



John G. Klauss

July 21, 1936 - April 4, 2023

John G. Klauss passed away peacefully with loved ones by his side, on April 4, 2023. He was 86 years old. John was born July 21, 1936 in Akron, Ohio to William J. Klauss and Emily Kraemer Klauss. He is preceded in death by his parents and his sister Betty Jean Heitkamp in 2012.

Survivors include: daughter Bonnie Lynn Lester and husband Charlie of Livingston, TX. grandsons Wesley Burkholder [wife Haley] of Boerne TX; and Daniel Burkholder [wife Myranda] of Helotes, TX. great-grandson Stone Burkholder of Boerne TX.

John graduated from Alamo Heights high school in 1954, and attended college at Texas A&M.

John was the owner CEO of Greenlight Chemical company, a home and garden wholesale market.

John's father, William J. Klauss cofounded the Klauss-White Co. in 1946. They changed its name to the Green Light Co., Inc. in 1960. William Klauss ran the company until the mid-1970's, and he died in 1982. John Klauss began work at the family owned Green Light company when he was 21 years old and worked there for 38 years. He began running the company in the mid-1970's, and he was the chairman of the board on February 1, 1993. John retired in 1994. On November 30, 1994, all of the stock of Green Light was sold to an employee stock ownership trust created by the employees of Green

Light.

In 1960, John's father bought 640 acres in the Hill Country of Bandera, Texas. After 2 years of raising cattle with no success, John and his Dad went on a joint adventure of raising exotic game.

John loved the family ranch that he and his father owned in Pipe Creek TX for more than 60 years.

He raised exotic animals and loved giving family and friends a tour to see the animals. John had the largest herd of African Whitetail Gnu at one time. He had several species of African animals, buffalo, camels, llamas, and many more. He had a herd of white buffalo. He had a Pygmy hippo named Harriet.

In 2020, the exotic game had grown to 42 species and 500 plus heads total. John enjoyed life on his ranch in Cotulla for 20 years, with it's huge white tail deer. He enjoyed searching for arrowheads, which he kept in a large collection. He had a huge herd of African Watusi cattle on the ranch. John enjoyed hunting with fourteen trips to Africa. He enjoyed many fishing trips to Little Churchill in Northern Canada and Costa Rica. He loved his labrador dogs, especially the girls named Sue and Lil and his Papillon Skipper.

He loved sports cars and proudly owned a Lamborghini, McLaren, Ferrari and a Rolls Royce.

Special thanks to his lifelong friend and attorney Wayne Mathis of Kendalia.

Funeral services were conducted at Mission Park North Cemetery. You may sign the online guestbook at www.missionparks.com under the obituary section.

Please plant a tree in memory of John Klauss in lieu of flower arrangements.

Tribute Wall

DH

“ John and I were hunting buddies, and friend who treated his exotics, being the San Antonio Zoo Veterinarian. I was one of 4 friends who spent nights in his awesome hunting cabin. We had many wonderful hours together. I remember when Sweetie, his obnoxious friendly Red Stag Antelope wandered into his pool room. He also loved his pet Brahmer bull
And his pet camel! John had a big heart and I hate having to move to Houston and missing all the late activities. God Bless John.....!

Df Don Hartfiel - August 15, 2025 at 11:31 AM

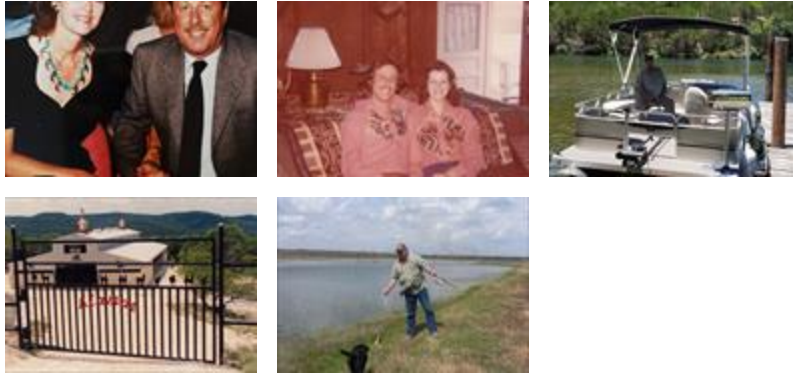
TK

“ Mr. Klauss was a larger than life person. His lovely smile could light up a room. He was full of fun. Mr. Klauss was a giving person who would help anyone that needed assistance. One time, while entering a building, he saw a lady carrying her adult daughter, he reached out to that patient and bought her a wheelchair on the spot. He was kind and generous. He will be missed. Condolences to Ms. Emily who took wonderful care of Mr. Klauss.

Theodora Kulesza-Galvez - April 17, 2023 at 09:59 AM

EK

“ 5 files added to the album Memories



Emily Klauss - April 12, 2023 at 07:16 AM

EK

“ I have known John over 60 years. I don't have a childhood memory without him in it. We shared an amazing life full of adventures. From ranch life to scuba diving to huge herd of exotics and llamas, to Canadian fishing, to Africa numerous times, to rattlesnakes and arrowheads on a Cotulla ranch to his last years on this earth. You made life very full and never boring. I will miss you dearly. Love,
Emily Klauss

Emily Klauss - April 11, 2023 at 10:34 AM

RF

Emily so sorry for your loss you did an amazing job taking care of John. ❤️🙏🏻 May he now be with his loved ones who left before him 🙏🏻

Rosie Cano (Marys best friend) - April 11, 2023 at 04:54 PM