
WHAT THE HECK DO WE DO TOMORROW?
ONE DAY AT A TIME, I GUESS.

A VIRTUAL WAKE FOR JOHN JOSEPH WRIGHT




Dedication

To our sister-in-law Rita Pelczar. She made the boy we knew as children
be the man we know today.

Sunday, October 11, 2020. When someone dies a whole world ends. The following is our spontaneous reaction to the world without our brother John. It's our immediate, emotional adjustment that took place throughout the day. We shared our memories of growing up with Johnny. In this way, we helped preserve a fragment of the world that held our brother and ourselves—a world that's gone.

Katie Pugliese
With a heavy heart, Johnny Boy is gone. 5:00 am this morning with Rita at his bedside. Peaceful. Will provide more as I'm able. Sorry to do this by text. Love you all. (I told John repeatedly yesterday that all the sibs and in-laws sent their love.
Sun 8:48 AM

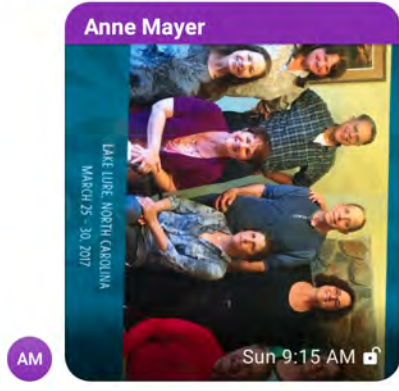
Anne Mayer

Sun 8:49 AM

Thanks, Kate.
Sun 8:49 AM

Mary Blackwell
Atque inperpetuum, frater, atque ave vale.
Sun 8:58 AM

Yeah.
Sun 8:59 AM

Katie Pugliese
Questioned "Atque inperpetuum, frater, atque ave vale."
Sun 9:06 AM



Charlie Wright
... and then there were 8. 🥹 RIP John.
Sun 9:18 AM

Mary Blackwell
Translation: Forever and ever, my brother, hail and farewell.
Sun 9:20 AM

How many times have we each reeled off our names in birth order? What will I do next time I try?
Sun 9:21 AM

Anne Mayer
Our last time all together was one year ago tomorrow
Sun 9:21 AM

Mary Blackwell
Birth order doesn't change, regardless.
Sun 9:22 AM

Birth order is the easy part.
Sun 9:23 AM

Anne Mayer
O wow Geo. Totally got that
Sun 9:24 AM

Maureen Perry
Thoughts to Rita and kids. Can't imagine
Sun 10:21 AM

Martha Toth
Thank you for repping us, Katie. Love to all.
Sun 11:00 AM

MT Six years ago today, we were on a Potomac River cruise together with most of the family.
Sun 11:22 AM

AM Anne Mayer
Loved "Six years ago today, we were on a Potomac River cruise together with most of the family."
Sun 11:23 AM

Mary Blackwell
Lovely memories, so thanks for that.
Sun 11:24 AM

"God gave us memory so that we might have roses in December."
J.M. Barrie
Sun 11:29 AM

"In the run up to someone's death there are prayers and cultural rituals we do to help them on their journey but those normal structures that help us process grief aren't there now ... when all deaths are considered, at least a million people have been bereaved at a time when normal rituals, visits and contact have been upended by lockdowns."
Sun 11:30 AM

AM Anne Mayer
Can we share some happy memories of John here today?
Sun 11:31 AM

AM I am bereft.
Sun 11:32 AM

Mary Blackwell
Sitting on the porch at Shangri-La, watching the wild turkeys in the tree line.
Sun 11:36 AM

Sharing lunch in the Pentagon cafeteria.
Sun 11:36 AM

AM Anne Mayer
He told me once if he had known how happy it made Rita to have chickens, he would have built the chicken pen much sooner. We were collecting eggs one morning when I visited.
Sun 11:37 AM

AM Mary Blackwell
Him sitting on a stool while working on the engine of his VW bug in front of Kinross Ave, while he explained what he was doing to a solemn toddler Laurie.
Sun 11:37 AM

Early 1969, Kinross, triple bunk bed, morning. John (middle) pleads sleepily, "Zeppelin, Zeppelin." Charlie vaults down from the top and rolls tape: <https://youtu.be/TA9Rec1qAFQ>
Sun 11:44 AM

MP Maureen Perry
Sitting in class at St B's annex and seeing John out in the hall with big sweeper...long hair and all with big smile..as all the girls swooned.
Sun 11:46 AM

AM Anne Mayer
Perfect music! ❤️
Sun 11:49 AM

Charlie can confirm.
Sun 11:50 AM

Katie Pugliese

Loved "Translation: Forever and ever, my brother, hail and farewell."

Sun 11:50 AM

Loved "... and then there were 8. 🥲 RIP John."

Sun 11:50 AM

Anne Mayer

Can someone recount the OC story about the stuffed buzzard?

Sun 11:51 AM

Katie Pugliese

Please keep these memories going.....I will share with Reet and the kids. Curt in particular asked me for memories of John as a kid.

Sun 11:52 AM

Anne Mayer

John was an impossibly cute toddler. Straw blond hair and blue eyes with a sunny disposition to match. I remember a sunny day at Haines Point when an older woman approached him and was charmed by his looks and demeanor. He must have been about 3, making me 8. I remember the encounter mainly because it took the attention he got from a complete stranger to make me suddenly realize how cute my baby brother was.

Sun 12:26 PM

A chick magnet at 3.

Sun 12:26 PM

I remember him looking like that, with clubby cheeks and (no offense, John) a tendency to drool.

Sun 12:31 PM

Katie Pugliese

Two kind men just took John away...he donated his body to Wake Forest medical school. An emotional moment.

Sun 12:36 PM

Maureen Perry

The Vulture...not buzzard.

