



John Lawrence Boone

January 9, 2019

John Lawrence Boone died on Wednesday, January 9, 2019 at his home in Houston. He leaves behind family and friends in abundance and a legacy of passion for life.

John was passionate about his intellectual calling. He loved true science, particularly geology in its myriad forms. A single course in geology while attending Wofford Junior College in Spartanburg, SC resulted in a lifetime fascination with the subject. In 1971, John transferred to the University of Texas at Austin to pursue his interest, earning BS and MA degrees in Geology from UT, which led to careers in petroleum geology and hydrogeology. His keen mind led him to constantly read about discoveries and theories about the Earth's formation, its secrets, its resources, and the geology of places beyond Earth.

After graduation, his oil and gas career began at Getty Oil Company in Houston. Business was booming and he chose to move to Corpus Christi to join TXO Production Co., and then moved to Tondu Corporation, a small independent company. When the "boom" went "bust", he found new challenges at Everest Minerals, where he evaluated oil and gas deals and explored for uranium. He also became the company's de facto IT troubleshooter with the introduction of computers and printers, which kick-started his life-time interest in the latest technology for computers, phones, TV, AV and

every other thing that plugged into a wall until Bluetooth and wireless were developed.

In 1986, the price of oil fell from around \$30 per barrel to \$10 per barrel. At this point, John changed the focus of his career to hydrogeological and environmental assessment at Conoco, Inc. When he received his 5-year pin, he moved on to the alphabet time of his career, with time at GSI, RMT and ERM, all environmental consulting companies. At the behest of a friend, he ultimately joined Arcadis U.S., Inc. as a Principal Geologist, actively consulting there through November 2018. John was always torn by his desire to truly remediate environmental damage in opposition to most clients' desires to do as little as possible for the least amount of money. He worked tirelessly to find acceptable solutions for cleaning up the Earth.

He was a past member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the Corpus Christi Geological Society, the Houston Geological Society and the National Groundwater Association.

Hurricane Harvey captured his interest (and house) and resulted in an obsessively researched article specific to his Lakeside Forest neighborhood. He mapped precipitation totals for the Harvey deluge, researched historical rainfall data in the area, surveyed maximum flood elevation at his home, and determined an average recurrence interval of 34,000 years for a similar event. He enjoyed using his skills to address future flooding concern for his neighbors and to satisfy his own curiosity.

He was passionate about history – from the Greeks and Romans to the Franco Prussian wars to World War II to Vietnam to today's tumultuous climate. He understood history and put it into the context of today's events. A day discussing history with John was a day in a graduate-level history course.

One of John's most consuming passions was a small plot of land near Yorktown, Texas, where he loved spending time working and, occasionally, pig hunting. With great determination he battled yaupon, huisache, cactus, vines and other vegetation that impinged upon his paths through the property using tractor, shredder, chainsaw, pole saw and Remedy brush killer. Sisyphus would have identified with his ongoing struggle. John also created and maintained food plots for deer, turkey and quail, and by default, the obnoxious pigs. He liked feeding the small group of goldfish who kept the water tank clean and reviewing game camera photos of does and fawns, bobcats with their kittens, herons, coyotes, badgers, feral hogs, armadillos, opossums and jillions of raccoon. He nurtured the land, observed the wildlife, watched the changing of the seasons and reveled in nature. He was a true outdoorsman.

John was passionate about good food and wine and relished eating and drinking with friends and family. He loved cooking for his wife Marta and was famous among family and friends for his annual Christmas Eve spread of beef tenderloin, grilled salmon and particularly his "falling off the bone" Texas Two-Step baby-back ribs. Home-made béarnaise sauce, perfect temperature filets, bread, buttermilk pancakes and waffles, twice-cooked French fries, pressure-cooked chili, all legumes and assorted veggies were only a few of his culinary fortes.

John was a man of many talents and interests. He piloted his V-tailed Bonanza, sailed, rode horses, bicycles and motorcycles, played classical guitar, ran, skied, wind-surfed, kayaked, canoed, hiked, worked out, played tennis and was an all-around handy man due to his 16th year summer spent as a go-fer for a man of many skills who couldn't drive a vehicle. He had a great sense of humor, an appreciation of the absurd and could laugh until he cried over some stories. John was a voracious reader of autobiographies, military history and history in general, politics, finance and geology books and

publications. He eschewed fiction as he could not glean any useful knowledge from same. He was very detail-oriented and inquisitive. Rather than tossing some piece of equipment that had a glitch, he researched how-to repairs in online videos.

For many years, he and Marta regularly attended performances presented by Chamber Music Houston, as well as those by the Houston Symphony and Austin Classical Guitar Society. He was an audiophile and cared for his record and CD collection and AV equipment obsessively, until streaming music came along. His personal playlist consisted of classical pieces written by the masters and performed by the most talented artists.

However, his first date with Marta in 1981 involved flying her in his private plane from Corpus Christi to Houston to see and hear the Rolling Stones in the Astrodome. Ever after, old Stones' songs were the only music they could listen to in harmony. Their return trip to Corpus that evening was very romantic as they watched the Orionid Meteorites streak through the crystal-clear night sky from the Cessna's front wind screen. It was an unforgettable night.

