



## John Lee Newton

July 24, 1954 - April 10, 2021

John Lee Newton, 66, of Knoxville, TN, and formerly of San Francisco, CA, passed away on Saturday, April 10, 2021. John served in the Middle School Ministry at Fellowship Church Knoxville for 20 years. He was a small group leader and mentor for middle school boys. He designed the Sunday morning middle school check in process to intentionally welcome each student by name, celebrate their birthday, and remember significant events in their lives. He created a Bible Challenge for each Sunday, complete with prizes and treats. His diligent and optimistic attitude impacted a generation of students.

John was a General Contractor for over 40 years. While his strong work ethic was legendary, he cared deeply about his clients and a great many became life-long friends. He never advertised his business, word of mouth was all he needed. His acts of kindness and service emanated out of joy and his personal conviction to always try to do the right thing.

After he retired his construction business, Builder on Call, he became a professional Santa Claus. He was a graduate of the Charles W. Howard Santa Claus School in Michigan and was a member of the Brotherhood of Real Bearded Santas (BRBS). He thrilled children of all ages with his realistic portrayal. His mission was to blend the birth and wonder of Christ with a Santa that acknowledged the gift of our newborn Savior. He never wanted Santa to outshine Jesus at Christmas. He visited preschools, surprised children with home visits, and was the Santa for the yearly Chris Tomlin Christmas Concerts. He was even featured in the online People Magazine review for the Tomlin concert in 2018.

John's life is impossible to sum up in a narrative about his career and accomplishments. His legacy to those whose lives he touched was profound. There were universal truths about him that a short moment in his company quickly revealed. He was passionate about God and his family. He was the ultimate provider. His construction business was a vehicle to love and provide not only the needs of his family, but each client he ever served. He was a problem solver, smart, optimistic, highly skilled, and grateful for each blessing in life. He loved and adored his wife of 40 years, Victoria Newton. He was a devoted and caring father of 4 children and 4 grandchildren. His sense of humor was widely known, he joked with all, and had an amazing mischievous twinkle in his eyes. Universally, people who

knew him thought he was the “real deal”!

John is preceded in death by his mother Betty Jo Jackson Bieber and father Donald Lee Newton.

He is survived by his wife Victoria Newton, his daughter Bethany Newton, his daughter Emma Newton, his son Samuel Newton and daughter-in-law Mary Newton, and son Jacob Newton and daughter-in law Emily Newton. He is survived by his grandchildren Matthew, Alastor, Ezra, and Quinn.

Services honoring John Newton will be Sunday, April 18th, 2021, at 3:00pm. Services will be officiated by Alan Ramsey and followed by a Celebration of Life, at Rose Funeral and Cremation – Mann, 6200 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919. Donations honoring John Newton can be made to Hope Resource Center, Knoxville. Arrangements by Rose Funeral and Cremation - Mann. Online condolences may be made at [www.rosefuneraltn.com](http://www.rosefuneraltn.com).

# Events

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**APR**   **Celebration of Life Service**   03:00PM

**18**

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Rose Funeral & Cremation - Mann

6200 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN, US, 37919

# Comments

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“ 3 files added to the album LifeTributes



**Jeff** - November 11, 2021 at 11:06 AM

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“ Vicki, It has been so long since we had any contact. I am so sorry to hear about John - I can remember your wedding and helping your mom get everything ready. I enjoyed meeting Bethany and Emma when you guys lived in SF. I came during the day so I didn't get to visit with John. I would love to reconnect with you. My email is rroew31@gmail.com.  
Stay strong and cherish his love. Your cousin Ramsay

**Ramsay Weatherford** - September 19, 2021 at 04:05 PM

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“ Vickie and Family,  
We are terribly sorry to hear of John's passing. John will always be remembered for his warm, friendly smile and the twinkle in his eyes, and his love for his dear wife, Vickie.  
Our prayers for all.  
Love, Scott and Julianne White  
and Family

**Julianne White** - July 05, 2021 at 01:09 PM

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“ Vicky and Jacob - I am just now finding out about John's passing. My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family. I enjoyed getting to know and working with John when Abram and Jacob were in Boy Scouts together. John was a great mentor to the boys stressing the value of work and sharing his Christian faith. And he also had some great stories to tell. He earned my respect in many ways, but in particular with the way he lived out his faith and shared it with others. He contributed to the community in so many positive ways and will be missed.