Sun 12:36 PM

Anne Mayer

Katie, are their kids with you?

Sun 12:37 PM

So Mo, tell the vulture story. I remember hearing about it at the time as hilariously funny, but I must not have been there.

Sun 12:38 PM

Maureen Perry

Dont remember the one in OC. I do recall the vulture hanged in front yard tree. Believe he got it from or for current girlfriend names Lynn.

Sun 12:42 PM

Reiterating...so glad your there for Reet

Sun 12:48 PM

Martha Toth

He continues Mom and Dad's last gift tradition. This turned out to be a great morning to be invited to brunch and hugs.

Sun 1:02 PM

Katie Pugliese

Just recounted the memories on this thread to a grateful audience.

Sun 1:04 PM

Martha Toth

Now we are going up the street to watch the salmon leaping upstream to spawn. Circle of life stuff seems appropriate. Love you!

MT

Sun 1:06 PM

Katie Pugliese

Big laughs for the "Zeppelin....Zeppelin" story.

KP

Sun 1:06 PM

Monica Wright

As I recall the vulture OC time, John bought stuffed vulture or won it at an arcade- not sure. But it was to be a gift for his girlfriend. Every night while we were there, no matter where he hid it, we would awake in the morning to see the vulture hanging (as in noise around it's neck) from the ceiling. I remember it being hilarious. I assumed the deed was done by Charlie.

Wonder is Katie who had suffered through clothes pinned Humpty Dumpty eyes at the hands of Charlie or John (?) found some justice in this nightly challenge. As I recall John took it in good humor.

MW

Sun 1:06 PM

Anne Mayer

Speaking of parental tradition, like many of us, John was a mentor. Via Jesse:

John actually spent quite a bit of email time with me after I got out of The army giving me advice. He brutally tore into my CV, and improved it greatly. In fact, the CV I use as my base CV is essentially the one he wrote. He talked with me a lot about going into gov't

service and put me in contact with a few people too.

AM

Sun 1:06 PM

I'm compiling a collection of screen shots. Will edit together and send out when things taper off.

Sun 1:07 PM

Anne Mayer

Another from Jesse, who with Simon and his Mum in London, love to John' family - including us.

Early memories are of everyone being goofy at your parents house. Because I'm one of the first cousins, I recall your younger - then childless - sibs coming over and drinking too much and being the center of attention along with Laurie, bob, etc. John used to chase us around the house and we would hide. He also showed me the first tobacco barn I'd ever seen. It was incredibly cool.

Sun 1:09 PM

Thanx Geo

AM

Sun 1:10 PM

Martha Toth

Sound track for today.

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=8BwhYeHmGpM&list=RDAMVM8BwhYeHmGpM>

MT

Sun 1:12 PM

Monica Wright

I loved how John, who I am sure had to in his family's phrase-take the pain- at the St. Bernadette nuns as a kid, totally rejoiced I'm returning there to work as a custodian while a college student at UM because he loved pushing the boundaries with them where

he had the upper hand. He would outright flirt with them to watch them not know what to say or do. He'd say stuff like, "Hey Sister you are looking really fine today!" or some such and they would get all excited and embarrassed.

MW

Sun 1:13 PM

I'm sure some of you have participated in funerals at Protestant churches. Unlike Catholic services which are rigidly controlled by the priest, Protestant services I've attended are different. The minister opens the floor for memories, eulogies, testimony. The ministers I've seen did a great job of urging the diffident to open up. This conversation is like that Protestant sharing. And the linear, electronic format facilitates.

Sun 1:16 PM

Anne Mayer

This has been a weird conversation for the long stretches of silence in between. I'm replaying snippets of the John I remember, interspersed with memories from others of the John I didn't really know.

AM

Sun 1:18 PM

Charlie Wright

Sorry to have been absent from today's back-and-forth. Birthday lunch with our youngest grandson, now 10. Loved all the memories shared here, many of which I shared with John in postcards sent every 3 or 4 days since September. I really appreciated the stories of John at Kinross after I left for Pensacola.

Those 7 years, '71 thru '77 were a part of his life that I totally missed.

Sun 2:33 PM

Damn I'll miss him.

Sun 2:34 PM

Anne Mayer

Your birthday lunch is a reminder that life is still good and that life goes on.

Sun 2:34 PM

Charlie Wright

Indeed.

Sun 2:41 PM

But Katie's note about the "two kind men" who took John away was a punch in the gut that I was unprepared for.

Sun 2:44 PM

Monica Wright

Really appreciated Geo's Zeppelin memory and song link. Found it unexpectedly uplifting as I blasted that Good Times Bad Times song followed by Over the Hills and Far Away while walking outside in light Fall Oregon rain shower. A powerful rinsing.

It was only after I got home and replayed the two songs for Jerry and Chris in memory of John that I remembered it was just a couple of days ago that we set up Spotify accounts and told to pick out an album I chose Led Zeppelin- out of all that I could have picked. It strikes me that there is a kind of symmetry here.

Sun 2:55 PM

Sorry Charlie- I did not see your comment before I sent my comment. Such hard news and on your birthday? Is it today?

Sun 2:57 PM

Charlie Wright

Not my birthday. My grand son's.

Wonderful day with him. As Anne said: life goes on.

Sun 3:06 PM 📱

Saturday morning Zeppelin is a strong memory. 😊

Sun 3:08 PM 📱

Anne Mayer

Charlie, care to share any more bro memories like those you shared with John?

Sun 3:15 PM 📱

Katie Pugliese

Loved "But Katie's note about the "two kind men" who took John away was a punch in the gut that I was unprepared for."

Sun 3:16 PM 📱

Charlie Wright

Anne: Hoping to distract John from his here-and-now, I recounted memories I had of times before I left Kinross. As such, most were when John was quite young.

