



John Murrie Yantis

August 21, 1931 - January 28, 2023

John Yantis went to be with the Lord on Saturday, January 28, 2023, at the age of 91. He lived a life marked by family and friends, hard-work, integrity, generosity, and Aggie Football.

John Murrie Yantis was born on August 21, 1931, in San Antonio, TX to Jonathan May (Buster) and Mary Katherine (Petey) Murrie Yantis, and he had one younger brother, Frank Wofford (Woffy) Yantis.

A lifelong San Antonian, John attended Mark Twain Jr. High School where he met his future wife, Patsy Ruth Cotton Yantis. He had an incredible work ethic and always worked extremely hard to provide for his family and to be able to give to others. When he was twelve, he started working two jobs: as a soda jerk at Olmos Park Pharmacy and the San Pedro skating rink where the GIs took their dates. He scooted along the floor on his knees to help them buckle their skates, hoping for tips. His hard work paid off and he bought his first car at 14 years old.

John and Patsy attended Jefferson High School, where he was on the football team and played in a band made up of friends, The Melody Mustangs, that recorded a record. The experiences and friendships he made during high school provided many great memories that he cherished, as well as made great stories that he repeated over the years.

Patsy and John married in 1952 and were sweethearts and best friends for 65 years. John was a devoted and loving husband and provider. Together they traveled the world, weathered life's storms, and raised four children: Mike (Patty), Tom (Susan), Nancy Yantis Austin (Hank), and Susan Yantis. He was Grandpa to Michael Yantis (Colleen), Blake Yantis (Jen), Matt Yantis (Jennifer), Whitney Yantis Boyd (Geoff), Lindsey Yantis Friesen (John), Taylor Austin (Laura), and Hailey Austin, and Great Grandpa to Lily, Thea, and Gracie Yantis, Fisher and Sosie Boyd, John and Elizabeth Yantis, Madison, Sawyer, and Jackson Yantis, and Lila, Jack, and James Friesen. John also had nephews Chris (Debbie) Cooley, Craig (Diana) Cooley, and Steven Yantis.

John worked his way through college and graduated from Texas A&M with a degree in Industrial Engineering. His dad died when he was a sophomore at A&M, so he went home to San Antonio to be present for his mom and to help support her financially by working 40 hours a week at the Post Office, while also taking classes at St. Mary's University. After graduating from A&M in 1953, he was hired by Zachry Company while he waited for orders from the military. Shortly after, the army sent him to Ft. Sill, Ok. to be a base engineer. After a two year commitment, he went to work for Contractors Machinery selling Equipment.

In 1965, John founded Yantis Company, which grew from a small operation to a large, award-winning company focused on strength of character, success, and kindness. His hard work, integrity, and perseverance led him to earn the Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 1988 from Ernst and Young. Yantis Company was also recognized by Texas A&M's Mays Business School as one of the fastest growing Aggie-owned companies in 2005, 2006, and 2007.

Throughout the years, John was active in the community and gave his time

and energy towards many different endeavors. He supported Habitat for Humanity and was as an usher at University United Methodist Church for many years. He was the Alamo Bowl Chairman in 2007 and ironically got to see his Aggies play in that bowl game that year. He was Oak Hills Country Club President for two terms and was inducted into their Hall of Honor. John also was a member of The Argyle Club and loved gathering there with friends and family to celebrate many of life's joys together.

John lived largely and loudly and never turned down a chance to have a good time or a good margarita. One of his favorite things was dinners at El Jarro with family and friends; many times having a table of 20 or more people and four generations of family in attendance. Birthdays were celebrated, jokes were constantly being told, and so many precious memories were made. He was always active and was an avid and talented golfer; he even played both left and right-handed because left-handed clubs were too expensive to buy as a young boy. This love of golf led to countless days spent on the golf course playing the sport he loved and getting to share it with his loved ones.

John also had a lifelong love of football, specifically, Aggie Football. He was the biggest fan, was always optimistic for his beloved team, and was not afraid to give his opinions on what needed to be done in terms of coach and players to be played. John loved gathering with loved ones and friends at Kyle Field to yell for his Aggies and he continued to stand for most of the games in Aggieland up until he was 90 years old.

His love of Texas A&M, and the value he associated with receiving an Aggie education, was seen in the many ways he gave back to the University and its students. John created an endowed 12th Man Scholarship Fund, an endowed Outside Linebacker Position Scholarship, and a Regent's Scholar Student Assistance Fund. He was a devoted Aggie, and in 2017 received A&M's

highest distinction among former students when he was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus by the Association of Former Students. He was inducted into the A&M Letterman's Association Hall of Honor and was awarded the San Antonio A&M Club Polly Krueger Award. He believed in the value of education from what it gave to his life, and we are continuing to find out about many students he supported through college. He was humble and generous and didn't need the spotlight to showcase how he helped others.

We have so much love and appreciation for Bertha Zapata, for over 50 years of devoted care to the Yantis family. Words cannot express what Becky Villela did for both John and Patsy for thirteen years. Her famous "You- who" when she entered their home brought instant joy, delight, and anticipation. Angelita De La Cerda was dedicated to helping Patsy and John and was also their Household Manager for six years. Lastly, Angie Smith stepped in to fill a much-needed care-giver spot and was a wonderful companion for John. The family extends deep gratitude for the outstanding care, compassion, and comfort those at University Hospital and Vitas Hospice provided.

