



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.

Born in Hurricane, West Virginia, John 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.

A man of many talents 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

Previous Events

Committal Service

MAY 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

Meadowbrook Memorial Gardens
4569 Shoulders Hill Road
Suffolk, VA 23435

Tribute Wall

MB

“ *Mary Ann, Steve & Halle Blaisdell purchased the In Heaven's Arms Bouquet for the family of John Leslie Burton.*



Mary Ann, Steve & Halle Blaisdell - May 04 at 09:50 PM

LG

“ *Words cannot express how much this man has meant to me and our family. He was the one person we could always count on to be there for us, no matter what. He was one of the kindest, most loving, caring men I have ever met. I am so grateful that I had the honor of calling him my Uncle. Until we meet again, fly with the angels Uncle Johnny. Be at peace. All my love, Linda*

Linda Gage - May 03 at 03:57 PM

LS

“ *Uncle Johnny, what can I say about the memories... So very many. You were the most special man to each and every one of us. You will always have a special place in our lives in our hearts in our minds and in our prayers. I love talking to you about family history and getting you going so many years ago. Sharing that with you and learning so much along the way together. You are and will be always missed and loved dearly. The man with the most impressive eyebrows ever! Sending prayers to aunt Sandra and all the family. Love you dearly uncle Johnny You're niece . Lora Ann*

Lora Smith - May 02 at 08:07 AM

KT

God Bless Sandra & Family On The Loss Of John. A Gentleman Of The Highest Order Whose Love Of Family & Friends Was Exemplary. If I Recall Correctly From Conversations He Was Born On December 7th 1941 Pearl Harbor Day. Always Enjoyed Our Conversations & Being In His Presence. May The Memories Of The Good Times Comfort Everyone As We Celebrate John's Life Here On Earth & To Know That One Day We Will Be Reunited With Him & All Of Our Loved Ones Who Have Gone On Before Us & What A Glorious Day It Will Be In Jesus Name Amen. Love & Peace To All , Especially You Sandra , RIP John. With Deepest Sympathy , Ken Teachey 🍷🕊️🍷🕊️🍷🕊️🍷🕊️🍷🕊️

Ken Teachey - May 03 at 01:34 PM