



John Charles Dean

February 8, 1946 - September 17, 2019

Obituary

John Charles Dean came to Beecher in May 1970, the year of Beecher's Centennial celebration. He was the director of the pageant that would be presented during that summer with hundreds of participants from the community. Little did Beecher know that he would be a key actor in his own fairy tale love story. He met and courted a local native of Beecher who had just graduated from college and had come home before starting her first job as a nurse. Gwen Ohlendorf fell just as hard and after making a trip to John's home in Crossett, Arkansas to meet his large family, they were married on July 25, 1970. Despite the concerns of many residents, the marriage was meant to last.

After determining that life on the road as a director with the Rogers Company was not going to work, John became a vital part of Hack Funeral Home and ambulance services. He went to Worsham's College of Mortuary Science and became a licensed funeral director and embalmer. He had a true passion for helping the sick and injured and was an integral part of the ambulance crew. He became an EMT and was also the first paramedic (Medic 1) for the Beecher Fire Department. John served as a deputy coroner for Will County for many years.

He did not lose his interest in theater and helped to provide the town of

Beecher with many hours of entertainment. He was the director of countless productions put on by the Beecher Part-Time Players. John and Gwen shared their love for musical entertainment with their talented son, Brett. He is a music teacher, director of the Shout Section Big Band and accomplished trumpeter.

John was a member of the Beecher Chamber of Commerce, Charter member of the Beecher Lion's Club, and Zion Lutheran Church. He was always willing to give his time to benefit the people of this community.

John was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers, and one sister. He is survived by his wife Gwen, son Brett (Danielle), one brother Jerry of Louisiana and one sister Nellie of Crossett, AK. He also is survived by beloved granddaughter, Olivia and grandson, Bennett.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, September 22, 2019 from 2-8pm at Hack-Jensen Funeral Home 753 Hodges Street, Beecher. A funeral service will be on Monday, September 23, 2019 at Hack-Jensen Funeral Home at 10 am.

Burial will be at St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery.

Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, PO Box 22478 Oklahoma City, OK 73123.

To send flowers to John's family, please visit our floral section.

Tribute Wall

SB

“Gwen and Brett, my deepest condolences and prayers for your entire family during this very difficult time. I was stunned to learn of John's passing.

Sue Chap Bugajsky - October 02, 2019 at 03:45 PM

MK

“My Uncle Johnny. I haven't written anything yet because I can't wrap my head and heart around the fact that he has gone to be with my Dad, his brothers and sister. One of my fondest memories is when I watched him direct a Christmas play in Crossett AR. It was magical how he directed everyone. And then when they couldn't find something to use as a prop for the beaver when he sang "All I Want For Christmas is my two front teeth", Uncle Johnny came up with using long ice cubes as the teeth!!!! It worked great! I have always remembered that. I was amazed and I have loved the theater ever since. Uncle John you will be missed. Until I see you again. I hope you know how much I loved you.

Marsha Dean Kirksey - October 02, 2019 at 03:45 PM

KM

“Gwen, I am so sad to hear of John's passing after his battle with Cancer. Please know that Bill & I send our deepest sympathy to you, Brett, and your family. You were a perfect couple and your love showed.

Kathy Malic - October 02, 2019 at 03:45 PM

TR

“ Gwen, Brett and family. Just know that John is a blessed angel now. He will always be in many people’s memories and will sadly be missed He was always there for many people and always would lend a hand in anyway he could. May God bless you and your family and know that he is watching over you.

The Family of Jeanne Riechers - October 02, 2019 at 03:45 PM

TR

“ A candle was lit by The Family of Jeanne Riechers
on September 22, 2019 3:45 PM

The Family of Jeanne Riechers - October 02, 2019 at 03:45 PM

TR

“ A candle was lit by The Family of Jeanne Riechers
on September 22, 2019 3:41 PM

*Dear Gwen, Brett and family:
On behalf of Jeanne Riechers and family our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. He will dearly be missed. He was always there for us and many families in the time of need. He is a blessed angel now. Just know that he will always be remembered and missed.*

The Family of Jeanne Riechers - October 02, 2019 at 03:45 PM

LU

“ I was so sad to hear this news this morning via Sally via Sister. I only met John a few times but I was struck by his warm smile and kind manner”and his sense of humor. I know he was a wonderful husband to you, Gwen, and a great father to Brett. Hugs to you both as you mourn his death and celebrate his life well lived.

Linda Uzureau - October 02, 2019 at 03:45 PM

SS

“ We are thinking of you Gwen, Brett, and your extended family. John was such a comfort to me at two sad times in my life and to so many others in the same circumstance. One of things I remember so clearly about him is his ability to make me laugh even in the worst of times.

Susan Selk - October 02, 2019 at 03:45 PM

ES

“ A SWEET AND WARM REMEMBRANCE PEDESTAL ARRANGEMENT was sent on September 20, 2019We will miss him so much; we loved him so much! Signed, Barbara Nell Allen, the Brodnax family (Angelica,Ryan, and kids), and the Lockling family (Mark, Carmen, and John-Mark)

Expression of Sympathy - October 02, 2019 at 03:45 PM

JS

“ Jim and I want to express our sincerest condolences to John's entire family. We had many great times with him. I was in the 1970 pageant for our centennial. I admired him so much for doing what he did for our community. Later on, Jim and I became part of the Beecher Part Time Players. What a great director he was!!!! He has touched so many lives in a positive way. He will be missed deeply. Sincerely, Jim and Laurie Schoenbeck.

Jim and Laurie Schoenbeck - October 02, 2019 at 03:45 PM

JB

“ Gwen, Brett and family, so sorry for your sadness. Sending prayers of comfort to you and your family. He was a bright light in our community and he will truly be missed.

