



## John Leslie Burton

April 26, 2026

John Leslie Burton of Portsmouth, affectionately known as “Dad, Grandpa, PaPa, and Big John” passed away peacefully surrounded by family on April 26, 2026, in Virginia Beach, Virginia, at the age of 84.

John was born in Hurricane, West Virginia, he lived a life marked by dedication to his family, a love of West Virginia, and a passion for craftsmanship, genealogy and politics.

John is survived by his beloved wife, Sandra Burton. Together they shared nearly 62 wonderful years of marriage. He was a devoted father to Angie Hendricks (Steve) and John Burton II (Sandy). His legacy continues through his cherished grandchildren: Michael Burton (Tiffany), Megan Volnoff (Trip), Noah Hendricks, and Zane Hendricks; as well as his great-grandchildren: Brinley, Eian, Jaxon, Keegan, and Harper. John is also survived by a host of nieces and nephews, all of whom he loved deeply. He was predeceased by his parents, Herbert Brown Burton and Neola Howell Burton Legg; his son, Christopher Burton; and his brothers and sisters. A man of many talents and interests, John had a passion for woodworking. Known for his skillful hands and creative mind, he could repair or build almost anything. His craftsmanship left an indelible mark on those who knew him. Professionally, John retired from civil service after 30 years, having served as Supervisor of the Coast Guard Base Boat Shop in Portsmouth, Virginia—a role that reflected his

dedication to precision and excellence.

John also had a keen interest in politics and enjoyed engaging in thoughtful discussions about the world around him. His love for family heritage inspired countless hours of research into genealogy—a pursuit that connected him deeply to his roots. Above all else, John will be remembered for the love he shared with his family. Whether he was lovingly called Dad by his children or Grandpa and PaPa by his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, he held a special place in their hearts. He also developed special bonds with numerous children over the years through Sandra's in-home daycare, with Big John's lap always the coveted seat.

Honoring his wishes, a graveside service will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at Meadowbrook Memorial Gardens in Suffolk, Virginia.

May John's memory bring comfort to all who knew him.

Country roads, take me home  
To the place I belong  
West Virginia, mountain mama  
Take me home, country roads  
John Denver

# Upcoming Events

## Committal Service

MAY 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

Meadowbrook Memorial Gardens  
4569 Shoulders Hill Road  
Suffolk, VA 23435