We shared a bedroom. One night, as we lay in our double bed before going to sleep, one of us farted loudly. As you might expect, we both laughed. After a brief pause, and because farts are just funny, one of us made a similar noise to simulate a fart. As with all boys of that age, a contest ensued wherein each of us made simulated fart noises - each louder and longer than the previous one. After some repetition, Dad yelled out from his bedroom: "Knock it off, or I'll flatten you!"

That was the funniest thing we had ever heard. And we laughed so hard and uncontrollably that we were sure Dad was, in fact, going to come in and do just that.

Sun 3:56 PM 📱

Martha Toth

I was just going to add that one. Better from a co-conspirator, though.

Sun 3:58 PM 📱

Anne Mayer

I remember that expression! I thought those stories were legends.

Sun 3:58 PM 📱

Katie Pugliese

Loved "Anne: Hoping to distract John from his here-and-now, I recounted memories I had of times before I left Kinross. As such, most were when John was quite young.

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Mary Blackwell

I seem to recall John and/or Charlie screaming into their pillow at night just to get a rise out of Dad. Also, they used to have a contest at dinner where they would knock on the DR table until Dad told them to knock it off, whereupon the perp would shout "NINE! A new record"--or something similar.

Sun 4:13 PM 📱



Anne Mayer

I'd forgotten that. We were brats!

Sun 4:14 PM 📱



Mary Blackwell

Also, I was the one who hung the vulture every night in OC. Don't even think Charlie was there that summer.

Sun 4:15 PM 📱



Anne Mayer

BIG REVEAL!

Sun 4:16 PM 📱



Katie Pugliese

Big reveal indeed! I never knew, Mary!

Sun 4:19 PM 📱



Charlie Wright

I also reminded John of his life as a kid at Kinross playing outside: kickball, football, basketball, kick-the-can, capture-the-flag, red river, dodgeball, tag, climbing the trees in the yard.

I recounted how we'd play hide-and-peek. Base was always the telephone pole in the front yard. To hide, we'd run around back, climb the tree at the corner of the house, climb onto the roof, and hide on the backside of the

roof. When whoever was IT wandered too far from the Base, we'd run down the front roof, jump off the 8 foot drop to the ground, and run home free! No one thought to look for people hiding ABOVE the ground.

Sun 4:23 PM 📱

"Red Rover" not "Red River"

Sun 4:23 PM 📱



Martha Toth

A story our Mom and Dad would have been horrified to hear.

Sun 4:24 PM 📱



Mary Blackwell

I am afraid of heights, yet I jumped off the damn roof to avoid John's scorn. One. Time. Only.

Sun 4:25 PM 📱



Charlie Wright

Mary: your text about knocking on the table was next on my list of stories. Never got to send that one.

Sun 4:25 PM 📱

I remember that John was not entirely amused at the vulture hanging after the 2nd or 3rd time.

Sun 4:27 PM 📱



Katie Pugliese



These are from Thursday! Just 2 days before he died. And in retrospect, this was the pre-death rally/surge. Days before and after were mostly in bed and very little talking. When

Rita wheeled him back to bed he tried to speak....he managed to get the word "moved". Rita asked, are you saying you were moved by the songfest with the kids? John nodded yes.

Sun 4:28 PM 🗨️



KP

Sun 4:28 PM 🗨️

Charlie Wright

I think that "vulture summer" was my last OC venture before departing for Pensacola.

Sun 4:29 PM 🗨️

CW

Anne Mayer

Thank you for the priceless video

Sun 4:32 PM 🗨️

AM

Charlie Wright

One more memory I had hoped would give him something to think about- especially to follow the Zeppelin story: Barry Richards. The Boss with the hot sauce! WHFS. And Cerphe, before that, while he was still an undergrad at Georgetown U broadcasting on WGTB.

Music was a big part of our lives.

Sun 4:44 PM 🗨️

CW

Katie Pugliese

Liked "Katie, are their kids with you?"

Sun 4:57 PM 🗨️

KP

Yeah, remember how we'd be listening to HFS, but.... If we didn't call it a night soon enough, 10pm rolled around, and "Now stay tuned for the Big Band Sound with Nicole," or some shit. And the recording of Screamin' Jay Hawkins, "I put a spell on you." We'd try to emulate the scream.

Sun 4:59 PM 🗨️ 🔄

On a thread with my boys, Matt asked for the address of John's Jug Bay house. Anybody know?

Sun 5:00 PM 🗨️ 🔄

Katie Pugliese

Charlie, sorry about my gut punch text about John being taken away. Do you remember the guys taking Mom away? As they were leaving, they said that they would take good care of her. So as they were gently putting John in the van, I called out, "Take good care of my brother!" They turned and solemnly said, "We will, Ma'am." Rita got a call a couple hours

later from the guys, letting her know that John was now safely at Wake Forest". ❤️

Sun 5:03 PM 🗨️

KP

Anne Mayer

Sorry. Threw out my old paper phone address book when I left Cali.

Sun 5:04 PM 🗨️

I remember the men that took Ken asked me if I wanted to be in the room when they put him into a bag. Jesse took me into the next room. They waited until they were ready to roll him out and came into the kitchen. The guy said "We will take good care of him."

Sun 5:06 PM 🗨️

AM

Katie Pugliese

Remind me to check my paper address book when I get home...there is a slight chance I might have the address. Across the bay from his house is a preserve called Jug Bay wetlands sanctuary....I've heard it is a really cool place:

<https://jugbay.org/>

Sun 5:07 PM

KP

Charlie Wright

Geo: Yes. I remember thinking that the Screaming Jay Hawkins recording was a joke the first time I heard it.

Sun 5:12 PM

CW

Anne Mayer

I don't care. If. You. Don't. Want. Me....