Jane Bernhard - October 02, 2019 at 03:45 PM

LM

“ Dear Gwen and family, may the dear Lord bless all of you with His peace and love. You will always have the Savior at your side. You can count on Him.

Linda Meyer - October 02, 2019 at 03:45 PM

ES

“ A SPATHIPHYLLUM was ordered on September 18, 2019

Expression of Sympathy - October 02, 2019 at 03:45 PM

JY

“ Sad to learn of John’s death. Condolences to Gwen and the rest of John’s family. It was always a pleasure to work with John in his many public service capacities.

John Young - October 02, 2019 at 03:45 PM

ES

“ A DIGNITY IN WHITE PEDESTAL ARRANGEMENT was sent on September 18, 2019 Taken too soon. You will be missed. We will remember the good times.
Love Bill and Karen Engstrom

Expression of Sympathy - October 02, 2019 at 03:45 PM

LS

“ John knew how to make people smile and laugh, and he encouraged everyone to be positive. His contributions to the community affected multiple organizations. Those are true memorials.

Larry Schwarberg - October 02, 2019 at 03:45 PM

PC

“ Sorry for the family! CHS '64 Class! Great friend

Patsy Wright Hilborn CHS'64 - October 02, 2019 at 03:45 PM

CS

“ My deepest sympathy to you, Gwen, Brett, and families. He will be missed so very much. John made Beecher a better to place to live! Loved him so much. Love you all too! You are in my prayers.

Claudia Stedt - October 02, 2019 at 03:45 PM

MB

“ On behalf of myself and my entire family, John you will be greatly missed! I cannot put into words all the times you were there for my family during the loss of my parents, my brothers and my grandparents. During the most difficult times, you could always put a smile on our faces. You are free from pain now and will forever be in the hearts of my entire family. To Gwen, Brett and family, you have our deepest sympathy. We are so incredibly sorry for your loss. John was a wonderful man.

Missy Schmitt Bernhard - October 02, 2019 at 03:45 PM

ES

“ A THE COLOR OF MEMORIES TABLE ARRANGEMENT was ordered on September 17, 2019

Expression of Sympathy - October 02, 2019 at 03:45 PM

SC

“ *John was a tremendous mentor to me when I studied to become a licensed funeral director and embalmer. He not only taught me by lesson, but more importantly taught me by example. I will forever be grateful for his guidance and friendship.*

Steve Cross - October 02, 2019 at 03:45 PM

FK

“ *A candle was lit by Fondly, Debbie Kammermann Kotecki*
on September 17, 2019 7:27 PM

*Dear Gwen and Family,
Saddened to hear of John's passing. I am so glad you had him in your life but your time together was not long enough. My prayers are with you during this time.*

Fondly, Debbie Kammermann Kotecki - October 02, 2019 at 03:45 PM

NK

“ *Gwen and family, you are in my prayers.*

Norene Kurth - October 02, 2019 at 03:45 PM

JW

“ *A candle was lit by Jeanne Wokurka*
on September 17, 2019 6:56 PM

Very sad news for the town of Beecher and all who knew John. Always a smile and friendly "Hello!" He will be missed by many. Rest in peace friend.

Jeanne Wokurka - October 02, 2019 at 03:44 PM

ES

“ A SOFT AND SWEET MEMORIESSTANDING SPRAY was sent by Roy Dean family on September 17, 2019

Expression of Sympathy - October 02, 2019 at 03:44 PM

DD

“ My dear Uncle...you can't know--well maybe now you do from that high perspective--how much your love and nurture meant to me when I was young, 11-13 years old, and you were at home occasionally, always commenting, advising, encouraging. I specifically remember you telling me, during that crazy space race age, that "if I wanted the moon, then aim for the stars. Then if something doesn't go your way, you fall back to your really desired goal." That mantra stayed with me all my life. I'm still aiming, and hope that I'm as amazing an uncle as you were. My love to that sweet treasure you found in Gwen, who you shared with us on visits home, and to that brilliant and talented son Brett and his family. God give all comfort and peace to all; my heart hurts that you are gone from us too soon, but confident that I will see you again--among the stars you told me to aim for.

Damon Dean - October 02, 2019 at 03:44 PM

NH

“ A lovely man who will be dearly missed. John was always so kind and accepting of needs to my family. I always enjoyed talking to him. Iâ€™m sincerely miss him. My condolences and prayers for Gwen and Brett.

Nancy(Bernhard) Hamilton - October 02, 2019 at 03:44 PM

BH

“ A candle was lit by Brenda Hoffman

on September 17, 2019 4:44 PM

RIP John

Brenda Hoffman - October 02, 2019 at 03:44 PM

WH

“ What a wonderful man!!!! He will be so greatly missed he took care of me when my 20 year old daughter got killed by a drunk driver prayers and comfort to the family â€¦, ðŸ™”

Wendy Howard - October 02, 2019 at 03:44 PM

LF

“ Gwen, so sorry to hear of your loss. Uncle John will be missed by many.â€¦,

Linda Mann & Patsy Dean Mann Crosswell Family - October 02, 2019 at 03:44 PM

CH

“ Beecher shined a little brighter when John came, it is a sad parting that he will not be present to share his love of life. Extremely hard to imagine life with out him. To his family and friends know how much he will be missed by those who knew him

Cheryl Hartill - October 02, 2019 at 03:44 PM

KS

“ *A candle was lit by Kathy Ralston Scalise*

on September 17, 2019 4:00 PM

God be with you Gwen, Brett and family. Gwen you have been around this all your life, but it never is the same when it hits you. Gone too soon!

Kathy Ralston Scalise - October 02, 2019 at 03:44 PM