



## John Edward Stapleford

October 1, 1946 - August 25, 2021

John Edward Stapleford, age 74, of Newark, Delaware, passed away on Wednesday, August 25, 2021. John was born on October 1, 1946, in Philadelphia, son of the late Jane Limerick Stapleford and Frederick Hamilton Stapleford. After graduating from Denison University, John met and married Linda Ellison and then spent several years as a navigator in the U.S. Air Force, including a tour in Vietnam. Having earned a Ph.D. in urban and regional economics from the University of Delaware, John began a long career as a researcher and teacher in economics and public policy. His many positions included Director of the Bureau of Economic Research at the University of Delaware, Professor of Economic Development at Eastern University, and senior economist at Moody's Analytics. After retirement, he continued to work as a consultant and analyst, including for the Caesar Rodney Institute. He is the author of over one hundred applied research monographs, as well as the book *Bears, Bulls, and Golden Calves: Applying Christian Ethics in Economics*.

During his life, John was an active part of ministries in several area churches and was a board member of the Nehemiah Gateway CDC, a founding member of the board of the Caesar Rodney Institute, a trustee emeritus of The Independence School, a former President of the Board of the Greater Wilmington Youth for Christ, and a former member of the Board of the Delaware Academy of Youth, the Board of the Methodist Action Program, and the Board of the Delaware First State Community Action Agency. He was an athlete and sports fan, and he played and then coached lacrosse at all levels, including locally at St. Marks High School. He loved reading, especially the Bible, theology and history, and he enjoyed singing and playing the piano and eating any desserts he could find. But most of all, he loved people: talking to them, getting to know them, encouraging them, making them laugh, and finding ways to help them in any way that he could.

In addition to his parents, John was preceded in death by his brother, Fred. John is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Linda Stapleford; son, Tom Stapleford (Cathy) and daughter, Liza Stapleford; grandchildren, Jane and William Stapleford; half-sisters, Irene Stapleford and Kate Crawford; three nieces and three nephews; and his dog, Stretch.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, September 3, 2021, at Ogletown Baptist Church, 316 Red Mill Rd, Newark, DE 19713, from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm. Friends and loved ones may visit with John's family at the church prior to the service from 10:00 am – 11:00 am, and again during a reception following the service from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm. To protect vulnerable attendees, masks are requested for the memorial service and visitation. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in John's name to Sandy Cove Ministries (Northeast, MD) or to the UrbanPromise School (Wilmington, DE). For directions or to send an online condolence visit, [www.stranofeeley.com](http://www.stranofeeley.com)

# Cemetery

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# Events

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Private

**SEP** **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

**3**

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Ogletown Baptist Church

316 Red Mill Road, Newark, DE, US

**SEP** **Service** 11:00AM

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Ogletown Baptist Church

316 Red Mill Road, Newark, DE, US

# Comments

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“ Dear Linda, Tom and Liza, We just learned today of John's passing. We send our deepest sympathy to all of you. We pray for you to have strength and the grace to face each day. We thank God for a great man. Love, Roberta and Bill Frey

**Roberta and Bill Frey** - September 03, 2021 at 09:20 PM

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“ Andrea Hampton lit a candle in memory of John Edward Stapleford



**Andrea Hampton** - September 02, 2021 at 02:22 PM

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“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of John Edward Stapleford.



September 02, 2021 at 02:07 PM

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“ John inspired myself and thousands of my listeners. A bright light of knowledge in a world filled with the darkness of ignorance has now faded having ignited thousands of younger lights to carry forth his guidance. Thank you, my friend.

**Rick Jensen** - September 02, 2021 at 08:22 AM

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“ So sad to write this about John. I first met John in 2005 as I was attending my Masters at Eastern University. He was my Economics professor. However soon after he became like a father to me, together with Linda they opened their home to me. I was invited in all special occasions and their home was a safe place to be. John was one of the most generous, loving, caring, funny, smartest people I have known in my life. He was there in moments of difficulty and always giving great advices. I think he has impacted the lives of so many people, especially his students. I feel blessed and honoured to have met him and spend precious time with him and his family. I love you John and Linda and thank you for all the wonderful things you have done for me. John will always be in my heart as a second loving father. Blessings Lorna (Dooner from Albania as he used to call me :)

Lorna - September 02, 2021 at 05:03 AM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Edward Stapleford.



September 01, 2021 at 04:06 PM

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“ As a student in John’s Economics class 40 years ago, John reached out to me personally out of his calling and love for his Lord. I am forever grateful for that moment in time, after a friendly competitive racquetball game, when John introduced me to the Lord. My life was forever changed because of John’s witness to me. He was always there for me and my family in spirit, in prayer and in friendship. I am heartbroken at the sudden loss of my dear friend and mentor. Well done, well done faithful one. Be at peace with our Lord and Savior.

Your sister in Christ,  
Susan

Susan Koehler - September 01, 2021 at 03:55 PM

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“ The board of Directors of Nehemiah Gateway Community Development Corporation extends our condolences to the family of John Stapleford. . John was a special person and his service and dedication to our organization will long be remembered.. We are a better organization for the wisdom and leadership that John brought and his commitment enabled us to improve life for many. "Servant of God, well done"

The board of Directors Nehemiah Gateway Community Development Corporation

**clifford johnson** - September 01, 2021 at 03:44 PM



“ Linda & Family,  
I'am deeply saddened by your sorrow & loss. You have my warmest thoughts & prayers.  
Jim McFadden  
Urban Affairs 1978

**Jim McFadden** - September 02, 2021 at 05:06 PM

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“ John was my mentor and like a father to me during my days in Delaware. He was one of the most extraordinary people I have ever had the privilege to know. May you Rest In Peace dear John

**Robert Berges** - August 31, 2021 at 10:16 PM

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“ We are so sorry for your loss and are continuing to pray for your family.

**Arif and Natalie Ali** - August 31, 2021 at 04:21 PM

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“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Edward Stapleford.



August 31, 2021 at 04:14 PM

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“ Jim & I have had the honor & gift of knowing John & Linda for over 40 years. John was a great listener & had a unique ability to weave profound godly wisdom into conversations with young & old alike with a dash of humor! Many of our family members & friends still remember advice John gave and his compassion. John saved our marriage more than once with wisdom, budgetary advice & genuine love. His love for God & his family & friends was huge and his legacy is great! We rejoice you are with your Savior & Lord, John! And we will take great care of your Linda & your family until on heavens shores we meet again!  
Nancy and Jim McGuire

**Nancy McGuire** - August 31, 2021 at 04:07 PM

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“ It was a privilege to know him. May be his best achievement was the wonderful family he helped build. Rest in peace my friend.

**Gloria I Straguzzi** - August 31, 2021 at 02:04 PM

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“ John was well thought of by so many across disciplines. Rest in Peace John  
Melinda McGuigan

**Melinda McGuigan** - August 31, 2021 at 11:26 AM

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“ John Carbaugh lit a candle in memory of John Edward Stapleford



**John Carbaugh** - August 30, 2021 at 08:56 PM



“ Dear Linda, Tom and Liza,

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Sincerely, Art and Betty Lou  
Whittaker

**Betty Lou** - September 08, 2021 at 07:40 AM