Sun 5:13 PM

AM

Maureen Perry

I remember jumping off the roof at Kintoss but couldn't remember who it was assuring me I could do it.ha. only time I ever got the wind knocked out of me

Sun 5:14 PM

MP

Charlie Wright

Kate: I remember aft Mom passed and you arrived, I went out to the sub-shop to bring back some sandwiches for lunch. I couldn't have been gone for more than 20 minutes. I got back as the guys taking her away were about to close the doors on the van. I had just enough time to say a final goodbye. I hope that John's family had a chance to say their goodbyes.

No sense in dragging it out. But don't blink or you'll miss it.

Sun 5:16 PM

So who among us did NOT jump off the roof?

Sun 5:17 PM

CW

Anne Mayer

Me! I never jumped off the roof. You crazy kids!

Sun 5:18 PM

AM

Mary Blackwell

I don't remember who told the story, but apparently the older of the two men who came for Mom turned and said, "You get to keep all the memories" just before they left.

Sun 5:19 PM



Maureen Perry

Geez I wish we all could be together right now. Thank goodness we have this at least.

Sun 5:33 PM

MP

I jumped off the porch at Dallas Ave, but never jumped of Kinross.

Sun 5:34 PM

Anne Mayer

Check your email. I hope to see more there in coming days

Sun 5:34 PM

AM

Did climb onto the Kinross roof from trees though. I assume I climbed back down (because, obviously, I'm not still up there).

Sun 5:35 PM

Anne Mayer

Who climbed out of the first bedroom window to the chimney to sneak out

AM

Sun 5:36 PM

I could go in and out the window from the single room by the laundry room. It was just a proof-of-concept though. Why would I ever want to "sneak out?"

Sun 5:39 PM

Charlie Wright

I'm going to say the Jug Bay home address was Pindell Rd. But the maps of today don't confirm that. From Pindell, it appears that the roads branch. From the satellite maps, River Farm road looks, to me, most like the road I remember. But there does not seem to be a house still standing at the end of that road. It could be the house at the end of Patuxent Fishery Rd, but the house at that spot has clearly been rebuilt.

Sun 5:39 PM

Remember climbing onto the Dallas Avenue porch roof. Only about 5 though. Never jumped off it.

CW

Sun 5:41 PM

Anne Mayer

I tried to find current house at 394 Old Mill Drive to say goodbye. Google earth pic shows an empty lot in winter with no leaves on deciduous trees. Somehow fitting.

AM

Sun 5:41 PM

Charlie Wright

304, not 394

Sun 5:42 PM

And Google maps shows a pretty current pic.

CW

Sun 5:44 PM

For you young folks who have forgotten (or never knew) Dallas Ave.

Sun 5:44 PM



It was Johnny's arrival that triggered the move to Kinross, right?

Sun 5:45 PM

Anne Mayer

Liked "304, not 394"

AM

Sun 5:45 PM

Charlie Wright

I climbed out of the windows in every Kinross bedroom EXCEPT the master bedroom. But not to sneak out. Just to do it.

CW

Sun 5:46 PM

Anne Mayer

We sure are fortunate to share some memories of overlapping happy joint childhoods.

AM

Sun 5:46 PM

Charlie Wright

The Dallas porch was screened when we lived there.

Sun 5:47 PM

CW I remember carrying our backyard swing-set down Lanark Way the 5 blocks from Dallas to Kinross. ... as much as a 5-year old could help with that.
Sun 5:49 PM

AM Anne Mayer
I remember that night
Sun 5:50 PM

AM Geo, remember a pine tree in front of the screened porch. I remember climbing out of the window above the porch and down the pine tree. It was a sticky, sappy mess. I was so glad when we moved to a house with more climbable oak trees
Sun 5:51 PM

CW Charlie Wright
Pine trees suck! (for climbing)
Sun 5:55 PM

I remember cutting through the construction area on Kinross on the way home from St. B's. There were no yard fences then. I walked by the rec-room window, and the guy painting the frame yelled at me for trespassing.

Anne, I remember the pines. The Dallas Ave house was built on a pine forest. The end of the block past the Molnar's house was still a pine forest when we moved in. I know we had one dogwood in the back yard, but everything else was pine.

Sun 5:56 PM

What was the name of the family in 10104 Kinross? The father was a Lutheran minister; the son's name was Mike.

Sun 5:57 PM

AM Anne Mayer
Kelly and Michael Kemper
Sun 5:58 PM

Charlie Wright
Yep. 🙌
Sun 5:58 PM

Back to John: I think Geo was correct. There was not room enough for 3 boys in the Dallas bedroom.
Sun 6:00 PM

CW We needed a bigger house.
Sun 6:00 PM

AM Anne Mayer
I remember Katie banging her head in a crib in Dallas Ave. The place may have been to small for 3 boys but it was not enough for 4 girls at one point
Sun 6:02 PM

AM Big enough I meant.
Sun 6:02 PM

Charlie Wright
More memories needed from John's younger siblings.
Sun 6:05 PM

Please?
Sun 6:05 PM

CW No offense Anne
Sun 6:05 PM

MP Maureen Perry
I remember John giving me a ride in his green Porsche that he only had for a short time..then got his VW I think right?
Sun 6:07 PM

Anne Mayer

I'm delighted at how our memories do and don't overlap. I'm five years older than John. That's forever in kid years. As the middle kid, it's not unreasonable to think that our collective memories of John's shared childhood only span about twenty years.

AM

Sun 6:08 PM

We just sat down to dinner.
Toast: To Johnny--long may he wave.

Sun 6:09 PM

Charlie Wright

Think I mentioned earlier. I have a 7-year 'hole's from '71 to '77. In young-adult years, that's a lifetime.

Sun 6:11 PM

Geo: I join the toast. I skoal!

