



John Stuart Conner

November 9, 1937 - November 21, 2016

John Stuart Conner passed away November 21, 2016. He was born in Gloucester, Virginia on November 9, 1937 to William and Doris Conner. Stuart graduated from Gloucester High School in 1956 and after a year as an apprentice at the Newport News Shipyard, he attended Shenandoah College & Conservatory of Music where he graduated in 1961 with a Bachelor of Music Degree. Stuart was a band/choir director for 25 years and taught at Salem High School, Gloucester High School, West Point High & Elementary Schools, Mount Jackson High School & Robert E. Aylor Middle School. He left a lasting impression on many students and colleagues. He also coached the golf teams at various schools where he taught. Stuart's love of golf resulted in his working at several of the golf clubs in the communities where he lived: Shenvalee, Bowling Green West Point Club and Stonehouse.

His devotion to music led him to be the choir director at many of the churches he attended including Salem Brethren Church, Bethany UMC, West Point UMC, Woodstock UMC and New Hope United Methodist Church.

Stuart was a past president of the Lion's Club in Gloucester, the Gloucester Teachers Association at Gloucester High School and the Piano Technicians Guild. He owned and operated Conner's Piano Service for 15 years where he tuned and rebuilt pianos. Stuart also tuned pianos for The College of William and Mary.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Billy Conner (Julia Lee), a sister, Mildred Dirle (Michael) & 2 brothers-in-law: William Courtney &

Reinaldo Morales.

Stuart is survived by his beloved wife, Mary, and their children and spouses: Sharon Conner & David Rooks, Christi & Frank Morton and Neale & Donna Kemp. They in turn blessed him with seven grandchildren: Dylan & Logan Rooks, Alexandra Morton King (Dan), Avery & Jack Morton and Samantha & Noah Kemp. He is also survived by his brothers: Byron (Carmen), Gene (Judy), Edward (Susan) & his sisters: Doris Courtney, Patsy Morales, Bessie Conner & Margaret Figgins (Bob) along with a host of nieces & nephews. Stuart was a loving husband, father and a caring friend to all who knew him. He never knew a stranger and captivated most everyone with his warm and caring smile. We will miss his kind and gentle nature, his wonderful storytelling and his ability to put everyone at ease in any given situation. He will be greatly missed but we are comforted by the certainty that he is now with his Lord, is forever happy, is forever healthy and is directing a host of heavenly angels singing praises to God.

A Celebration of Life will be held 2 p.m. Saturday, November 26th at New Hope United Methodist Church, 2489 Lewis Puller Highway, Saluda, VA 23149. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the John Stuart Conner Music Scholarship at Shenandoah University to honor Stuart's love of music. Donations may be sent to: Shenandoah University, c/o Jane Pittman, 1460 University Drive, Winchester, VA 22601.

Previous Events

Service

NOV **26**. 2:00 AM (ET)

New Hope United Methodist Church
2489 Lewis Puller Memorial Highway
Saluda, VA 23149

Tribute Wall

IR

“ Dear Mary & Family:

My cousin, Bob Robins just sent me Stuart's obit. today. I was just thinking of Stuart on my birthday .. Nov 19th. He was 10 days older than me. We were best buddies through school, graduated H.S. together and were at Shenandoah at the same time. What a great guy he was! ... a lot of fond memories. I was glad to be able to see him at the 40th & 50th Gloucester High reunions and see you again a few years later. God Bless you Mary.

Ira Robins , Greeley, Colorado

Ira Robins - December 07, 2016 at 04:46 PM

PF

“ *My sincere condolences to the family for the loss of your dear loved one. May you find comfort and hope from the Bible promise at Isaiah 25:8 that in the near future God (Psalms 83:18) will eliminate forever, death and the sufferings that it brings. So draw close to God in prayers and lean on Him as you cope during this most difficult time.*

pfl - November 25, 2016 at 04:38 PM

LK

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Stuart was an awesome mentor to me while I was in band at West Point High. He will be missed.*



Lori Kerby - November 24, 2016 at 02:25 PM

AS


“ I was a student also and have very fond memories of this wonderful and caring man. RIP.

