



John Tennyson Brown

April 11, 1928 - February 21, 2018

John Tennyson Brown, 89, died February 21, 2018, with his family by his side in Nokomis, Florida. He was born on April 11, 1928, in Old Hickory, Tennessee to John Tennyson and Anabelle Mitchell Brown. John is survived by his wife of 62 years, Geraldine (Jackson) Brown; two children: James Thomas Brown and Nancy Brown Harrison (Robert); three grandchildren: Grant Tennyson, Cole Lawrence, and Christian Leigh McCarthy, and two step grandchildren: Ben & Cameron Harrison. He was preceded in death by his parents and his son, John Tennyson Brown, III.

His family moved to Canton, Ohio, where he attended North Canton High. He then attended the Arthur Jordan Conservatory of Music in Indianapolis, Indiana. In 1955, John moved to Clearwater to sell cars and in 1956, he moved to New Orleans as manager of a General Motors dealership. He opened his first car dealership in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1961. At only 33 years of age at the time, he became the youngest car dealer in Louisiana. As a distinguished businessman, he remained one of the top 60 Oldsmobile dealers, out of 3,400 for many years. Over the course of his career, he sold nine different car lines.

John was an active volunteer, and he always prioritized giving back to his community. For 58 years, he was a 32nd Degree Mason, a member of the Scottish and York Rites, and a Shriner. He was also a member of the Royal Order of Jesters and was an Elk for over 53 years. John served numerous civic organizations and was on the Board of Directors of three banks in the

New Orleans area.

An avid, life learner, John acquired a commercial pilot's rating and was a member of the Quiet Birdmen for over 50 years. He also held a 100 Ton Master License with the United States Coast Guard. John was a passionate boater and aviator, even naming his boat "Flying High." It is a comfort to us all to know that he is now the one flying high.

These accomplishments only hint at John's compassion, generosity, and honor. He was an exceptional husband, father, and grandfather whose choices in life set a high bar for those who love and respect him. A visitation honoring John's life will be held on Sunday, February 25, 2018 from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM at Toale Brothers Ewing Chapel in Venice, FL. Burial will be private for the family at Venice Memorial Gardens. Those who so desire make memorial donations, in John's memory, to the Shriner's Hospital for Children. The family would like to acknowledge their heartfelt gratitude toward Tidewell Hospice for their compassionate support.

Tribute Wall

CH

“ Oh My!!! We met through boating, docked side by side in St. Pete -- we shared MANY laughs, meals, and good times together. John even let me help him when he got stuck on his daily crossword puzzle (which I do NOW). Richie called John, "Downtown Brown" and he was just a JOY to know and be with. All of our best to Gerry to carry on the Brown 'good humor' in getting through this life. God Bless.

Cynthia Hassall - February 28, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ Hard to believe he was 89. Almost, the last of the Slidell Gang. We all had a LOT of laughs over the years. All the best, Jay and Shelby Dugan and all the Dugan's in LA and AL.

February 27, 2018 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ Gerry, Jim and I just heard of Johns passing. We have missed you both at the Elks and extend to you and the family our deepest condolences. May God be with you during this sad time.
Jim and Ruth Mehrtens

Ruth Rankin - February 25, 2018 at 12:00 AM

FH

“ Fred Hind lit a candle in memory of John Tennyson Brown



Fred Hind - February 23, 2018 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ *Heartfelt sympathy Gerry and family. May God bless you all.*

carol mcallin - February 23, 2018 at 12:00 AM