John Carl Pogue - 81
November 2, 1941 – January 26, 2023
John Carl Pogue was born November 2, 1941, in Port Arthur, Texas to Carl Newton Pogue and Dorothy Rose Haynes Pogue.
John was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Kenneth Wayne Pogue (Retired Army E- 5 Sergeant), his step-mother Georgia Velma Broussard Pogue, his parents-in-law R.C. and Mildred Audrey McGlothlin Holveck, brothers-in-law Glenn Morris Holveck and Richard Dan Holveck.

John is survived by his wife of 43 years Ann Alice Holveck Pogue of Grand Prairie, his son, John Gregory Pogue, M.D. and wife Shannon Suzanne of Tyler; daughters Alana Atrice Nicely and husband Warren Kris Nicely of Weatherford, and Sunny DeAnn Allen and husband Craig Marshall Allen of Grand Prairie. As their beloved Bawbaw, John is survived by eight grandchildren: John (Jack) Michael and Benjamin Gregory Pogue; Nathanael Cole and Kyla Abigail Nicely, and Sean Thomas, Josie Renae, Hollyce Ann and Cassidy Jane Allen.

John is also survived by his step-brother Dawayne Melanchon of Duncanville and brothers-in-law John Albert Holveck and wife Lynda of Midlothian, Norvell Holveck and wife Sybil of San Angelo, sisters-in-law Roxanne Pogue of San Antonio, Peggy Holveck of Grand Prairie and Dee Holveck of Burleson as well as nieces and nephews and their spouses and many friends and former students.

John attended K-12 in Port Arthur ISD and graduated from Stephen F. Austin High School in 1959. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from East Texas Baptist University in 1963 with a major in Mathematics and Secondary Education with Chemistry as second teaching field. He received a Master of Education from the University of North Texas in 1969 with a major in School Supervision with a Mathematics/Physics minor. After receiving his master degree he did various additional course work.

John began his teaching career in 1963 at Everman High School where he taught Algebra I, Trigonometry, Analytical Math, Geometry, and Physics. From 1966 through 1973 he taught in the Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD: teaching 7th and 8th grade math for two years at Central Jr. High School, then transferring to Trinity High School where he taught Algebra II, Physics, Astronomy, and Photography for five years. One of his former Trinity students commented of John, “This guy made a difference in my life.”

With the opening of Grand Prairie ISD’s planetarium in 1973, John was hired as the planetarium’s first director and astronomy class teacher. In the nineteen years that John served as the director he developed and presented curriculum-oriented programs and labs for second grade through high school subjects and taught high school Astronomy. He also prepared and presented public programs and activities. During his tenure as planetarium director, John was active in the Southwestern Association of Planetariums and the International Planetarium Society. He was selected to be the Southwestern Association’s representative to the International group’s executive board, served in that position for eight years, and was awarded the title of Fellow of the International Planetarium Society. As a member of the International Planetarium Society’s executive council and as president-elect and president, John traveled to conferences and visited planetariums and museums in many U.S. states, Canada, Mexico, and Europe.

His final year as a public school educator John taught sixth grade science and eighth-grade math at GPISD’s Lee Middle School, which is currently Delmas F Morton Elementary School.
After retiring from GPISD in 1993, John worked for ten years as the senior project staff field representative for the Texas Federation of Teachers. He also was elected for three terms to the Grand Prairie ISD Board of Education (1994 – 2003) and served as its secretary, vice-president, and president during that time.

In November of 2004, the GPISD Board of Education renamed the district’s planetarium as the John Carl Pogue Planetarium.

From 2005 through 2008, John worked first as a volunteer, then as a part-time employee for the Comanche Springs Astronomy Campus of 3 Rivers Foundation for the Arts and Sciences in west Texas where he assisted with public star parties and teacher workshops.

With the passage of a bond election in 2011 that provided funds for district improvements and expansions allowing for the update of the planetarium, John served on the equipment replacement selection committee and as an advisor and consultant during the remodeling and expansion of the planetarium. He continued to work as a volunteer at the John Carl Pogue Planetarium through the spring of 2018.

John was an avid amateur photographer. To view some of his many digital photos visit: https://www.flickr.com/photos/39250372@N06/albums or https://www.flickr.com/photos/39250372@N06/albums/with/72157623508438152 or https://www.flickr.com/photos/39250372@N06/

In addition to camping and being outdoors with nature, John enjoyed planning trips, traveling and then reminiscing about his travels through his numerous photographs.

John assembled an impressive collection of antique cameras. He was a crackerjack woodworker and his home has evidence of his skills in every room as well as the homes of his three children.

John took pride in keeping his yard neat and trimmed, sometimes mowing two or three times a week. He relished the humor in the absurdity of the judge shows and relaxing in the evenings with crosswords.

However, his greatest passion was his family. John treasured the special times he spent with them. He was mutually adored as Bawbaw to his eight grandchildren; describing himself as a “doting grandfather” he did not pretend to not spoil them.

To continue his legacy of education, John’s body has been donated to the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that you consider a donation in his honor to an organization whose mission it is to promote education, children’s and/or families’ welfare or stroke research and prevention.

A tribute to John’s life will be held at the John Carl Pogue Planetarium, 301 Warrior Trail - Grand Prairie, TX 75052, at a date to be decided.

When you watch the solar eclipse of April 8, 2024 - without looking directly at the sun - think of John Carl Pogue.