



John Ray Brinegar

December 6, 1937 - May 11, 2026

John Ray Brinegar, 88, passed away peacefully on May 11, 2026.

Born in Hamlin, Texas, John was the son of Doyle Gould Brinegar and Pearl Walker Brinegar. After graduating from Hamlin High School in 1955, John and his wife, Jorita McElreath, moved to San Antonio. John worked in San Antonio for many years as a postal clerk for the U.S. Postal Service.

He could turn a simple conversation into an hour-long story filled with history and laughter.

John had an interest in many hobbies, including bluegrass music, old-time country music, Texas history, collectibles, classic automobiles, genealogy, and poker.

John is survived by two daughters, Debra Lynn Charlton and Terri Michele Brinegar, his grandchildren, Ashley Beth Charlton and Olivia Dobbs, and his great-grandchildren Emmaline Rose Dobbs and Harrison Dobbs.

He is preceded in death by his parents, brother Doyle Wayne Brinegar, sister Geneva Ann Copeland, sister Leigh Marie Mauldin, and daughter, Suzette Renee Lawrence.

A memorial service will be held on June 14th at 2:00 at Mission Burial Park South.

The family thanks everyone for their love, prayers, and support during this difficult time.

Cemetery Details

Mission Burial Park South

1700 SE Military Dr.
San Antonio, TX 78214
<http://www.missionparks.com>

Previous Events

Memorial Celebration

JUN 14. 2:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels South
1700 SE. Military Dr.
San Antonio, TX 78214

Tribute Wall

AA

“ Our sincere condolences to John’s family. Thank you so much for allowing us the privilege of caring for John. He will be remembered fondly, and we are grateful to have been part of his journey.

Anna & Lisa



Anna Adams - May 23 at 10:12 PM

RW

“ We’ve certainly lost an original!

I met John many years ago through our friend Mike Spraggins. Mike was John’s fiddle player in his bluegrass group Backwoods Volunteers. They had a very special place at the Texas Folklife Festival. John’s enthusiasm for collecting bluegrass instruments was infectious. I believe he knew just about every pawnshop operator in town! I enjoyed assisting him in the New Braunfels Vintage Guitar Show. He brought in collectors from all over Texas, as well as great entertainers like Ray Wylie Hubbard and Redd Volkaert. I know the public enjoyed seeing all the Country musicians guitars brought in for display from the Heart of Texas Country Music Museum in Brady.

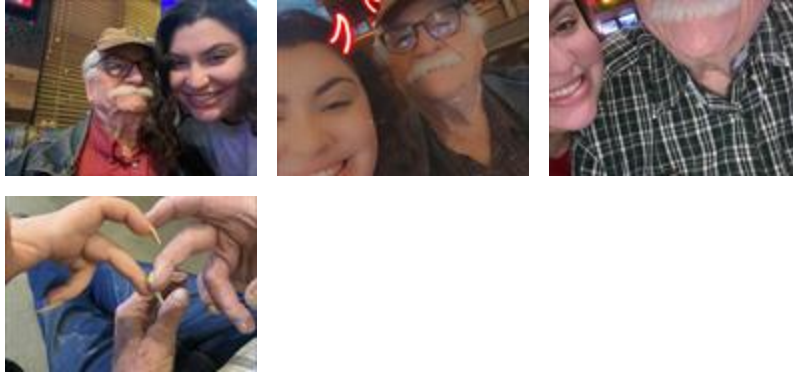
Rex Wright ~ San Antonio



Rex Wright - May 20 at 12:15 PM

BV

“ *My sweet John .. how I'm going to miss you messin around with me teaching me new things in poker you will be missed my love .. until we meet again 🥹🥰* ”



Breanna Valdez - May 12 at 05:06 PM

RC

“ *Terri and Debra do you have my sincerest and deepest felt condolences. John did have an amazing life. Lots of family and many friends. I miss him very much and know now that he is resting in peace and will soon be in Heaven.* ”

Rita Calvin - May 12 at 04:47 PM



“ John was my amazing grandfather. He called me “baby” and always was excited to tell me about his favorite San Antonio restaurants, guitars, country music, poker, family history, and his ultimate favorite: smack talk! He had a great laugh and I enjoyed helping him work his vintage guitar show in 2017. We ate at many restaurants together, including Tip Top Cafe, Las Carretas Mexican Restaurant, and Sea Island Shrimp House. I will miss our phone calls and lunch dates, but will see him again someday.



Olivia Rose - May 12 at 12:51 PM

TB

Olivia, you are so sweet! Thank you so much for the pictures and your loving comments

Terri Brinegar - May 12 at 01:14 PM

RC

What a beautiful granddaughter you had John

Rita Calvin - May 12 at 04:49 PM