



Dr. John M. Paget Sr.

August 9, 1934 - January 10, 2023

Dr. John Mauldin Paget Sr. died on January 10, 2023, surrounded by family, in Marietta, GA. John grew up in Greer, SC, where he met and eventually married his high school sweetheart, Patsy. Following graduation from Greer High School, John attended Clemson University before accepting early admission into the University of GA Veterinary School. Following graduation from UGA, John returned to Greer with his young family and opened a veterinary practice. In 1960, John accepted a veterinary position with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, first in Cumming, GA and then in Gainesville, GA. He retired after thirty years of service and began consulting for Fieldale Farms.

As a young man John spent most of his time hunting, fishing and exploring on his father's farm with his childhood best friend Billy Taylor (Butter). He raised farm animals for 4-H and Future Farmers of America projects. He also enjoyed raising homing pigeons. John's love of the outdoors and wildlife continued into adulthood, and in the late 1960's he traded his fishing gear and rifle for a pair of binoculars and a spotting scope to watch and study birds. This turned into a lifelong passion. He traveled the world in search of new species to add to his life list, often with his best friend Jack Carusos. He published numerous articles of his sightings in the GA Ornithological Society's publication, The Oriole, and was widely recognized for his contributions to the knowledge of birdlife in Georgia and beyond. John's extensive birding journals were donated to the University of North Georgia.

John was preceded in death by his parents James Suddath Paget Sr. and Ruth Cunningham Paget, his brothers James and Ben and his sister Jessie Lamb, as well as his loving in laws, JB and Myrtie Cole.

John is survived by his love of 70 years, Patsy Cole Paget of Greer, SC. his four adoring children Pamela Paget-Wakefield (Jim), Eve Wettstein (Fritz), John M. Paget Jr. (Susan), and Jessica Reese (Alan) and in-laws Nancee Paget, Carolyn Cabaniss, and Alan Cole. He is also survived by ten grandchildren, Brad Andersen, Abbie Keppler, Bernie Gomez, Rachel Thomas, John M. Paget III, Sarah Stevens, Christine Barron, Benjamin Paget, Eliza Reese, Rebecca Reese, eight great grandchildren, Ryley, Brendan, Chad, Grayson, Lucy, Rilynn, Thomas, Elizabeth and one great-great grandchild Rylan.

John was a most humble, unique and honorable man of few words who rarely shared his opinions unless asked. When he spoke, his words were important, meaningful and wise. He is remembered for his love of family, ornithology, Clemson Tigers, and the Atlanta Braves. He is also remembered for his generosity, great storytelling, clever sense of humor, guitar and ukulele playing, beautiful singing voice, and pitch-perfect whistling. His grandchildren will fondly remember dangling their feet in the many koi ponds he maintained and naming their favorite fish.

The family would like to express heart felt appreciation for the caretakers at Sterling Estates of East Cobb, Yanzhi Zhang and Wellstar Tranquility Community Hospice for their dedicated care.

A funeral service will be held 11:30 a.m. Saturday, January 21, 2023, at The Wood Mortuary Chapel conducted by Rev. Keith Kelly. Burial will be private. Visitation will be held 10:00 a.m. until 11:15 a.m. Saturday, January 21, 2023, at the mortuary prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, if you are inclined to make a donation in John's memory, please consider donating time or money to your favorite wildlife organization. Online condolences may be made at www.thewoodmortuary.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 21. 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM (ET)

The Wood Mortuary, Inc.
300 West Poinsett Street
Greer, SC 29650
(864) 877-3351
woodmortuary@bellsouth.net

Service

JAN 21. 11:30 AM (ET)

THE WOOD MORTUARY CHAPEL
300 West Poinsett Street
Greer, SC 29650
(864) 877-3351
woodmortuary@bellsouth.net

Tribute Wall



“ *The Wood Mortuary created a Webcast in memory of Dr. John M. Paget Sr.*



The Wood Mortuary - January 21, 2023 at 08:56 AM

LG

“ *The Decatur School of Ballet family sends their deepest condolences to the whole Paget family. We particularly lift up our dear Jessica, Eliza and Rebecca at this sad time.*

Leslie Gourley - January 21, 2023 at 09:09 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. John M. Paget Sr..*



January 20, 2023 at 09:00 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. John M. Paget Sr..*



January 17, 2023 at 02:07 PM

LH

“ *John Paget, Sr. was the beloved Father-in-law to our Daughter Susan. We are so grateful that Susan married John, Jr. and joined the Paget Family. John, Sr. was my "go-to" person for bird identification and information, and he was a delightful member of our new extended family. We loved his straight-forward sense of humor and enjoyed sharing our amazing grandchildren and great-grandchildren together. Rest In Peace, John, knowing you will always be loved and missed.*

Dan and Linda Hodges

Linda Hodges - January 17, 2023 at 01:42 PM

“ John M. Paget lived a good life to its full measure, sharing it generously with friends and family. A son-in-law and member of his extended family, I want to be more like John and to:

Be humble. Listen, learn and speak not to hear yourself. Accept your misfortunes as easily as your good fortunes.

Be kind. Treat everyone fairly and don't be quick to judge.

Enjoy! Have a good time with what you devote your time to. When you no longer smile easily doing something, it is time to move on. Focus on the positive.

Be honest. Talk straight with no agenda, no angle. Like kindness, honesty opens doors for closer relationships and getting listened to respectfully.

Be observant. Follow your curiosity, observe carefully and get to know things deeply. Feel confident, trusting knowledge cultivated over time.

Be loyal. Pick a team and stick with it. Faith in others to do their best grows a trusting nature that helps in navigating not only the familiar places but the foreign.

Love family. A loyal, wise, honest, good natured, kind, and humble person loves and is surrounded by an adoring family.

What was John's secret to life? Where did he find his way? How did he gain good character? I don't think it was learned from a book, although he sure enjoyed a good book. I don't think he was consciously responding to a call to be a good Christian, although he was devoted and prayerful. I don't think it was discipline drilled into the Clemson cadet, although it well could have been.

I think it was family love that built and tempered John's character,

the family who nurtured and made him and the family he made and nurtured with his life's love, Patsy.

Fritz Wettstein - January 16, 2023 at 08:48 PM

KR

“ *John was like a grandfather to me, he was always so kind and fun when I came to visit my dad and Eve in the summers. I enjoyed his company so much that I woke up at 5:00am (as a teen!) to go birdwatching with him on several occasions. Sending love and hugs to the whole Paget family.*

Kelle Rich - January 15, 2023 at 02:37 PM

AA

“ *Angie AshmoreKruse lit a candle in memory of John Paget*



Angie AshmoreKruse - January 14, 2023 at 10:56 PM