



John Joseph Kirchin

March 11, 1919 - December 17, 2016

After a long and happy life, retired railroad engineer John Kirchin, 97, made his final crossing on December 17, 2016 (long long short long).

John and his twin brother, Bill, were born on March 11, 1919, in Salisbury, North Carolina, to British immigrants, Mary Elizabeth and Joseph Kirchin.

Except for his military service during WWII, he lived his entire life in Salisbury. He joined First Presbyterian Church as a young boy, and there he raised his family, taught Sunday school, served as a deacon, and walked his daughters down the aisle. He was a member of the Everyman's Bible Class that recently constructed a wheelchair ramp to his home. In the last few years he enjoyed attending the First Presbyterian Church of Charlotte in his pajamas (via television).

After he returned from the Army, John was smitten when his sister-in-law introduced him to her co-worker at Woolworths, Janie Alsobrooks. They married in 1949 and settled in Fulton Heights where they lived among kind neighbors for many years. John and Bill owned and operated a drycleaners and Salisbury's first laundromat on the corner of Harrison and Fulton Streets. He has been a member of the local Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen since 1946, serving many years as its Secretary-Treasurer. He retired from Norfolk Southern in 1985 after 45 years. Many know John as an

avid, above-average, and humble golfer, and a follower of Braves baseball and Carolina basketball.

He is preceded in death by his beloved wife, Janie, whom he missed daily; by his long-time companion, Louise Walser; his parents, and three brothers.

He is survived by his children: Steve Kirchin (Cynthia) of Pageland, SC, Ann Adkins (Les), of Austin, TX and Susan Weston (Cory) of Wilmington; grandchildren: Karen Kirchin-Wooley (Jason), Matt Adkins (Tiffany), Kirchin Weston, and Alice Weston; great grandchildren: Molly and Jordan Adkins; many nieces, nephews, and their families; and cherished caregiver and friend, Beth Rhymer.

The family will receive friends from 11:30 AM -12:30 PM Monday (Dec. 19) at the residence.

A graveside service will be conducted at 1 PM Monday at Chestnut Hill Cemetery with the Rev. Dr. Robert M. Lewis and Rev. Dr. Tom LaBonte, officiating. Military Graveside Rites will be conducted by the National Guard and Rowan County Veterans Honor Guard.

Memorials: First Presbyterian Church of Salisbury, 308 W. Fisher St., Salisbury, NC 28144 or First Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, 200 W. Trade St., Charlotte, NC 28202, The Salvation Army, 602 Bringle Ferry Rd., Salisbury, NC 28144; or Rowan Hospice and Palliative Care, 720 Grove St., Salisbury, NC 28144.

Cemetery Details

Chestnut Hill Cemetery

Salisbury, NC

Previous Events

Graveside Service

DEC 19. 1:00 PM (ET)

Chestnut Hill Cemetery
Salisbury, NC

Tribute Wall

DH

“ I will miss John. I sorry I was out of town and couldn't see you all.

Diane Hooper

Diane Hooper - December 21, 2016 at 06:18 PM

JR

“ Though I didn't get to see him often I always loved seeing Mr. Kirchin when Steve would bring him out to the golf course in Pageland every Thanksgiving Day. Getting a chance to visit with him was always the highlight of the day. I'll miss you, Mr. John. Jon Rivers

Jon Rivers - December 20, 2016 at 08:46 AM

SW

“ I always enjoyed playing golf and talking with Mr. Kirchin when he came to visit his son Steve, in Pageland. Great memories for me.

Steve Williams - December 19, 2016 at 06:35 PM

PP

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. I spent so much time in his home, and his sense of humor and warmth are memories I cherish.

Phyllis Post - December 19, 2016 at 07:30 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Joseph Kirchin.*



December 17, 2016 at 08:29 PM