



John David Norris

August 29, 1947 - April 25, 2022

John David Norris of Houston, Texas passed away peacefully on April 25, 2022 at the age of 74 after a long, courageous battle with Alzheimer's.

John was born on August 26, 1947 in El Dorado, Arkansas to Mildred Leroux Norris and Jerome Clark Norris. John graduated from the University of Arkansas and went on to earn a law degree from The George Washington University School of Law. He spent most of his career with Houston-based Arnold, White & Durkee, one of the most prestigious intellectual property law firms in the country.

John was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed sailing, hiking, and running marathons, including the Boston Marathon in 2013.

John is preceded in death by his parents and brother Paul Norris. John is survived by his wife, Sandy, of 36 years; his daughter and son-in-law, Millie and Lawson Mertz; son and daughter-in-law, Clark and Kristy Norris; and three grandchildren, Marion, Mort and Matthew Mertz. He is also survived by his brothers, Jim Norris and his wife Carol, and Phil Norris, as well as nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Life and Memorial Service will be held on Friday, April 29 at 10am at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, 11612 Memorial Drive,

Houston, Texas 77024.

The family would like to thank Dr. Joseph Masdeu and his staff at the Nantz Alzheimer's Center at Methodist Hospital, and the wonderful staff at The Auberge of Sugarland Memory Care Facility.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to the Houston Methodist Hospital in support of the Nantz National Alzheimer Center, PO Box 4384, Houston, Texas 77210-4384 in memory of John D. Norris. Visit www.DettlingFuneral.com to leave words of condolences for the family.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR **29**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church
11612 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77024

Tribute Wall



“ *John David Norris*

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *John David Norris*

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *John David Norris*

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM



“ *John David Norris*

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM



“ *Sandy - I am so sorry for your loss. My fondest memories of John involved the Wednesday morning running group at MDPC. So many miles, so many memories, so much to talk about and share in our running careers. It was a watershed moment when I slowed down and John didn't; From that point on, I always felt like I was holding him back. Such a leader in all respects. May God comfort you and your family as your own memories are burnished by the passage of time. Jim Taylor*

James Taylor - April 29, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ *Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of John David Norris.*



April 29, 2022 at 12:35 AM



“ *Dear Sandy , Millie, Clark, and family, I was truly saddened to hear that John has passed away. He was truly a remarkable person and a stellar attorney. I do not know a single person who would not call themselves a fan. It was a joy for me to work along his side for so many years. May you find comfort and peace in your memories and may God hold you in the palm of his hand. Ecclesiastes 12:7 Then shall the dust returns to the ground it came from and the spirit returns to God who gave it. Amen. Rest in peace John Norris. With my sincere sympathy,
Shirley McAlister*



Shirley McAlister - April 27, 2022 at 08:38 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John David Norris.*



April 27, 2022 at 06:53 PM

DH

“ John and I met and became best friends while attending law school at George Washington University. We both worked as law clerks at the Finnegan law firm, and both went on to clerk at the U.S. Court of Customs & Patent Appeals. Then our careers in the intellectual property field diverged, as he moved to Houston, and I stayed in Washington. But we both were fortunate to work in the top two intellectual property law firms in the country at the time. John would ultimately rise to be the managing partner of Arnold, White & Durkee, and we enjoyed staying in touch through the years as our careers developed. One of my fondest memories was when we decided to take the Patent Bar Exam to qualify as U.S. Patent Agents while we were in law school. Rather than spend a lot on a bar review course, we rented a room at a local hotel and crammed for two straight days over a weekend for the test. Fortunately, we both passed. Later, when John met Sandy, the love of his life, he asked me to be the best man in their wedding. He and Sandy certainly were a great team, and her love for John and her care for John later in life were remarkable. I will always remember his wry smile and his incredible intellect. John lives on for me, and I know for many others. David Hill

David Hill - April 27, 2022 at 03:51 PM



“ Heart's Companion Bouquet was purchased for the family of John David Norris.



April 27, 2022 at 02:56 PM



“ 102 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Dettling Funeral Home - April 26, 2022 at 05:34 PM

JD

One of my favorite attorneys. John was funny, intelligent, a fellow bookworm, and always a joy to work for. Being assigned to work on a case with John always felt like winning the paralegal lottery. I haven't seen in John in about 7 years, but I know the world isn't as bright without his presence. Happy trails, John. I will think of you often.

Jeanne Dunn - April 27, 2022 at 10:45 AM