

John Luther Kammerdiener

July 6, 1937 ~ May 3, 2023

Love you all. Uncle John was one of a kind. I feel so fortunate to have been his nephew. Rest in peace ♥

- David Wiegler

I'm crying as I write this. I was his only niece and the first-born among his original family. My mother, Kathleen Leonard, died in Aug 2018. It was my Uncle John who provided the rock I needed not only at that time but as a little girl when my newly single mom moved me and my brother David to be near him in Livermore. I recall his weird green scrambled eggs (SOS, learnt to make in his Vietnam tour), served to shock and cause me to scream. He laughed loudly, a trait he shared with fellow wit, my mom. His mom, Susie, adored her second son especially. They used to go to SF Giants games together, and she was heard yelling "Hit it, Willie!", repeated again and again in family lore. My uncle adored his family including sweet older brother Norman, who left us far too soon in the 80s. What can you say about your patriarch? That he was brilliant, tough and one-of-a-kind? Or that he loved his niece, expressing a fatherly warmth even as I sometimes feared him. For like others in the family, I'm sure he often frowned upon my choices (asking my mom why I chose to be a creative writing major instead of something I could make money at, for example), but when, at 57, I was marching across the stage at Royal Festival Hall in London, he and Ellen watched the livestream. This touched me deeply, as that day came just four months after Mom died. And besides, he was a part of my achievement, having let me interview him on eighteenth-century surveying practices! Note, he did not want to be cited and wanted it clear this was just a hobby, not part of being a nuclear physicist. I followed my supervisor's advice and mentioned him in acknowledgements. Yesterday, unknowing of his death, I went to where he and I had stood twenty years ago to look at the ducks and mallards in Milford, Conn. I thought of him, as yesterday for the first time, I saw two geese and several goslings. Uncle John was a proud atheist and I am as well, but if I were religious I'd be inclined to think he's still watching over me.

- Laurie Wiegler

Dear Ellen, Susan and Michael, we were deeply touched and saddened by your message. We will remember John always as the humorous and kind person he was. All our thoughts are with you. Love Ellen & Claudia with family

- Ellen & Claudia

Dear Ellen, dear Susan and Michael, dear Spencer, Graham and Evan, dear all, We are very sory for your loss. You are in our thoughts. We are thinking about you and wishing you comfort. Our condolences.

- Silke and family