John accomplished many great things but was so deeply loved and cherished because of his huge heart for others, his integrity in every facet of life, his goofy and witty sense of humor, and his large, joy-filled laugh and smile. He loved deeply, laughed loudly and often, and jumped in to help when he saw people in need. He was so humble and gave without recognition, and we are still learning about other ways he loved, valued, and championed others so well. He was a man of his word who honored his commitments and spent his life serving and caring for those around him. He never met a stranger, was loved by everyone he met, and will be missed by so many people who are extremely grateful we had him in our lives for so long.

A visitation will be held on Wednesday, February 8 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Mission Park Funeral Chapels Medical Center 8332 Fredericksburg Rd.

78229 www.missionparks.com. Come as you are.

Come celebrate John Yantis's life with us on Thursday, Feb. 9 at 1:00 p.m. at University United Methodist Church at 5084 De Zavala Rd.

Please join us in wearing Aggie Maroon or sporting bright clothes to celebrate a man who exuded joy and loved his Aggies!

Donations can be made to:

12th Man Foundation

Texas A&M University

P.O. Box 2800

College Station, TX 77841-2800

https://12thmanfoundation.evenue.net/www/ev_tamu/ss/ev/DonationEntry?donationCd=MEMG&siteId=ev_tamu&locale=en_US&linkID=tamu

Or

San Antonio Food Bank, 5200 Enrique M. Barrera Pkwy, SA 78227

info@safoodbank.org.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 8. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels Medical Center
8332 Fredericksburg Road
San Antonio, TX 78229

Memorial Service

FEB 9. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

University United Methodist Church
5084 DeZavala Rd.
San Antonio, TX 78249

Tribute Wall



“ *Adan James lit a candle in memory of John Murrie Yantis*



Adan james - January 20 at 07:24 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Murrie Yantis.*



February 09, 2023 at 08:44 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Murrie Yantis.*



February 08, 2023 at 05:01 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Murrie Yantis.*



February 08, 2023 at 09:13 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket* was purchased for the family of John Murrie Yantis.



February 07, 2023 at 07:47 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of John Murrie Yantis.



February 07, 2023 at 05:32 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage* was purchased for the family of John Murrie Yantis.



February 07, 2023 at 01:10 PM



“ *Fairest of All* was purchased for the family of John Murrie Yantis.



February 07, 2023 at 01:05 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Murrie Yantis.



February 07, 2023 at 12:25 PM



“ From the Bruchmiller's purchased the Sacred Garden Spray for the family of John Murrie Yantis.



From the Bruchmiller's - February 06, 2023 at 03:34 PM



“ As a young engineer, I was privileged to know Mr. Yantis and work with his company on several projects. When I formed my own engineering firm, he was always encouraging and supportive. A godfather of the "Aggie Mafia," John will be missed in many quarters. Gig 'em.

Don Durden - February 06, 2023 at 08:06 AM



“ John Yantis was one of the most down to earth and kindest men I've ever met. I am fortunate to have been a part of his company for 40 years. He made me feel like more than an employee, he was genuinely my friend. He always cared about my family and had a sincere interest in seeing my kids succeed, that's just the kind of gentleman John Yantis was. He will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by all.

Holly Hamilton - February 05, 2023 at 11:12 PM

MC

“ a short note about How much I admired John Yantis ... my short ...among a avalanche of longer onesthere are not many men of the stature of Him.

John was a bit of a Mentor to me as a young Architect... I easily learned to respect,....love him and all of his wonderful family.....he was just one heck of a great guy! John YOU will me greatly missed but you left a large footprint to guide many of us RIP

mac chesney - February 05, 2023 at 11:08 AM

PG

“ Nancy, I know how important your family is to you. And you have my prayers and love. However, we often grieve for the loss. But comforting to know he's just moved upstairs.

Pat Gill - February 04, 2023 at 11:00 PM



“ Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of John Murrie Yantis.



February 04, 2023 at 05:33 PM

FA

“ My sincere and heartfelt condolences to all the family. So very sorry for your loss. May he rest in peace.

Fidel Alvarado
Oak Hills Country Club

Fidel Alvarado - February 04, 2023 at 01:21 PM

LC

“ *Our deepest condolences to the Yantis family.
Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*



Lupita Corbeil - February 03, 2023 at 05:14 PM



“ *Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the
family of John Murrie Yantis.*



February 03, 2023 at 05:14 PM

FA

“ *So sorry for your loss. My condolences to Mike Yantis. May he rest
in peace.*

Fidel Alvarado - February 02, 2023 at 05:33 PM

FA

“ *My sincere condolences to Susan Yantis. So sorry for your loss.
May he rest in peace.*

Fidel Alvarado - February 02, 2023 at 05:30 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray* was purchased for the family of John Murrie Yantis.



February 01, 2023 at 02:08 PM



“ *Fairest of All* was purchased for the family of John Murrie Yantis.



January 31, 2023 at 07:41 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of John Murrie Yantis.



January 31, 2023 at 03:53 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of John Murrie Yantis.



January 31, 2023 at 03:35 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Murrie Yantis.*



January 31, 2023 at 01:16 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers to the family of John Yantis. May the family cherish the memories shared and created. Sharon Abelman Gewertz*

Sharon Abelman Gewertz - January 31, 2023 at 11:23 AM