Finally, John was passionate about his wife, Marta. He admired and respected her wit and intelligence, her drive and determination. He supported her ideas and her ideals. He loved her. Marta will truly miss her handsome, caring, intelligent husband.

John was 68 years old. He was born in Charleston, South Carolina in 1950, and grew up on the idyllic Tidesmeet Plantation, located on the Stono River near Meggett, SC. He was predeceased by his parents, Ellen and John A. Boone, MD. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Marta B. Bianchi; brother, David A. Boone and wife Rosaline of Crystal Lake, IL; their children Kate Boone Airhart (Ernie) and John G. Boone; his sister, Anne Boone of Oakland, CA; her children Christine Reed Johnson (Vaughn) and Daniel Reed (Mandy);

and four great-nieces and nephews.

Marta's sister, Beth Frantes, her husband Tom, their sons Matt, Gus and Truett, and Marta's brother Cletus Bianchi, his wife Daphne, and their daughters Sophia and Marina, loved and supported John and Marta through the many long months of fighting metastatic prostate cancer. There are no words to adequately thank them.

Marta and the Boone family will receive friends on Saturday, February 2, 2019 from 3:00 PM until 4:30 PM at Dettling Funeral Home, 14094 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77079. The Holy Rosary will be recited at 4:30 PM and the Memorial Service will begin at 5:00 PM in the chapel of Dettling Funeral Home. An onsite reception will follow the service.

John's degrees from the University of Texas gave him a life-long love of road-cuts, rivers, oil and gas, hydrogeology and every other facet of the science of Geology. In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes memorial contributions to the "John C. Bianchi, Jr. & John L. Boone Endowed Presidential Fellowship." This Fellowship was established in appreciation for The University's excellent education which resulted in John's lifelong geology career, and in memory of Marta's father, John Bianchi, who was a 1949 UT geology graduate and had a long, successful oil and gas career as well. The Fellowship at their alma mater will be used to provide financial support to academically outstanding graduate geology students.

Gifts may be made to "The University of Texas at Austin" with the check notation "JSG – Bianchi/Boone Fellowship" and sent to the following address:
The University of Texas at Austin
Jackson School of Geosciences, JGB 6.206F
Attn: Belle German, Exec Dir
2305 Speedway, C1160

Austin TX 78724

Marta has a final request – Men, please have your PSA level checked regularly, for your and your family's sake.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 2. 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home
14094 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-2121
david@dettlingfuneral.com

Rosary

FEB 2. 4:30 PM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home
14094 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-2121
david@dettlingfuneral.com

Memorial Service

FEB 2. 5:00 PM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home
14094 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-2121
david@dettlingfuneral.com

Reception

FEB 2. 6:00 PM (CT)

Dettling Funeral Home
14094 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-2121
david@dettlingfuneral.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Dettling Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John Lawrence Boone* ”



Dettling Funeral Home - February 01, 2019 at 07:09 PM



“ *John Lawrence Boone* ”

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *John Lawrence Boone* ”

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *John Lawrence Boone* ”

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *John Lawrence Boone* ”

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM

“ Cletus' eulogy for John's Memorial Service:

Time is a scalar measurement that like length, mass, and charge, is usually described as a fundamental quantity. Time is a measurable period, a continuum lacking spatial dimensions. Time, while being the subject of mathematical and scientific investigation, is also of philosophical interest.

For John Boone Time may have been the most significant measure, factor or element.

One introductory course in Geology piqued his curiosity, bringing him to Texas to drill deep into the science of rocks.

John got geologic time; in his meticulous and stratigraphic mind, eons and eras were as distinct as the minutes and seconds on a Casio digital watch. At the elemental level, John understood the time, heat and pressure necessary to create beautiful things like diamonds, fossils, and hydrocarbons.

If you ever assembled anything, did a construction project, or studied a road cut on a hot summer highway with John, you began to grasp the pace of geologic time...

What John truly appreciated is the important role time plays in creating valuable, enjoyable, and enduring things.

Consider John's passions – fine wine, smooth whiskey, classical music, fine art, history, flight, technology, minerals, owner's manuals, or a perfectly prepared rib roast. These aren't things that were slapped together. They all required craft, art, precision and time to create.

Appreciation of these things also takes time - to immerse, to savor, to comprehend and to enjoy.

You never saw John gulp a glass of wine, throw back a shot of whiskey, wolf a slice of beef, jump to conclusions, or put something together without reading the frikkin manual.

We're all far more familiar with John's satisfied grin and infectious joy while he consumed the finer things or explored the complex, chewing thoroughly and delving deep to discover the subtle nuances.

Despite his passion for cutting edge technology, like standing in line

for the latest release or attracting an excited crowd of salespeople at Fry's Electronics, John also appreciated the value of things that survived the test of time. Perhaps John's time spent in fastidious research before acquiring the perfect device or tool motivated his passion for preserving them, maintaining them with a pilot's obsession or reviving them with WD-40 after prolonged soaking in poop water. John was not quick to discard...

