



# Mr. John Joseph Swartz

JUL 19, 1930 - FEB 3, 2017



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## **Mr. John Joseph Swartz**

JUL 19, 1930 - FEB 3, 2017

**J**ohn J. Swartz Jr. 86, of Highland, CA, went home to be with the Lord on February 3, 2017. Born in Dallas, Texas to John and Lulu Swartz, John graduated from Forest Avenue High School – Class of '48. He enlisted in the United States Army and served one year before attending Rice University of Houston. In 1950 John's Army Reserve unit was called to active duty during the Korean War. It was during this time that John converted to Christianity on board the USS Woodford on Dec 7, 1951, after reading many related scriptures as suggested in a Gideon New Testament. He was honorably discharged in 1952 having achieved the rank of Sergeant First Class.

He returned to school and graduated from Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft Worth, TX. He received a Bachelor of Divinity Degree in 1959. He also received a Masters of Religious Education Degree in 1960 and a Masters of Divinity in 1973. John completed all the seminars and field work toward his Doctor of Ministry Degree. He finally received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from California Southern Baptist College in 1981.

John met Carol Wasson of Eagle Rock, California in the fall of 1953 and they were married on August 17, 1954. Together they had five sons, John Mark, Stephen, Joel, Michael, and Eric. They were then blessed with 18 grandchildren and more recently 4 great grandchildren. He has left behind a wonderful legacy.

John served various churches throughout his ministry; Trinity Baptist Church in Texas; North Center Southern Baptist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Memorial Baptist Church in Missouri and Bethel Southern Baptist Church in Escondido, California, where he served for almost thirty years. His final position was at Immanuel Baptist Church in Highland, California where he had been their Minister to Senior Adults for his final ten years of ministry.

He held various positions within the Baptist Associations, most recently he was the President of the California Baptist Foundation and President of the Southern Baptist General Convention of



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California. He was also active in the community and served as the President of Escondido Ministerial Association, Chaplain of Escondido Police Department and a member of Hidden Valley Kiwanis Club.

In his youth, John was an avid football and baseball player and later in life he enjoyed watching both. After his faith, his greatest joy was his family.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations in John's memory to Immanuel Baptist - Mission Fund at the address listed above.






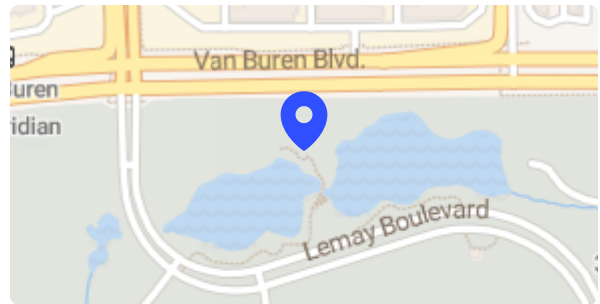
# Events

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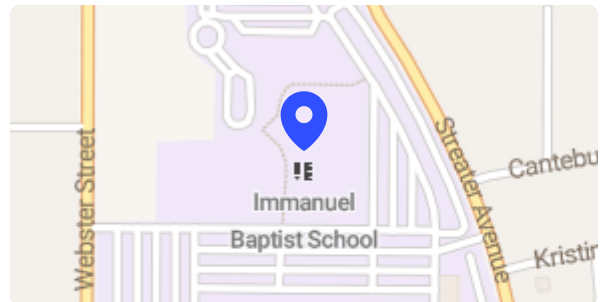
## Committal Service

-  **Tuesday**, February 14, 2017
-  9:45 AM - 10:15 AM PT
-  **Riverside National Cemetery**  
22495 Van Buren Blvd, Riverside CA 92518





