". He will be missed.

Jutta M. Hansen - November 19, 2013 at 11:01 AM

JR

“ John was truly the man of all seasons, and my mentor as Delta forged the relationship with Disney. There are many, many memories of good times and hard work, and John was the centerpiece. I will always miss him. Martha, please accept my sincerest condolences. James Ray

James Ray - November 19, 2013 at 10:42 AM

DD

“ Dear John White Family Members, My heart is heavy to have received this very sad news. For 4 years ('86-'90), I was privileged to work in the office next to John's. I handled DL's marketing arrangement with the Walt Disney Co as Official Airline, and John's mountain of experience in all those areas highlighted in his obituary were a treasure trove as he freely shared all of that expertise with me in our handling of all the global advertising, promotional and marketing opportunities with the "Mouse." While we all worked very hard to muscle through the challenges, John along with Jim Rutledge, Caleb Harkness and I always found that humor was the best medicine for keeping sanity surrounding the varied responsibilities our Company charged us with, and keeping the Disney Company from driving us "Goofy" (...so to speak). John and I were both huge Jonathon Winters fans, so we readily saw humor in most everything. John was such a man of substance, and I cherish those years working beside him. I was truly the beneficiary of his many talents, and we are all better people for having the good Lord allow us to share paths for a while. I pray for healing and comfort for all of his dear family members. We mourn along with you, but we also celebrate a life lived to the fullest. John shared so much of himself with us all, and we are forever grateful to have had the privilege and the blessing to know him. While my mind's eye can picture John's wide, infectious grin, life is just not quite as funny on this day having heard this sad news. My sincerest condolences. Dan D.

Dan Doggendorf - November 19, 2013 at 09:05 AM

JS

“ Martha, So sorry to hear of John's passing. I retired from Delta in July 1990 to go with Worldspan. I have many fond memories of working with John, but what comes to mind is the Scotch tasting dinner he held at your home on May 29, 1990. He gave everyone a bottle of Glenmorangie, 10 year old, single malt scotch. I have never open that bottle, but now would be an appropriate time to drink a toast to a wonderful person. Here's to John and the very best to you and the family.

John Such - November 18, 2013 at 10:26 PM

SF

“ Martha - I am so very sorry. When people say "I know how you feel", it is a known fact that not all people do. You know that I do. I have described it as the same as losing an appendage. I know that your family and many friends will help you now that you need them. And that God will be with you through this sorrow as He was with me. Shirley Fair

Shirley Fair - November 18, 2013 at 07:15 PM

CC

“ A dear man, who will be dearly missed...Prayers and many thoughts to Miss Martha and family.

Caroline Carr - November 18, 2013 at 06:57 PM

EJ

“ I'm grateful that I had the opportunity to meet Mr. John & work with him as a board member of the Newnan Cultural Arts Commission. Although our time together on the NCAC Board was brief, he was truly inspiring.... Thanks Mr. John for the great conversations and for sharing your knowledge, love, & dedication to the advancement of the arts. You will be missed....

Evette M. Jones - November 18, 2013 at 04:11 PM

PG

“ Martha and family: sending prayers of comfort and love to you. This news came as a shock...altho, we knew John wanted privacy and personal space to do what he needed to do. He certainly had a positive impact on everything he got involved with. Am feeling sad, but also blessed to have been involved with him with the production of the Wadsworth and friends Concert.

Phyllis Graham - November 18, 2013 at 04:09 PM

GS

“ John was a man of many talents. I will miss working with him on Newnan Cultural Arts. I respected him immensely as a fellow PR specialist but mostly as a good mentor and friend. Martha - you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Gina Snider - November 18, 2013 at 03:36 PM

RD

“ You will be in our thoughts and prayers. I will always remember John's work with Newnan Cultural Arts and Rotary , fireworks, sunshine remarks and the last Rotary "Follies" John engineered back in the 1990,s.

Ray DuBose - November 18, 2013 at 01:01 PM