



## John Lisle

April 18, 1939 - April 27, 2016

John Lisle, a boy born during the Great Depression to a poor Oklahoma farmer, died on April 27, 2016. He was 77 years old. Though born poor, he loved to read and learned to play the trumpet through the Salvation Army Church. His family migrated to California seeking work, and he played his trumpet on the street corners of California for the homeless seeking a place to eat or stay.

Through the grateful help of others, he eventually escaped his poverty and was the first in his family to go to college, then became a lawyer, and later a State Senator. Before college he served his country as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division. He met his future wife Joan at a dance and asked her to marry him. She said yes. They married and remained married for 55 years. Together they had three sons and five grandchildren.

Throughout his years, John loved to read, to write, to paint. He left his family a legacy of artwork hanging on their walls and left so many books there are not enough shelves for them all. His favorite gifts for his boys were the books he loved to read and share.

Alzheimer's stole most everything from him except those he loved. The only safe place to store your memories is in the hearts of others. When you sow your heart into the hearts of those you love, you will live with them forever.

Survivors include his wife, Joan; three sons, Rex, Chris and his wife Julie, Steve and his wife Christina; four brothers, one sister and five grandchildren, Madison, Andrew, Olivia, Jack and Lucy Kate.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, April 30, 2016 at 10:00 AM at Sisco Funeral Chapel of Springdale.

Memorials may be made to The Salvation Army of Northwest Arkansas, 219 W. 15th St., Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701 or The Bread of Life, 208 W. Emma Ave., Springdale, Arkansas 72764.

Online condolences may be left at [www.siscofuneral.com](http://www.siscofuneral.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

APR **30**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Sisco Funeral Chapel  
705 West Meadow  
Springdale, AR 72764  
(479) 751-4577  
siscofuneralchapel@gmail.com  
<https://www.siscofuneral.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *John Lisle*

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January 21, 2023 at 02:29 PM



“ *Mrs. Lisle (and the Boys), I'm Steve's friend Jay. My wife and I were sorry to hear about your family's loss. I remember Mr. Lisle fondly when I would see him at the office or at Steve's house after one of our bike rides. He was always friendly and cheerful, and had a steady presence about him. It was commendable of the family, and you especially, to care for him during his recent fight. The obituary was well written and insightful by Chris. It made me instantly think it was a real life Grapes of Wrath by Steinbeck. John Lisle made the most of his brainpower and capabilities with people, and leaves a strong legacy with the boys, their lovely wives and children and a thriving law practice. Be good to yourself and enjoy the family.*

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**Jay Lewis** - May 02, 2016 at 09:11 PM



“ *With hugs from all of us- The Morse Family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of John Lisle.*



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**With hugs from all of us- The Morse Family** - May 01, 2016 at 08:03 AM

DR

“ Thinking of Rex, Chris, and Steve. Remembering playing as kids with the Barracks, and our parents enjoying each other and us. Prayers.

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**Derik Reed** - April 30, 2016 at 12:35 PM

CC

“ We loved living in your back yard. That little fence was climbed so often by Curt and even myself. I remember once when you invited Curt and me to have lunch with you and the boys, and John was one of the boys. He prayed the most beautiful blessing I had ever heard at that time. Our prayers and love will be for you and yours at this time. Love in Christ, Carol and Sam Coulter

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**Carol Coulter** - April 30, 2016 at 12:18 PM

JD

“ A truly good man. I'm sorry we all lost touch some years ago. Rex, Chris, and Mom--all my best wishes. John Delap

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**John Delap** - April 30, 2016 at 10:22 AM

GH

“ Joan, Gene and I have ever known a more loving couple than you and John. He was such a nice man. Our love to you and your family. Gene and Mary Lee Hill

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**Gene and Mary Lee Hill** - April 30, 2016 at 08:19 AM

JB

“ *May the Peace of Christ be with John and all the family. We will always remember John as a special person who you loved to be around.*

*Jim & Sharon Bilgischer*

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**James Bilgischer** - April 30, 2016 at 07:46 AM

GS

“ *Joan, Robert and I send you and your family our love and prayers. We loved getting to you and John.. He will be missed*

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**Gayle Smith** - April 29, 2016 at 10:12 PM

KB

“ *Joan and family,  
I'm so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers go out to you. I have such good memories of growing up on Henryetta Street with your family. My fondest memory of John was when we were moving after 16 years and I returned to the house to get one last load and John saw my car and walked over. I was crying because I had never seen the house completely empty and it was sad. He hugged me and said it will be ok. That was really sweet and I needed to hear that. He was right. LOL*

*Sincerely,  
Kim Phillips Barker*

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**kim barker** - April 29, 2016 at 09:41 PM

RL

“ Dear Mrs. Lisle,  
My name is Ric Lisi, and I helped Tub Robinson frame your house on the Springdale Country Club about 23 years ago. I have always remembered your family's kindness and down-home decency that often are not extended to those of us in the 'sweat trades', and it was much appreciated. I have followed Steve's political career as reported in the press and have been glad for his success, as you ten-fold must feel. I am sorry to see a good man leave this earth, for there were far too few to begin with, today, lesser by more than the factor of one.  
Sincerely, Ric Lisi

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**Ric Lisi** - April 29, 2016 at 08:26 PM

LG

“ Lynn and Herb Good purchased the Blooming Garden Basket for the family of John Lisle.



