



## John David Wynne Guice

March 24, 1931 - July 30, 2018

John David Wynne Guice, 87, of Laurel, Mississippi, went to his heavenly reward Monday, July 30, 2018.

Born March 24, 1931 in Biloxi, MS, John was the son of William Lee and Lee Dicks Guice. He is survived by his wife Nancy Martin Guice, daughter Soni Buckalew (Glen), son Johnny Guice (Liz) and step-daughter Nancy Koen (Jason). Grandchildren include Lauren Buckalew Cook (Steve), Adam Buckalew, Wade Guice, Chad Guice (Bailey), Elyse Guice, Zion Koen and Jason Koen. Great-grandchildren are Bennett and Owen Cook. He also has one surviving sibling, Miriam Guice Howell, 96, of San Antonio, TX. He was beloved Uncle John to a myriad of nieces, nephews and their children.

His celebration of life will be held 2pm, Thursday, August 2, 2018 at St. John's Episcopal Church in Laurel. Visitation begins at 1pm. Family and friends are also invited to a graveside service to be held Friday, August 3 at 2pm at the Old Biloxi Cemetery north of the railroad tracks off Irish Hill Drive.

John Wynne graduated from Biloxi High School (1948), Yale University (BA 1952) and The University of Texas at El Paso (MA 1953). In 1954 he joined the US Army where he was Valedictorian of his Cryptographic School in Fort Gordon, GA. He was stationed in Fontainebleau, France with the NATO Forces where he served as a Cryptographic Specialist. Dr. Guice received

his Ph.D. in History from the University of Colorado in 1969.

His teaching career began that year as an Assistant Professor of History at the University of Southern Mississippi. He was promoted full Professor in 1978 then transitioned to Professor Emeritus in 2000. During his tenure at USM, Dr. Guice served the institution in a variety of leadership positions including Director of the American Studies Program and President of the Faculty Senate. In addition to his teaching career at USM he served as visiting professor at Pepperdine University and the University of Colorado.

A renowned researcher and accomplished author, John's first book, *The Rocky Mountain Bench: The Territorial Supreme Courts of Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming* was published in 1972 and awarded the American Association for State and Local History Certificate of Commendation for "original scholarship and for illustrating the interrelationship of local and national history." His love and focus on the American Frontier led him to pen *Frontiers in Conflict: The Old Southwest, 1795-1830*. John was a contributor for and edited *By His Own Hand? The Mysterious Death of Meriwether Lewis*. He worked closely with a forensic scientist to exhume Meriwether Lewis' body and discovered evidence that Lewis had been murdered. On this same topic, Dr. Guice was interviewed by the History Channel on a show titled "In Search of History: Meriwether Lewis - Suicide or Murder?" He also contributed a twenty-five page introduction to the reprint of *The Confession of James Copeland*. Guice was commissioned to author *Forrest County General Hospital, 1952-2002: The Evolution of a Regional Referral Center: A Prophecy Fulfilled*.

Professor Guice authored countless articles, book reviews and encyclopedia entries. He performed hundreds of speeches at local, historical, civic, fraternal, religious, and public school functions and participated in professional conferences across the nation.

His suburb scholarship earned fellowships, awards, honors and grants including the Mississippi History Dunbar Rowland Award for lifelong contributions to the preservation, study and interpretation of Mississippi History, the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award at the Natchez Literary Celebration and the Thad Cochran Humanities Award by the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the literary, intellectual, historical, and cultural life of the American South.

John served as the president of the Mississippi Historical Society where his major initiative was the founding of seventy Mississippi Federation of Local Historical Societies. He was a member of the Western History Association and The Mississippi Historical Society. Multiple boards of directors counted on his knowledge and expertise. His community service included Jaycees, Sun Bowl Committee, Rotary Club, Library Boards in both Hattiesburg and Laurel and was an active leader at Parkway Heights UMC in Hattiesburg then St. John Episcopal Church in Laurel.

To sign the online guest book, visit [www.memorychapellaurel.com](http://www.memorychapellaurel.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Old Biloxi Cemetery

1166 Irish Hill Dr  
Biloxi, MS 39530

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 2. 1:00 PM (CT)

St. John's Episcopal Church  
540 N 5th Avenue  
Laurel, MS 39440

## Memorial Service

AUG 2. 2:00 PM (CT)

St. John's Episcopal Church  
540 N 5th Ave  
Laurel, MS 39440

## Graveside Service

AUG 3. 2:00 PM (CT)

Old Biloxi Cemetery  
1166 Irish Hill Dr  
Biloxi, MS 39530



# Tribute Wall

WB

“ John was a quick wit that I enjoyed helping with his research on the Copeland gang in Perry county. Soni also was our baby sitter for a while that we loved very much. Wesley and Lillian Breland.

wesley breland - August 03, 2018 at 05:17 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John David Wynne Guice.



August 02, 2018 at 06:31 PM

MG

“ I had the pleasure to first meet John many years ago prior to a Tulane - USM game at Marion Guice's home in New Orleans. It was nice to see the old college rivalries in play. Family from Fred Guice will be attending the service Friday. He will be missed.

F. Miller Guice Jr.

Miller Guice - August 02, 2018 at 11:31 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of John David Wynne Guice.



August 01, 2018 at 11:25 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John David Wynne Guice.*



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August 01, 2018 at 10:54 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of John David Wynne Guice.*



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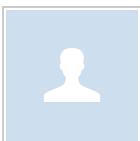
August 01, 2018 at 12:11 PM



“ *Dear Uncle John was an integral part of our extended Guice family for the 45 years of my marriage to Danny Jr. His quick wit was always mixed with the Ole Miss vs USM rivalry jabs as we were both life long die hard supporters of our respective universities. He will be sorely missed.*  
*Prayers and deep sympathy,*  
*Janie Guice*

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**Janie Guice** - August 01, 2018 at 11:47 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of John David Wynne Guice.*



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August 01, 2018 at 11:45 AM

DJ

“ John Guice was my favorite uncles, I had many. I always enjoyed talking and debating politics with him. Though we had differing opinions on occasion it was always entertaining and civil with both parties coming away with information that was useful. Being a historian, my uncle John always had interesting stories about early Mississippi which I enjoyed immensely. Rarely, if any, did I hear him speak ill of people, but would readily point out their differences. My uncle John was a good man and role model for anybody who know him. He wasn't perfect, but he tried to do the right thing, and I believe was successful in achieving it. I know he will be sorely missed by his family and many friends and colleagues. He was truly a pleasure to be around! I will miss his guidance and the friendship we developed as I grew into adulthood these many years.

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**Danny Guice Jr.** - August 01, 2018 at 11:08 AM



“ I only met Papa John a few times but every time he was a true southern gentleman. I remember his noteworthy knowledge and generosity as well as curiosity in knowing everything about myself and my family. I recall all the amazing things said about him by my mom and Johnny. I know everyone who knew him loved him very much. Papa John was a great man and there are many, many good memories left behind. My thoughts are with everyone right now, I wish I could be in Mississippi. RIP John Guice.



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**Ali Cisewski** - August 01, 2018 at 09:43 AM