



## Marlin "John" Berkebile

June 29, 1928 - October 14, 2023

Marlin "John" Berkebile, 95 of Petersburg, Tennessee, passed away October 14, 2023, surrounded by family after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was born in Stoystown, Pennsylvania, to Freeman Richard "Dick" and Edith (Helman) Berkebile on June 29, 1928. He grew up in Stoystown with his two brothers, Leroy and Dave, and his sisters Dorothy and Diane, working on the family farm and coal mine located in Somerset County near the top of Turkeyfoot Hill. John attended Kantner Grade school where he played basketball and baseball. Graduating High School, he went on to Penn State, but was drafted to the military.

His military career turned into a series of technical training where he ended up as a trainer himself in St. Louis, Missouri. During this time, he met the love of his life, Roberta "Sue" McKinley, who was in nursing school and married her on July 17, 1953. While she worked as a nurse, he earned an Electrical Engineering degree from Washington University. Two children later, John was offered a position with Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama. He was given a choice to stay with Redstone or join the newly formed NASA. He chose space and soon headed up a new section, Advanced Methods of Research, where he primarily worked on the Apollo series. He was awarded several times for his research solutions.

Each summer, John and Sue packed up their four children and traveled

across the country camping while he would stop at locations, checking on the progress of new parts for NASA spacecraft. After retiring from NASA, he worked a couple of years for Boeing in Seattle, Washington, and finally retired to his beloved 200 plus acres farm in Petersburg, Tennessee. But his adventures were just beginning as he and Sue traveled each year to all parts of the world.

He is survived by his children, Kristi, Bill, Richard, and Dinah, and his sister Diane Diest. John and Sue had eight grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. The family would like to thank Compassus Hospice for their exceptional care and support. A Celebration of Life will be held in remembrance of John and Sue's wonderful life.

# Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Marlin "John" Berkebile.

October 17, 2023 at 02:43 PM



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marlin "John" Berkebile.



October 17, 2023 at 02:43 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall

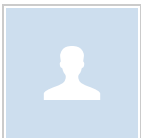


**Charles and Tonya Berkeby** - October 17, 2023 at 12:01 PM



“ So sorry for your loss!!! Thoughts and prayers are with the family

**Donna Maples** - October 17, 2023 at 02:31 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Marlin "John" Berkebile.

October 16, 2023 at 02:24 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Marlin "John" Berkebile.*



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October 16, 2023 at 02:24 PM



“ *My brother John was a peach of a guy. He was super intelligent, hard working and great personality. He excelled at many things. One of his achievements was to pick a wonderful lady, Sue, to marry! They has so marry great years together.*



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**Diane Deist** - October 16, 2023 at 10:50 AM



*They had so many great years together*

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**Diane Deist** - October 16, 2023 at 02:51 PM



*So sorry for your loss !! Our thoughts and prayers are with the family*

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**Donna Maples** - October 17, 2023 at 02:26 AM




“ *Uncle John and Uncle Dave Berkebile. Two great men. Really love talking baseball with John. Dave was so fun to be around.*



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**Chase Miller** - October 16, 2023 at 10:42 AM

 Leroy  
Freeman

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Leroy Freeman** - October 16, 2023 at 05:35 AM

CB

“ *Love and prayers to the precious family he and Sue gave us.* 🙏❤️  
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**Cathy Berkebile** - October 15, 2023 at 11:29 PM