



John Gail Selph

November 15, 1945 - March 1, 2020

John Gail Selph, age 74, passed away at his home on Sunday, March 1, 2020. He was born on November 15, 1945, in Camden, Arkansas, to Hugh and Christine (Alexander) Selph. He is preceded in death by his parents.

John Gail, as everyone called him in his hometown of Sparkman, AR, grew up running and playing throughout the Ouachita River bottoms. He spent his childhood summers riding horses, making campfires, hunting, and fishing. He developed a love for sports and became a successful track, basketball and football athlete. After graduating from Sparkman High School in 1963, he went to Southern State College where he ran track and played basketball. He developed many lifelong friends while at college, but none more important than the one he met on a blind date, Patricia Schnebly. That friendship blossomed into a beautiful relationship, and on June 4, 1966, he married the love of his life. Their marriage lasted almost 54 years and during that time they shared a lot of love and life. John graduated from Southern State in 1967, and began working for Taylor Gin Company before finding his passion in education. He spent 51 years serving students through his work in public education. John coached basketball, football, and track in Sparkman, AR, Magnet Cove, AR, and West Fork, AR. He served as High School Principal in Sparkman and West Fork. He later became the Superintendent of West Fork Public Schools for 17 years, and after retirement, became the Director of the Boston Mountain Educational COOP for 14 more years until officially retiring in 2019. John's greatest title was that of dad and papa. He and Pat raised three children: Tori, Rodney, and Kasey. Together, John and Pat raised them to have a love for Jesus and family. This love of family produced 13 grandchildren ranging in age from 3 to 23 years old. Much of John's free time was spent chasing after grandkids, watching ballgames, growing incredible gardens, and serving at West Fork First Baptist Church. He was a deacon and faithfully served his church and Lord all his life. John loved the Lord and loved his family until his dying day. Surrounded by family in his home, built by he and his beautiful wife, he said goodbye to family and his faith was made sight.

He is survived by his loving wife, Pat Selph of the home; three children, Tori Chambers

and husband Casey of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Rodney Selph and wife Johna of West Fork, and Kasey Helder and husband Nolan of Dothan, Alabama; two brothers, Carl Selph of San Miguel, Mexico, and Bill Selph and wife Edith of Hot Springs; one brother-in-law, Larry Schnebly and wife Teresa of Hot Springs; thirteen grandchildren, Kaden Selph, Taylor Chambers, Ashley Chambers, McKenzie Selph, Carson Chambers, Morgan Chambers, Kane Helder, Ruthie Helder, Gunner Selph, Ellie Helder, Ava Selph, Henry Helder and Alana Helder; and three nieces and nephews, Chad Selph, Gail Daigle and Kristen Schnebly-Dunn.

A visitation will be held from 5:00 - 7:00pm on Friday, March 6, 2020, at Nelson-Berna Funeral Home in Fayetteville.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 2:00pm on Saturday, March 7, 2020, at First Baptist Church West Fork at 246 N. Centennial Avenue, West Fork, AR 72774. A private burial will take place at West Fork Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the girls' basketball team at West Fork High School and mailed to 359 School Avenue, West Fork, AR 72774.

Cemetery

Events

West Fork Cemetery

West Fork, AR, 72774

MAR 6 Visitation 05:00PM - 07:00PM

6

Nelson-Berna Funeral Home & Crematory
4520 N. Crossover Rd., Fayetteville, AR, US, 72703

MAR 7 Celebration of Life 02:00PM

7

First Baptist Church
246 N Centennial Ave, West Fork, AR, US, 72774

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Nelson Berna Funeral Home - March 04 at 01:04 PM



“ What a beautiful video! Evidence of a life well lived!
RIP, John Selph
Candi & Stan Landon

Candi & Stan Landon - March 04 at 03:20 PM



“ He was very proud of his wonderful family. I enjoyed seeing some of his life through this video. I'm so very sorry. You are loved!
Cynthia Harrell

Cynthia Harrell - March 04 at 04:47 PM



“ John Selph was a friend to me. We were school administration. He worked for West Fork schools, and I was superintendent of Greenland schools for four years during the 1980's. We often communicated at school administration meeting. He was a brilliant educator. He will be missed. RIP John Selph.