Alison (Sweet) Strowbridge - November 24, 2016 at 04:13 AM

 Justin San Agustin

“ Please accept my condolences. Mr. Conner was my band director at Aylor Middle School. I remember him as a great director, teacher, and person. He will be greatly missed.

Justin San Agustin - November 24, 2016 at 02:04 AM

 Justin San Agustin

“ Please accept my condolences. Mr. Conner was my band director at Aylor Middle School. I remember him as a great director, teacher, and person. He will be greatly missed.

Justin San Agustin - November 24, 2016 at 02:01 AM

PH

“ Dear family, I'm so sorry for your loss. Mr. Connor was my band director at Aylor Middle School. He was a great mentor to myself and fellow band members. Prayers for peace and comfort. Pam (Sweet) Herbaugh

Pam (Sweet) Herbaugh - November 23, 2016 at 08:01 PM

PS

“ Mary, my sincere condolences. Stuart was a dear friend and colleague. We had so many good times working together. Although we lost touch with each other over the years, I will always have fond memories of our times together. You are in my prayers.

Paul Shoremount - November 23, 2016 at 03:51 PM

MA

Thanks, Paul. Stuart & I had many conversations about his time at Aylor & the wonderful experience it was. Stuart truly enjoyed working with you. We were sorry when we lost touch and wondered how you were all doing. I know that your children are all grown up now. I hope that all is well with you. My life will be so different now...Stuart was my life. Take care & God bless.

Mary - December 01, 2016 at 06:03 AM

CB

“ *Sending prayers of comfort to your family. Mr. Connor was a kind man and was an incredible teacher. He not only taught our daughter, Ashley Baker, at Aylor Middle School, but he repaired and tuned our piano. We are better for having known him. He left a lasting impression on everyone he encountered. I'm so sorry for your loss.*

Cheryl Baker - November 23, 2016 at 01:44 PM

BM

“ *Just read...how sad. I remember after high school...Matt Hedrick and I having a couple beers with him and his wife. I had learned that he was working for the local hardware store PT in retirement down in the town of West Point near Williamsburg. I lived only a couple miles from him and decided to surprise him as an irate customer. He has his back to me and instantly called my name before he turned around. He lost a good amount of weight. He mentioned that his wife was working at the local Ford dealership. We shared some stories, shook hands with a hug...who would of thought it would be last time...rest in peace...you all are in my thoughts and prayers, God bless you all.*

Brian Miller - November 23, 2016 at 12:24 AM

MA

Thanks, Brian. It was good to see you at Stuart's Celebration of Life. Your daughter is adorable. We all had a good time at Stonewall & Stuart talked often about his time there. He always wanted his students to excel. Take care & God Bless.

Mary - December 01, 2016 at 06:10 AM

TW

“ *Mr. C was a great man and an awesome band director. He will certainly be missed.*

Tony Williams - November 22, 2016 at 06:48 PM

JP

“ *Thinking of all of you and keeping you in prayer! Mr. Conner was a great mentor and an amazing band teacher to all of us at Stonewall Jackson. He was the kind of teacher they make movies of....he fought for us, believed in us and made us an incredible band. We were one of the largest bands Stonewall Jackson had ever had. I believe it was because of the teacher behind the band. I truly believe he cared about all of us and wanted us to be our best. We would come to school early just to hang out with Mr. Conner in his office and talk. In my 22 years since graduating, the memory and the mark he made on my life lives on. He still comes up in many conversations when talking about a teacher who made the biggest impact on your life.... The Class of 94 will forever have amazing memories of this great man!*

Jamie Polk - November 22, 2016 at 06:40 PM

MA

Thanks, Jamie. Stuart loved all his students. Whether his band had 20 or 100 members...he was proud of them all & what they accomplished. I hope that all is well with you. Take care & God Bless.