Allen and Dennie Bradley

**Allen Bradley** - June 29, 2021 at 08:42 AM

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“ Vicky, this is Susan Kennedy (Felton). Peter just passed this sad news on to me. Even though we haven't seen each other in many years, you and your family will always be dear to us. I have so many memories of you and John when we were both pregnant with our first child, and all the sharing we did for the next seven years or so. If yuo ever want to contact us, my email is [kennedysusan@mac.com](mailto:kennedysusan@mac.com). Our thoughts and love are with you.

**Susan Kennedy** - May 26, 2021 at 06:08 PM

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“ Dear Bethany, Vicky, Sam, and Jacob,

This is Peter Felton, oldest son of Susan Kennedy and Keith Felton from San Francisco, CA. You may remember way back when when we were practically neighbors in the City by the Bay and would routinely visit each other's houses for everything from everyday playdates to holiday celebrations to going on outings together. Bethany and I were preschool classmates as well (that San Francisco preschool has since closed, incidentally, in case you were curious.) Well, time has passed, and sadly so has John. On behalf of my family and myself, we would like to wish the surviving members of the wonderful Newton Family all the very very best during this time of grief and healing, and going forward into the future. All of you are wonderful wonderful people. You are the epitome of family love, togetherness, wholesome values, human nature, generosity, and charm beyond belief. My dad, brother and I had the pleasure of last seeing you all at your home in Knoxville in Summer 2000. Thank you for your hospitality then, and for your friendship for so long. John was the best of the best. That contagious smile and enthusiasm for life that he shown like the sun brought a real warm spirit to everybody he crossed paths with. His carpentry skills were like no other. And he was one of the most welcoming, openhearted people I have ever met.

So may John now Rest In Peace knowing how much love is being returned unto him for all the affection with which he provided the world throughout his lifetime.

Much love,  
Peter Felton

**Peter Felton** - May 26, 2021 at 05:44 PM

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“ Beth and Matthew and family,

We, the Wards, are saddened to learn this news of John's passing. We will remember his warm welcome to middle school students on Sunday mornings at Fellowship Church. In addition to knowing and serving middle school students at youth group, he cared about Matthew's friends and tried his best to remember the names of those friends. He loved you both and he was so proud of you both. His joy was helping Matthew, getting him to his activities, attending his activities, a proud and involved grandfather. I know you will deeply miss him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Brian, Pamela, Ethan, Elliott Ward

**Pamela Ward** - April 21, 2021 at 11:40 PM

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“ Dear Mrs. Newton and family,  
I am deeply saddened by the loss of Mr. Newton. The memories I have with him and your entire family growing up are so beautiful and dear to my heart. You would host Easter egg hunts, and John would always help me find the eggs so the older kids didn't get all of them before I could find any. John and your entire family have always treated me like one of your own.  
His spirit and heart were so sweet and genuine, and I care for your family deeply. You have all always been a radiant example of how God calls us to love others, no matter what season they may be in in life - and no matter who they are.  
My prayers and love are with you in this time.  
I hope you know John left a lasting impression on me and so has your entire family.  
Love,  
Ana Contessa

ana contessa - April 17, 2021 at 09:43 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Lee Newton.



April 17, 2021 at 12:46 PM

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“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Lee Newton.



April 17, 2021 at 12:27 PM

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“ Dear Vicki and family, we are so deeply saddened to hear of John's passing. It was an honor and pleasure to have met John at Santa School, he was a great man and we treasure the memories of those few days we spent with both you and John. I loved his laughter when I would talk about Michigan's upper peninsula and yoppers. You are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Sending big hugs!  
Ted and Deb

Deb Munson Schulz - April 16, 2021 at 08:46 PM

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“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of John Lee Newton.



April 16, 2021 at 07:35 PM

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“ Dear Vicki and family:

I'm so deeply sorry to see this news. I'm thinking of you, and hoping there will be a way to be helpful in the days ahead. Sending hugs and lots of love.

Patsy Hudson

Patsy Hudson - April 16, 2021 at 06:51 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Lee Newton.



April 16, 2021 at 04:35 PM

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“ 125 files added to the album LifeTributes



Rose Mortuary - April 16, 2021 at 02:36 PM

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“ So sorry for your loss. We have known Johnny's family for 50+ years. We sure miss his mom Sister Betty. We had the privilege to attend her and Brother John Bieber 's wedding. He was the love of her life. We got to see Johnny's sister Donna and her husband at Betty's funeral. We also visited with his youngest sister Tame at the cottage next to your house. She talked about your grandson Matthew helping with getting him from place to place with school. Johnny came out as we were leaving Tame's and he opened the garage and showed us his Santa sleigh. Good memories all around. Love this family.

Judie and Larry Turner - April 16, 2021 at 12:34 AM

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“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of John Lee Newton.



April 15, 2021 at 05:24 PM