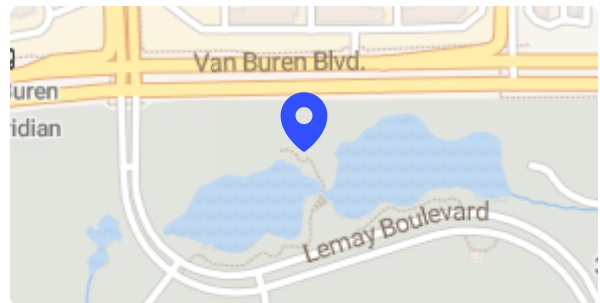
## Celebration of Life

-  **Tuesday**, February 14, 2017
-  11:30 AM - 12:30 PM PT
-  **Immanuel Baptist Church**  
28355 Baseline, Highland CA 92346



## Cemetery Details

-  **Riverside National Cemetery**  
22495 Van Buren Blvd, Riverside CA 92518
-  **(951) 653 8417**





## Tribute Wall

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FC

**Frank Clark** posted:

He stayed with my grandparents and I in Minnesota. He lead me to the Lord at 14 in Escondido. He encouraged me as a graphic artist in ministry at 22. Bethel years were growing years and I will forever be grateful for his strength and honesty in Christ.

October 27 at 5:58 PM

ER

**Eric** posted:

This is to my good friend Joel and his family, very sorry to hear of your dad's passing and I know I'm a year late but my condolences to you all. Give me call sometime at 503-539-0590. Eric from Chico. PS Denis wants to meet in Chico this year. Cheers

October 6 at 5:14 PM

DH

**Dick Hillman** posted:

I remember Pastor Schwartz as my Pastor in Escondido, at Bethel Baptist. A man of God who encouraged me. His whole family his wife Carol, and of course playing ball with his sons was a blessing. Such great memories, looking forward to seeing Him on the other side. Dick Hillman.

June 25 at 6:51 AM

NW

**Noni Wilson** posted:

Dr Swartz was such an amazingly generous gentleman. When our 4th child was to be born (my husband, Bob Wilson was at sea). He offered to keep & care for our 3rd child, then 3 yrs old, until I could return to care for all of the children myself. Having 5 boys of his own to care for, this was such an unselfish gesture. Even though this was 46 years ago, I have never forgotten this wonderful man. My sincere sympathies to the family but I am certain he is seeing & celebrating with many souls he has known including my beloved. Noni Wilson.

February 17 at 4:07 PM

DT

**Donna Thommarson** posted:

We praise God for His faithful, wonderful servants, John & Carol Swartz. Bro John was our pastor through our teen years and beyond. He counseled us for marriage with words we still remember. He encouraged us as we began our journey of pastoral ministry. We look forward to meeting him again for eternity, and worshiping Our King together!

February 13 at 4:25 AM



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NE

**Nancy Ervin** posted:

Bro. John was a wonderful pastor and friend to my family, the Doyce Phillips Family while we lived in Escondido. I was a high school student and have found memories of Bro. John and Carol being in our home for meals and fellowship. My parents, Doyce and Marilyn loved Your family. I am sure Daddy was there when Bro. John met his Savior. My mother is headed to heaven anytime now, as well. We love you. Nancy Phillips Ervin

February 13 at 12:22 AM

GA

**Gale Aznar** posted:

The most kind, gentle, caring minister for God. That's our Rev. John Swartz. A place in our heart will always remain with fond memories. Thru many years he has been involved and counseled our family members. We considered him part of our family. We love you and cherish knowing you, and you being in our lives. God has a special place in heaven for you.

February 9 at 2:20 AM

MS

**Michael Skoblin** June 16 at 11:11 PM

I remember in the seventies, he baptized my sister and I in Bethel Baptist Church. The church was newly built, and I was 8 years old. A truly great man, and a great voice! I still remember the excitement when he would sing "How Great Thou Art"

PP

**Pat Parmer** February 17 at 1:14 PM

Fond memories of Bro John, Carol and the boys! My husband was on the pulpit committee that brought John to Bethel. We enjoyed fellowship and worship together for many years. Now Robert has reunited with John in Heaven and they are singing praises to the Lord! Sending love and prayers of compassion to each family member, pat parmer

DC

**Donna Cutler** February 13 at 1:17 AM

Pastor Swartz will always hold a special place in my heart. Prayers go out to his family.



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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