Mary - December 01, 2016 at 06:21 AM



“ So sorry for your loss. Mr Connor was a wonderful teacher and mentor. He brought such joy to his classes.

Kim Eaton (Smith) - November 22, 2016 at 06:25 PM



“ Mary,
I will miss playing golf with Stu and his crazy sense of humor. My only regret is I didn't meet him sooner in life. He is truly a terrific man. There are many people that will be missing him and that were blessed just by knowing him.
Doug Arnold

Doug Arnold - November 22, 2016 at 06:06 PM



“ Mr C was an awesome band director at Stonewall Jackson Mt Jackson. I never will forget the laughs and great memories. So sorry for your loss.

Janeen Zirkle - November 22, 2016 at 05:59 PM



Great memories from Band with Mr. C - He was so positive and encouraging to students - a wonderful teacher. So very sorry for your loss.

Kim Housden - November 22, 2016 at 06:41 PM

LC

“ Mary you and your family are in our prayers. Stuart was such and amazing man I will miss his sense of humor and I will truly miss him very much . Please know you are like family to us. I am truly blessed that my children got to know what and amazing man Staurt was. New Hope will not be the same without him. He was a awnsome music teacher. I will cherish my memories of him. Love
Lisa Crowe

Lisa Crowe - November 22, 2016 at 02:48 PM

SM

“ Sharon,
I am so sorry for your loss. Please accept my sympathy.

Suzanne Mundy - November 22, 2016 at 10:26 AM

WB

“ Stuart will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Stuart touched so many lives and shared so much love.

Willard and Joyce Bristow and Family

Willard and Joyce Bristow - November 22, 2016 at 07:30 AM

WB

“ Willard And Joyce Bristow lit a candle in memory of John Stuart Conner



Willard and Joyce Bristow - November 22, 2016 at 07:22 AM

JW

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Stuart touched many lives. May great memories help you all in the days ahead.*

Janie Wampler - November 22, 2016 at 05:21 AM

LS

“ *Mary.
So sorry for your loss. Stuart will be greatly missed and I so enjoyed our Wednesday night choir practices. His wit and humor and great music abilities will be missed. Prayers and God's blessings to you in the days ahead.*

Linda South - November 21, 2016 at 08:15 PM

DP

“ *Stuart was such a treasured friend to my Dad and he will be truly missed. All my loving thoughts are sent to you, Mary, and Stuart's children. - Dianne Pillsbury*

Disne Pillsbury - November 21, 2016 at 07:28 PM

SE

“ *Mary Stuart,
I know Stuart is playing his brass instruments with glee somewhere sunny and warm with 18 holes! We will miss him immensely! Much love to you!
All my love,
Sharon Elswick*

Sharon E - November 21, 2016 at 06:41 PM

MA

Thanks, Sharon. He loved talking to you about band & JMU... now that was a band!! We have fond memories of seeing them perform at a competition one year. Take care & we'll see you soon.

Mary - December 01, 2016 at 06:27 AM

JP

“ *Mary,
So sorry for your loss! You and your family are in our thoughts and
prayers!
Judy and Glenn Palmer*

Judy Palmer - November 21, 2016 at 01:49 PM

HK

*Hi Mary & family I'm so sorry that Stu passed but we know he in
heaven playing music, playing golf and having great fellowship with all
his many, many friend in heaven. .*

*I look forward to the time that Doug, Larry and I can join Stuart, for our
first round golf in heaven.*

*I know that our all powerful, knowing & loving God, will be he watching
over your family and He will carry you thought this tribulation and will
never desert you.*

*God loves your family.
Harry and Nancy Keys .*

Harry & Nancy Keys - November 25, 2016 at 11:11 PM

MA

*Thanks, Harry. I'm sorry I missed you at the Celebration of Stuart's Life.
He will be waiting for you guys to enjoy a foursome! Take care & God
Bless.*

Mary - December 01, 2016 at 06:16 AM