John wasn't quick at much, but that wasn't really a liability. While he sucked at covey rises, he was an expert marksman on the range. He didn't shred the bays with lures, but he's also the only guy I ever saw catch a flounder on topwater – I figure it was just taunting that poor fish while John pondered some mystery.

He was quick at getting ready and leaving the house for an engagement, after wiling the time away at his computer 'til the last second. And there were a couple of Christmas Eve afternoons when he set records finding Marta's gifts.

Maybe John's best use of time was getting to know and sharing with others. Whether behind a camera at an event, leaping about in a bunny costume, settled into a fireside chair at Semen-R with his red wine, or in a living room with his nieces and nephews, John took the time to engage, converse, listen, share and regale openly, a rare and appreciated quality in these times and a prime reason why we loved him.

Which brings me to John's marriage to Marta. Their love, compassion and joy remind me of a polished slab of Texas Hill Country granite placed at the end of a jetty, glistening in the sunlight on calm pretty days, yet unwavering and resilient when storms rolled in. A welcoming beacon for others in good times and shelter and security during their struggles.

When you think of "John and Marta," and it's hard to think of them apart, you recall laughter, happiness, generosity, love, and support – like the other beautiful and lasting things, lovingly crafted and forged through time.

And like those cherished and priceless treasures, their love

CD

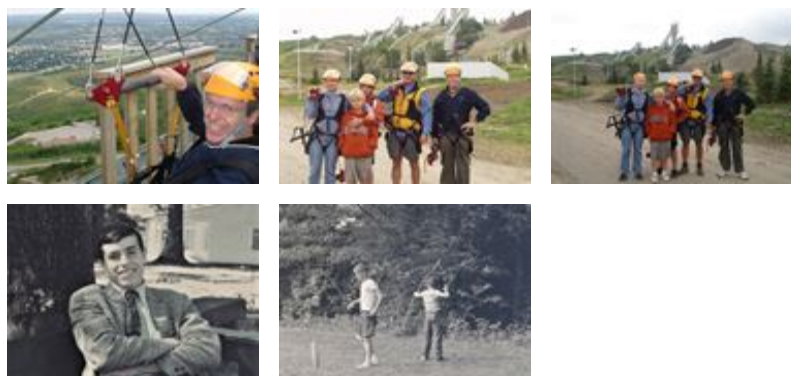
“ *Carlota Danforth lit a candle in memory of John Lawrence Boone*



Carlota Danforth - February 02, 2019 at 05:15 PM



“ *450 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Detting Funeral Home - February 01, 2019 at 05:16 PM



“ *With Distinction was purchased for the family of John Lawrence Boone.*



February 01, 2019 at 03:50 PM



“ *Simply Chic Mixed Plant Basket was purchased for the family of John Lawrence Boone.*



January 31, 2019 at 05:05 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of John Lawrence Boone.*



January 31, 2019 at 10:41 AM



“ *Marta, I am sad to learn of John's untimely passing. He was much too young and much too loved to go so soon. I wish you comfort to carry you through your grief, and the joy of his memory to carry you through the times to come.*

All of my wishes for you to be well,

Steve Vealey

Steven Vealey - January 25, 2019 at 10:43 PM

PK

“ Dear Marta,

John will be missed by all whose lives he touched. God certainly was good to us to have shared John with us for so long. We were blessed to have known him and experienced his vast knowledge, great sense of humor, kind and gentle nature and culinary skills. John was a man of many talents. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and for you always.

Love, Pat & Skip

Patricia Keller - January 25, 2019 at 06:28 PM

AB

“ Dear Marta,

Brent and I are very saddened to hear the news. We pray that you find strength and comfort knowing that he is now in peace with our Lord.

*Lots of hugs to you,
Brent and Ana Boecking*

Ana Boecking - January 22, 2019 at 10:15 AM

MB

“ Dear Marta & Family, have been thinking of you all (and, of course, “John-Boy”) ever since we heard the news of his passing and are keeping you all in prayer as you navigate these days and weeks following his much too soon departure from this life that he seemed to love and enjoy so much.

It is so very hard to find the “right” words to say (as there really aren’t any), but just know how very sad we are for this tremendous loss in your lives (and most especially in your life, Marta). Feels quite surreal that when we come together in Houston to celebrate John’s life, he will not be there (at least physically), but of course, his spirit will always be very much alive in your hearts and ours (and the hearts of all who knew and loved him!).

Anyway, just praying that John’s soul will soon be at rest in the loving arms of Jesus and all the angels and saints . . . and that, with time, you all will find some comfort and peace in the many wonderful memories shared with John.

Forever in our hearts and minds (and prayers!).

Love, Marian & Tom

Marian Blanchard Boecking - January 21, 2019 at 12:04 AM

PB

“ Glad the battle is over and John is resting in peace now. Ecclesiastes 9:5 “For the living are conscious that they will die; but as for the dead, they are conscious of nothing at all.” We will certainly miss him on the tennis courts.

Philip Bianchi - January 17, 2019 at 10:37 AM