CW

Sun 6:12 PM

Anne Mayer

Toasting John. Then toasting: here's to us, dammit

AM

Sun 6:14 PM

Pat's memory. When Dad died, John met us at Fred and Harry's. She was glad to see him because "... he always brightened up any situation, in a way none of you other kids could."

Sun 6:34 PM

Katie Pugliese

Liked "Kate: I remember aft Mom passed and you arrived, I went out to the sub-shop to bring back some sandwiches for lunch. I couldn't have been gone for more than 20 minutes. I got back as the guys taking her away were about to close the doors on the

van. I had just enough time to say a final goodbye. I hope that John's family had a chance to say their goodbyes.

No sense in dragging it out. But don't blink or you'll miss it."

Sun 6:37 PM

Liked "Geez I wish we all could be together right now. Thank goodness we have this at least."

Sun 6:37 PM

Laughed at "I climbed out of the windows in every Kinross bedroom EXCEPT the master bedroom. But not to sneak out. Just to do it."

KP

Sun 6:39 PM

In the thread about Jug Bay address, Bob said all he remembers is that you turned left when you saw the junked Chevy in the woods.

Katie Pugliese

Liked "Pat's memory. When Dad died, John met us at Fred and Harry's. She was glad to see him because "... he always brightened up any situation, in a way none of you other kids could."

KP

Sun 6:43 PM

Monica Wright

Remember Dad's drum set in the "playroom" at Kinross? I loved sitting on the stairs while John's band- 8th grade? high school?-practiced. Had the band name the "High Tide" with surfer on wave illustration in the outside of the big pedal drum. Most memorable song featured John doing the big drum solo during "Wipe Out"

MW

Sun 6:48 PM

Damn! I missed all that.

Sun 6:50 PM

Martha Toth

Katie was born just before the move to Kinross. Mom shared a hospital room with the lady who had been waiting to move INTO it before giving birth.

Charlie was definitely older than five then, because I was already at St. B's that fall, either first or second grade. I was pissed that I could not "help" carry the swing set. Also pissed I missed the movie trip to see Around the World in 80 Days (from whence Dad got "persiflage"?) as too young, but then it ended in a flat tire adventure.

Sun 6:50 PM

Waiting to move into the Dallas house, I mean.

Sun 6:51 PM

Monica Wright

Also remember enjoying seeing John pole vault at track meets. He was quite good at it. He inspired me to try track events myself.

Sun 6:53 PM

Martha Toth

I never knew John was in a band.

Sun 6:54 PM

I did not jump off the roof at Kinross, but I did get my only concussion getting off it. I had climbed up to sunbathe as a teen and, climbing down the tree at the rear corner by the back door, decided to jump the last 8 or 10 feet. Did not stick the landing.

Sun 6:55 PM

Charlie Wright

I remember driving at least some of the band to some gig High Tide played in, I think, Alexandra. Someone broke the G-string on the guitar. I drove around for an hour to find a replacement. I think I was successful. But that part of the memory is vague.

Sun 6:55 PM

Martha Toth

John told me the "Christian" Brothers at Holy Cross would sucker punch boys in the back of the head, which I considered worse than the nuns' ruler attacks.

Sun 6:56 PM

You mean Good Counsel?

Sun 6:56 PM

Maureen Perry

I remember them practicing I the rec room. Forgot about that. I looked to him as being SO COOL and cute too

Sun 6:57 PM

Martha Toth

Yes, I did mean that.

Sun 6:57 PM

Charlie Wright

John came close to setting a pole vault record at Counsel. Missed it by an inch if memory serves. 16 ft something, I think.

Sun 6:58 PM

Martha Toth

And I must have been around for the band era but have zero recollection of it. That would have been during my tenure in the downstairs bedroom, I think.

Mom asked me why I had the closet cabinet at the head of the bed just inside the door. I told her it was so Johnny's friends could not see me changing clothes.

Sun 6:59 PM 📱

And that was the wooden pole vaulting era.

Sun 6:59 PM 📱

Katie Pugliese

Emphasized "I never knew John was in a band."

Sun 6:59 PM 📱

Charlie Wright

No. John had a fiberglass pole.

Sun 7:02 PM 📱

Martha, what did John have to do with Holy Cross? And it bet big bucks John used a fiberglass pole. His super power was that a got bend.

Sun 7:02 PM 📱

Charlie Wright

I have no idea how he obtained it. Perhaps earnings from his band.

Sun 7:02 PM 📱

Maureen Perry

I remember hanging in his room when he was honored with downstairs room with all his Tarzan paperbacks lying around.

Sun 7:02 PM 📱

Sadly having difficulty remembering specific events in my HS years. I graduated in 77.

Sun 7:03 PM 📱

Martha Toth

Mo! Are you the only one who never "got" that basement bedroom?

Sun 7:04 PM 📱

Charlie Wright

No. Your memory difficulties result from cocktail hour. 😊

Sun 7:04 PM 📱

Martha Toth

I do remember oiling the squeaky hinges on the basement door.

Sun 7:04 PM 📱

Charlie Wright

Mo didn't NEED the downstairs room.

Sun 7:05 PM 📱

Anne Mayer

Was that John with the Tarzan? I remember Mom saying it was good that Whoever (John, apparently) has learned to like reading Tarzan because she was worried he wouldn't find out how to enjoy reading for pleasure unless he found an author who interested him.

Sun 7:05 PM 📱

Charlie Wright

And I had to SHARE the downstairs room with John!

Sun 7:06 PM 📱

Anne Mayer

I feel closer to John for this conversation. Hard to believe he isn't still here.

Sun 7:06 PM 📱

I remember one night Charlie and I sat with John at the Kinross picnic table and, slide rules in hand, figured that conversion of kinetic into potential energy by his pole was insufficient to explain the heights he cleared. He had to have added a substantial contribution by muscling himself up and over. And I assume OLGC supplied the poles.