Jerry Moody - March 05 at 09:38 AM



“ I remember John well. I was the special education teacher at West Fork High School when he was the football coach. I enjoyed talking with him. He was well respected. I'm sure that he will be missed by all whose lives that he touched.
Marian Beightol

marian beightol - March 05 at 01:54 PM



“ Our sincere condolences to the family. What a wonderful man and greatest of coaches. See you again one day Coach.

Rick Taylor - March 07 at 04:10 PM



“ We were so sorry to hear of John’s passing. Our deepest condolences to all the family.



Randy & Linda Bradley - March 07 at 12:40 AM



“ I’m so saddened at the passing of Mr. John Selph. He was the finest man I ever worked for. He was my Superintendent at West Fork for the 10 years we lived there. His Christian beliefs and caring ways were evident every day. Always a smile and a listening ear for his staff. Pat and kids please know that I’m praying for you every day. I still remember all support you gave me when my daughter passed away. May God be with you every minute.

In His Name,
Mary Ulmer



Mary Ulmer Hamilton - March 06 at 03:30 PM



“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of John Gail Selph.



March 05 at 10:26 AM



“ Pat and Family,
I am SO SO SORRY to read of John's passing. I was just thinking about him yesterday, wondering why he had not posted anything about his health on Facebook, and then I read his obituary. I guess God was trying to tell me something, when he

put John Gail into my mind. I never dreamed it would be about his death. I will remember the good times with you and him during our high school days at Sparkman, and it was so good to visit with you both at the Alumni Banquet when you were able to get there. My prayers are with you and the family during this time, and my heart cries with you. May God wrap HIS loving arms around you and give you the PEACE that ONLY HE CAN GIVE.

Linda Hogue - March 04 at 10:55 PM



“ Multicolor Bright Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of John Gail Selph.



March 04 at 10:52 PM



“ Cherished Memories - All White was purchased for the family of John Gail Selph.



March 04 at 09:29 PM



“ Devin and Tracy Coker purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of John Gail Selph.



Devin and Tracy Coker - March 04 at 05:08 PM



“ Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of John Gail Selph.



March 04 at 02:05 PM



“ Classmates at Sparkman from first grade through our graduation in 1963. Many fond memories of John Gail through those years. We traveled many miles together on the school bus to our basketball games. His passing makes me especially sad and my thoughts are with Pat and their children and grandchildren.

Dot Drummond - March 04 at 01:50 PM



“ I remember getting out of the Air Force and returning to West Fork. John was the teacher at church and taught young married couples. He made a difference in our lives. He taught Jesus he lived Jesus. Can't wait to reunite in heaven. The Bradley's.

Mike Bradley - March 04 at 01:18 PM



“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of John Gail Selph.



March 04 at 12:17 PM



“ As a younger graduate of Sparkman High School, I have many memories of John Gail in his sports activities. He was always a mentor for younger students. Thinking of you all with much prayer.

Edie Fleming Totty - March 04 at 11:57 AM



“ Coach Selph was my basketball coach 8th-10th grade at Magnet Cove. He was my favorite coach that I ever played for. We went to a basketball clinic and we were watching the all star game. I was sitting by coach and he told me I would be out there when I was a senior. God had other plans for me, but I always remembered that he believed in me as a player. He was an amazing coach, but an even more amazing man. Praying for comfort and peace for your family.

Susan McDougal Turley

SUSAN TURLEY - March 04 at 11:51 AM



“ John Gail was my mother’s first cousin but he was closer in age to me. We enjoyed growing up in the country, fishing with our dads, going on family outings and Sunday dinners together. I loved all his family. He will be missed by everyone who knew him.

Sylvia Ramsay Savage - March 04 at 11:04 AM



“ Classmates from first grade through college.
Those were the days!
Love and miss you John.

Travis Hopper - March 04 at 10:47 AM