



## John B. Elliff

December 27, 1930 - October 2, 2020

John Malseed Bell Elliff, 89, passed away October 2, 2020. Born December 27, 1930 to Joseph and Harriet Elliff he grew up in Hubbard Woods, IL attending New Trier High School where he played football. He majored in business at the University of Wisconsin (Madison) and following graduation served in the Army Finance Corps in Indiana and Germany. In 1953 he married his college sweetheart Nelda LuAnne Kemmerer.

John worked for the Jewel Tea Company, beginning as a door to door salesman during his college summers and retiring in 1988 as Vice President in charge of sales.

Two events in his youth greatly influenced his life. When he was ten his family took a vacation to the Smokey Mountains just before that area became a National Park. Gatlinburg had only one hotel, a grocery store, a bar, and the stables. He learned to ride and he loved the mountains, trees, waterfalls and wild flowers plus the history of the early settlers. He and his bride honeymooned there and returned many times with their children. When he was sixteen he spent a summer as a wrangler at a dude ranch in Wyoming. His favorite memory was riding at dawn to round up the horses. He loved the rivers, fishing, and everything about the west.

John and his wife lived many years in Glenview, IL, then in Florida at Bonita Bay in Bonita Springs before moving to Bentley Village in Naples. He was a

member of Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity, Lions Club (Past President) and First Presbyterian Church. He was instrumental in founding the Lions Club Eye Clinic and obtaining funding for it. He ran their Saturday morning farmers market and also organized an annual outing of fishing and lunch for handicapped children and their families. Through church he started the Help a Child Read Program and also arranged a concert to raise money for the Harry Chapin Food Bank.

His favorite activity was fly fishing. Not an avid golfer, he and his sons liked to play a few holes using a scoring system that only counted their good shots. John enjoyed doing for others and having fun. He will be fondly remembered by many at Bonita Bay for a special tennis group he started there and the beach parties held for friends.

He is survived by his wife Nelda; four children, Scott (Karen), Jeanine (Don), Steven (Julie), and Kimberly (J. D.); four grandchildren, Grace, Rachel, Holly, and Brock; and one great grandchild, Zavier.

A family memorial service will take place in the Smokey Mountains at a later date.

Donations in John's name may be made to the Lions Club Eye Clinic or First Presbyterian Church both in Bonita Springs.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home.

# Tribute Wall



“ *John B. Elliff*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *John was a treasured friend; Unforgettable.  
Aldyth and John Hutson*

**Aldyth and John Hutson** - October 26, 2020 at 05:58 PM



“ *John will be sorely missed  
He was a very loving caring man. He came to us one day at the Bonita Spring baseball field while our Special needs players were playing baseball. He came up and we started to talk. He asks what we were all about. I told we were an organization that let kids at the time with special needs to have the chance to play the past time favorite sport of baseball. John told me that he belongs to the Bonita Springs Lion Club and he sees what he could do for our league. Ever since then John has been apart of the family. Which has been 26 years ago. He would come out and help make the kids laugh and enjoy the game. John we are going to miss your smile and warm heart. ❤️ From your baseball family, Florida Tri-County Challenged Athletes Association. May you rest in peace and watch over us. You now became our Angel in the outfield 🙏*

**Kathy Samson** - October 18, 2020 at 01:26 PM