Sun 7:08 PM

Anne Mayer

That story blows me away!

Sun 7:08 PM

You guys are all such geeks!

Sun 7:09 PM

Maureen Perry

Do remember how him and Noel would constantly feed into my young kid gullibility and insist that certain crazy things were true. I'd fall for everytime and run into Morn

Sun 7:10 PM

Martha Toth

I still have several of Gary's slide rules. After they figured so prominently in the Apollo 13 movie, he wanted to show the girls how they worked, but I could not find them until I moved from Michigan.

Sun 7:10 PM

Noel is one of the kids who used to Peeping Tom me.

Sun 7:11 PM

Keep the stories coming. I'll Photoshop them into a pamphlet tomorrow.

Sun 7:11 PM

Anne Mayer

I remember John hanging out with Noel and Jimmy perfecting their cool dude personas.

Sun 7:11 PM

Martha Toth

THAT was made for video!

Sun 7:12 PM

Charlie Wright

Pole vaulters do, indeed, muscle themselves up over the bar. Just gaining sufficient strength to hold on as the bent pole unloads the bending force was more than I could manage. Then you push yourself up and over.

Sun 7:12 PM

Does anybody know how to contact Noel?

Sun 7:12 PM

And who's Jimmy?

Sun 7:13 PM

Martha Toth

I have a vivid memory of him near the top of the stairs, as if on a raised podium, yelling, "Women LOVE me!" at maybe age 16.

Sun 7:13 PM

Laws

Sun 7:13 PM

And McCormick

Sun 7:13 PM

Charlie Wright

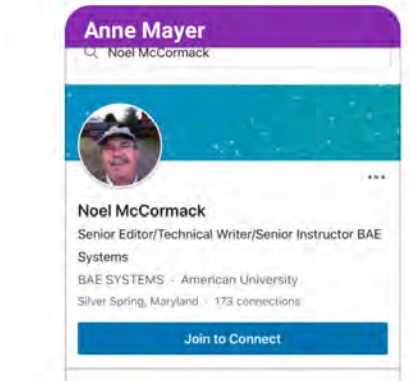
Yes.

Sun 7:13 PM

Pretty sure John was a cis/het kind o' guy.

Sun 7:14 PM

Charlie Wright
Last time I saw Noel was in Chesapeake beach.
Sun 7:14 PM



This looks plausible
Sun 7:14 PM

I'll contact Noel now.
Sun 7:15 PM

Charlie Wright
Laws was said to be working as a carpenter in St. Mary's City. But that was easily 15 years ago.
Sun 7:15 PM

Agree. That's Noel.
Sun 7:16 PM

Martha Toth
Just searched Facebook for Noel and did not find him, but I did find this, from Bob Wright, December 2014:
One of my fave programs is Outdoors Maryland on Maryland Public Television. Today's show had a piece on an environmental program on Jug Bay. Sweet memories of Johnny's beautiful old spot there flooded my head. Canoeing the reedy marshes, "depth checks", the sweet smelling tobacco barn, and taking turns riding a "country mile" with Charlie or Noel McCormick on

John's motorcycle. Do other Wright brothers/cousins have similarly warm remembrances??
Sun 7:16 PM

Maureen Perry
I can hear him saying that..made me smile!
Sun 7:16 PM

Fuck...
Sun 7:17 PM

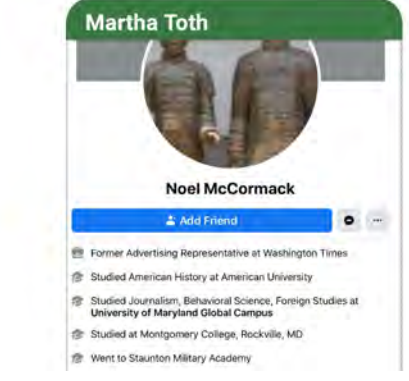
Charlie Wright
Yeah. Mo, I agree.
Sun 7:17 PM

Anne Mayer
Mood
Sun 7:18 PM

Charlie Wright
I remember taking kids for rides on John motorcycle at Jug Bay.
Sun 7:18 PM

I enjoyed it as much as the kids did.
Sun 7:19 PM

Anne Mayer
This makes me realize John was always a country boy at heart.
Sun 7:20 PM



Oh, spelling his name right, I did find Noel, but he hasn't been on FB for ten years.

MT

Sun 7:20 PM

Just sent Noel a message on LinkedIn to email me.

Sun 7:21 PM

Charlie Wright

He built the first of his four homes in the woods in Chesapeake beach before he met Rita.

CW

Sun 7:21 PM

Martha Toth

These are the lyrics of His Last Voyage that spike to me in my own grief:
Rose in early morning, as the light came through,
Searching in the ocean, did what he should do,
Seeking not adventure, just a way of life,
Sky above turned grey, wind cut like a knife.
This was his last voyage, this was his last time.
Pulling up the anchor, letting go the rope,
Age rules over all things, fate rules over hope.

MT

Sun 7:28 PM

Maureen Perry

Sorry I had a moment smile went it too bawling

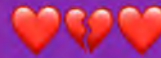
Sun 7:29 PM

I remember sitting in K&G's living room with John Rita newly dating along with some of their other friends. Greg had his band in backroom of basement. It was one of the first times I remember being so excited to be invited and included as an adult.

MP

Sun 7:29 PM

Anne Mayer



Sun 7:31 PM

Beautiful, Martha

AM

Sun 7:31 PM

Mary Blackwell

Catching up, and it was Katie's arrival that precipitated the move to Kinross. She actually arrived mid-move.

