



## John Ralph Powers Jr.

January 10, 1958 - February 1, 2024

John Ralph Powers, Jr., 66, passed away peacefully on February 1st while in hospice in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he had resided for over a decade. A native of Laurel, Mississippi, John attended West Jones High school from 1972-1976. He graduated from Brandon High School in Brandon, Mississippi before fulfilling his lifelong dream of joining the Marine Corps.

Completing boot camp in 1977, John served as a Marine infantryman with the 5th, 6th, and 8th Marine regiments. He participated in numerous deployments, exercises, and crisis responses around the globe, from the Pacific to the Mediterranean and the Arabian and Persian Gulf. His most enjoyable tour of duty was as a drill instructor at Parris Island, South Carolina from 1981-1983. John served with honor and courage during Operation DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM in 1990-1991, supporting the defense of the Saudi peninsula and the liberation of Kuwait. His numerous awards included the Navy Achievement Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, and five Good Conduct Medals.

After retiring from the Corps, John settled in Cincinnati where he enjoyed meeting people, making new friends, and spending time outdoors with his beloved dogs. Diagnosed with lung and liver cancer in late summer of 2022, he courageously fought this illness with focused resolve, tremendous faith, and a happy heart. Our family would like to acknowledge the phenomenal love

and support he received from his close Cincinnati friends, from immediate and extended family, from former neighbors in Laurel and Brandon, and from his fellow Marines and West Jones classmates throughout his toughest battle.

John was preceded in death by his father, John Ralph Powers, Sr. in 1998 and by his mother, Jo Helen Powers (nee Hurst) in 2016, both from Laurel. He is survived by his younger brother, Joel Russell Powers, of Stafford, Virginia. He is also survived by two sons, John Ross and Michael Joel Powers, of Newnan, Georgia.

A memorial service to honor his life will be held at Memory Chapel Funeral Home in Laurel on February 17 at 2:00 PM. Visitation for family members will begin at 12:00 P.M., with visitation for friends commencing at 12:30 PM. He will be laid to rest at Lake Park Cemetery in Laurel following the memorial service. Prior to his passing, and in lieu of flowers, John respectfully requested donations be made to his favorite charity, St. Jude's Children's Hospital, or to any other cancer-related charity.

# Cemetery Details

## Lake Park Cemetery

1303 Old Bay Springs Rd  
Laurel, MS 39440

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 17. 12:30 PM (CT)

Memory Chapel Funeral Home  
3100 Audubon Drive  
P. O. Box 674  
Laurel, MS 39440  
(601) 428-5235  
memorychapel@comcast.net  
<https://www.memorychapellaurel.com/>

## Service

FEB 17. 2:00 PM (CT)

Memory Chapel Funeral Home  
3100 Audubon Drive  
P. O. Box 674  
Laurel, MS 39440  
(601) 428-5235  
memorychapel@comcast.net  
<https://www.memorychapellaurel.com/>

# Tribute Wall

SC

“ Susan, Marty, Vicky and Charlie purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Ralph Powers Jr..



Susan, Marty, Vicky and Charlie - February 16, 2024 at 09:18 AM

BP

“ Sympathy and prayers to Rusty and family. I am sad to hear that John is gone. I'm thankful and blessed to have crossed paths with him. I know he will be missed by many. John was one of a kind. I worked with him many years ago at Jitney Jungle, Fifth Avenue in Laurel. He was a bag boy in high school and I was a cashier. He was joy to work with. His dream was to be a marine. He was a carefree happy go lucky, fun, guy. I said John will never survive the marines or the marines will never survive John. I saw him once or twice after he left for the marines and lost touch with him. It seems John and the marines both survived well together for many years. God bless Johns's family and God bless our country,

Betty Powell, Dawsonville, GA

Betty Powell - February 15, 2024 at 11:18 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Memory Chapel Funeral Home - February 14, 2024 at 09:48 AM

RP

*Thank you! John loved this photo.*

**Rusty Powers** - February 14, 2024 at 10:56 AM

RP

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



**Rusty Ppowers** - February 13, 2024 at 10:43 PM

RP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Rusty Powers** - February 13, 2024 at 10:35 PM

RP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Rusty Powers** - February 13, 2024 at 10:34 PM

CR

“ *Connie & 2nd Hand Paws Animal Rescue purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of John Ralph Powers Jr..*



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**Connie & 2nd Hand Paws Animal Rescue** - February 13, 2024  
at 09:18 PM

CR

“ *Connie & 2nd Hand Paws Animal Rescue planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Ralph Powers Jr..*

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**Connie & 2nd Hand Paws Animal Rescue** - February 13, 2024 at 09:18 PM

BE

“ *Deepest Heartfelt Sympathies to the Powers Family. Brother Rusty, Johnny's family and friends. I knew Johnny and Rusty long ago. Ralph was my boss at United Gas. The Powers are good family. Blessings and Love to all of you. Bill & Carol Elliott Chillicothe Ohio.*

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**Bill Elliott** - February 13, 2024 at 03:31 PM

RP

*Mr. Elliott, remember you well. Thank you for taking the time to comment and honor our family with your kind words. God bless you and yours.*

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**Rusty Powers** - February 13, 2024 at 10:17 PM

BA

“ 3 files added to the album John



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**Barbara** - February 13, 2024 at 11:27 AM

RP

*Thanks for sharing.*

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**Rusty Powers** - February 14, 2024 at 10:57 AM