Sun 7:32 PM

Speaking if climbing out the windows at Kinross triggered another "John memory." During fire prevention week one year, my homework was to plan fire escape routes from our house. As we sat around the kitchen table arguing about whether or not it was possible to use the second floor windows as escape routes, John got up, went upstairs to the MBR, jumped out the window and returned to the kitchen before he was even missed. So yeah, possible.



Sun 7:36 PM

Martha Toth

That is such a Johnny story!


MT

Sun 7:40 PM

Charlie Wright

I taught him everything he knew about climbing out of windows.

Sun 7:47 PM


 CW Sun 7:47 PM 📱


Monica Wright
 Loved "These are the lyrics of His Last Voyage that spike to me in my own grief:
 Rose in early morning, as the light came through,
 Searching in the ocean, did what he should do,
 Seeking not adventure, just a way of life,
 Sky above turned grey, wind cut like a knife.
 This was his last voyage, this was his last time.
 Pulling up the anchor, letting go the rope,
 Age rules over all things, fate rules over hope."

MW Sun 7:48 PM 📱

Anne Mayer
 Charlie, Were you guys at Good Counsel HS together at any point or did you do Priory all the way?

AM Sun 7:49 PM 📱


Mary Blackwell
 Charlie: I have a vivid memory of John setting pole vault records that held for several years after he graduated from Good Counsel. Only one of us can be right, and it's me.

 Sun 7:49 PM 📱

Charlie Wright
 I yield to Mary on the pole vault record.

CW Sun 7:51 PM 📱

Mary Blackwell
 FFS, George even did the math!

 Sun 7:52 PM 📱

Charlie Wright
 Started at Priory. Graduated from Abbey. 🙄

CW Sun 7:52 PM 📱

Maureen Perry
 I thought that was the case as well..pole vault record I mean. Love the pic Reet had in a frame in her office of hi. Pole vaulting.

Sun 7:53 PM 📱

Verified damn it
 Sun 7:54 PM 📱

MP

Monica Wright
 Do you remember John's story about going to Paul Shine's house the time they poured just a little from all the liquor bottles at their bar (to avoid being noticed) only to to revealed by getting sick as a dog while murmuring "50 proof"

MW Sun 7:55 PM 📱


Anne Mayer
 Legend!

AM Sun 7:55 PM 📱

Mary Blackwell
 Also, re John and the Tarzan books, he had a tough time reading. He even went to the mid-sixties version of Sylvan Schools one summer to get extra help. When he discovered the Tarzan books and actually read them voluntarily, Dad bought him the complete set of Edgar Rice Burroughs, including the John Carter of Mars books and the ones about the Apaches in the Southwest.

Sun 7:56 PM 📱

Pro tip: Burroughs does NOT hold up well, so don't bother.

 Sun 7:56 PM 📱

Maureen Perry
All I remember about Paul shine is his mean boxer. So different from ours
MP Sun 7:56 PM

Anne Mayer
That is where I learned that once you can read for pleasure, you never stop learning.
AM Sun 7:56 PM

Maureen Perry
Dumb detail...Katie made chili where she added small pieces of steak in with the ground beef and I do that with my chili to this day.
MP Sun 7:57 PM

Mary Blackwell
Cocoa wasn't mean. She probably just didn't like you--and who could blame her?
Sun 7:57 PM

Mary Blackwell
Cocoa wasn't mean. She probably just didn't like you--and who could blame her?
Sun 7:57 PM

Charlie Wright
Paul was in the band.
CW Sun 7:57 PM

Maureen Perry
John West I think was the lead guitar ?
MP Sun 7:59 PM



Martha Toth
I have a John story that is NOT funny. I must have opined in favor of Obamacare on FamNet using a statistic about how many Americans died annually (prematurely or unnecessarily) for lack of health care. He started a private conversation between us by asking where that statistic came from. I tracked down the university study and noted that, considering all the many minimizing assumptions they made, the true number (which was something like 50,000) much be must higher. I got the impression that he had been genuinely surprised and had changed his mind about this issue.
MT Sun 7:59 PM

Mary Blackwell
Also the story about the Schein's liquor is absolutely true. I had no idea what was wrong with him (he was passed out drunk and throwing up) so I called Mom & Dad in because I thought he was really seriously sick. Dad of course immediately diagnosed the problem. He didn't even get punished because Das thought

punished because Das thought he'd suffered enough.
Sun 7:59 PM

Katie Pugliese
Laughed at "I taught him everything he knew about climbing out of windows."
Sun 7:59 PM

Monica Wright
Coco that damn dog chased me and scared me so badly I have a fear of dogs to this day . That experience also helped me be one of the few of us that has chosen to never own a dog
Sun 8:00 PM

Anne Mayer
What happened to John's dogs? They must be dead of old age by now, right?
Sun 8:01 PM

Katie Pugliese
Lead guitar player was John Zahn
Sun 8:02 PM

Maureen Perry
Still can't believe it was Mary that hung the Vulture. I want it fact checked and verigied!
Sun 8:02 PM

Mary Blackwell
Fuck you, Mo.
Sun 8:02 PM


Sun 8:02 PM

Katie is correct about John Zahn. And yes, they have been dogless since before the move from Asheville.
Sun 8:04 PM

Charlie Wright
John's dogs were alive and well when Kathy and I visited morganton last November.
Sun 8:04 PM

Katie Pugliese
Re: John's drunk story - He kept mumbling something as Dad was diagnosing him....that something turned out to be "100 proof".
Sun 8:04 PM

Mary Blackwell
Those of you with pets know how much work they are. With John's illness, they just never replaced the last dog after it died.
Sun 8:05 PM

Seriously? About the dogs? I remember when one of them died in a tragic freak accident at Shangri-la and they were both broken up about it.
Sun 8:06 PM

Maureen Perry
Angie just texted me to say she remembers John coming up to her repeatedly when at the reunion in Virginia telling her "y'know Angela we were kids with your Mom" and then tell a short story
Sun 8:08 PM

I wonder how their dog is acting now. Wondering where his owner is.
Sun 8:08 PM

Charlie Wright
Definitely had a dog in Boone
Sun 8:09 PM

Katie can confirm a dog in Morganton.
Sun 8:10 PM

Anne Mayer
When Ken died, his cat Patti sat with him until the kind men came. Then she simply walked away because it was time.
AM Sun 8:19 PM

Maureen Perry
Not to get all mushy and shit but genuinely love you all. Despite being picked on my whole life ha. Who started the Dugan the Dog..ugly as a dog? Wasn't it John and friends or?
MP Sun 8:27 PM

Martha Toth
Geez, Mo, I had forgotten that. It must have really sucked for you. Sorry.
MT Sun 8:28 PM

Maureen Perry
I know it's evening time in NC and my thoughts go out to everyone there for a emotionally good morning when you wake up to the new reality..for lack of better way to put it.
MP Sun 8:29 PM

Mary Blackwell
Not sure about the Dugan the Dog moniker. I distinctly remember bouncing a ball off the rec room ceiling while singing Maureen is nutty as a fruitcake while we waited weeks for you to be well enough to come home from the hospital.
Sun 8:29 PM

Anne Mayer
How perceptive of you Mo ❤️. John sent me a corsage on the day I went to the courthouse to marry Ken. It was an important gesture.

This day-long conversation has been comforting, cathartic and long. You guys in NC must be exhausted. May we all have sweet dreams of our sweet Johnny who was alive when this long day began.
AM Sun 8:37 PM

Maureen Perry
Phew!
MP Sun 8:40 PM

Charlie Wright
Goodnight all.
CW Sun 8:43 PM

Katie Pugliese
John is responsible for "Dugan the Dog"!!!!
Sun 8:43 PM

KP
Good night all.Love.
Sun 8:44 PM

Maureen Perry
What the heck do we do tomorrow? One day at a time I guess.
MP Sun 8:46 PM

The final word belongs to John, the letter that accompanied the album from Lake Lure, sent to us by Rita.

14 April 2017

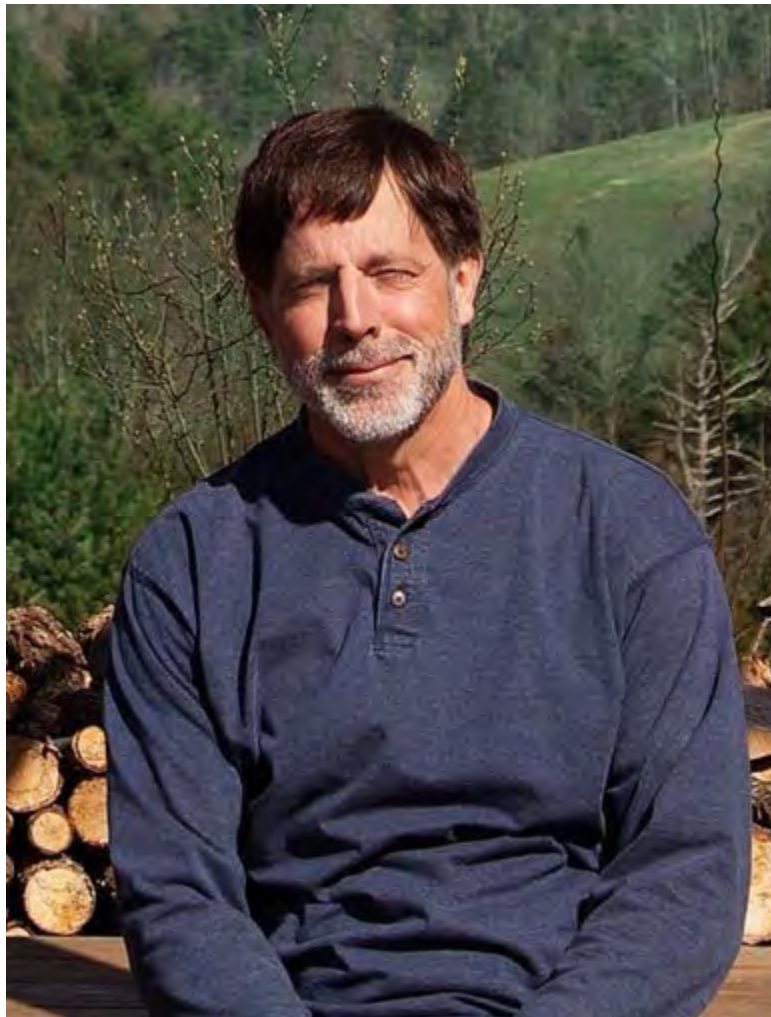
Dear Sibbs,

Due to Rita's talent and industry, we are very happy to present each of you with this small token that records our recent conclave at Lake Lure. I want to emphasize how important this first face-to-face meeting since diagnosis was for me and Rita. I was so relieved to be able to reflect a reasonably healthy looking dude, know that this state was not a sure thing back when Mary proposed the reunion. I think the event proves this crowd is ready to handle the normal trials that arise during the final stages of one's life span. It's great comfort to know that each of you will support in whatever way you can when my condition "goes south." I'm a very lucky guy.

True Love

J + R

John & Rita



August 24, 1952–October 11, 2020

George Wright	Timonium, Maryland
Anne Mayer	Des Moines, Iowa
Charlie Wright	Reston, Virginia
Martha Toth	Burien, Washington
John Joseph Wright	+ October 11, 2020
Mary Blackwell	Niceville, Florida
Katie Pugliese	Greenbelt, Maryland
Monica Wright	Portland, Oregon
Maureen Perry	Scottsdale, Arizona
Herbert Francis Wright	+ May 19, 1961