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**Lynn and Herb Good** - April 29, 2016 at 06:08 PM



“ John will always be remembered as an honorable, sharing and very wise man who shared his love and kindness with everyone he met. His family will bask in his sunshine forever. We all bloom more beautifully "for the love of John."  
With love and comfort from Sara Lynn Good

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**Sara Good** - April 29, 2016 at 05:14 PM

BH

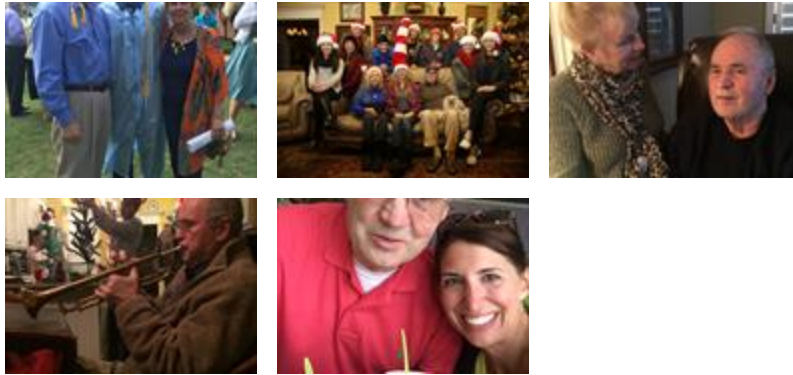
“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the Lisle Family at this sad time.  
You are in our thoughts and prayers.*  
*Bobby and Lois Hopper*

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**Bobby and Lois Hopper** - April 29, 2016 at 05:04 PM



“ *58 files added to the album Memories of John Album*



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**Sisco Funeral Chapel** - April 29, 2016 at 04:03 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for  
the family of John Lisle.*



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April 29, 2016 at 02:57 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Lisle.*



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April 29, 2016 at 11:36 AM



“ *Love, Liz & Rich Robertello purchased the Blooming Garden Basket for the family of John Lisle.*



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**Love, Liz & Rich Robertello** - April 29, 2016 at 11:19 AM

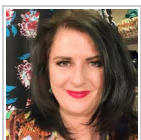


“ *Dear Joan,  
I'm saddened to hear of John's passing. Although I never got to meet him in person, hearing you read memoirs gave me a great feel for his compassion and love for his fellow man. May God bless you in your time of sadness and sorrow. Know that you and your family is in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Russell Gayer*

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**Russell Gayer** - April 29, 2016 at 10:44 AM



“ *Steve- I am so shocked and saddened about the loss of your dad. I am so very sorry for your loss. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

*Lisa (Yeatman) Van Osch*

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**Lisa Van Osch** - April 29, 2016 at 09:42 AM

TR

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time.*

Tom Reed - April 29, 2016 at 09:29 AM

HL

“ *John was my big brother and as such he was always someone I could look up to. My family will miss him, but will cherish the memory of him. We moved to NWA in 1956 in his senior year of high school four miles down a dirt road from the city of Pomona, CA. What a life style change. Parents with children 17 to 2 years of age driving three vehicles towing trailers loaded with everything we owned. It must have looked like something out of Tobacco Road. Mom and Dad worked hard and gradually made a good life. We were blessed. I am now the second oldest instead of third. We are the progeny of Vernon and Jeanette Lisle: John, Oscar, Homer, Dwight, David and Paula.*



*Rest in peace, Big Brother.*

*Homer and Judy*

Homer Lisle - April 29, 2016 at 09:10 AM

GS

“ *What a wonderful, loving and caring man. He truly was a great man among men. Our sadness and sorrow is knowing that we now must learn to live without John in our lives but we must celebrate this extraordinary man's life and give thanks that he is no longer being ravaged by Alzheimer's. God called a remarkable angel home. RIP John. You will be missed.*

*Love and prayers,*

*Glen and Chris*

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**Glen Stromberg** - April 29, 2016 at 09:03 AM

JL

“ *Steve & family -*

*It was with sadness we learned of John's passing late Wednesday. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Harland Stonecipher is not here today to say, so I will say it for him: he thought the world of John Lisle and frequently spoke of John's accomplishments as an attorney. Harland was very proud to have the Lisle law firm -- and THE John Lisle -- work with his company in Arkansas, but was even more proud to consider John his good friend. Harland and his wife, Shirley, traveled a lot on business, but I know they always marked their calendar for the Lisle Law Firm's summer picnic. They truly looked forward to it each year.*

*God speed.*

*"Death ends a life, it does not end a relationship." -- Morrie Schwartz from "Tuesday with Morrie"*

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**John Long** - April 29, 2016 at 08:38 AM

DH

“ So very sorry to read of John's passing. He was always kind to me; and I few him as a friend. My prayer is with the family an Joan. -  
dennis hinkle

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**Dennis Hinkle** - April 29, 2016 at 08:15 AM

CT

“ My sincere condolences to the entire Lisle family---especially Steve, Chris, Jack and Lucy Kate. Mr John Lisle was a wonderful man who had a positive influence on all he met, including this little family from Alabama. Take comfort that the suffering is over and he is home. All American!! Hooah!!

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**clark taylor** - April 29, 2016 at 06:23 AM

ML

“ I am very sorry to hear about John. My sincere condolences to the entire Lisle family. Treasure the many memories.

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**Marilyn Lively** - April 28, 2016 at 10:32 PM

OS

“ Ollen and I remember when John first came to Springdale as a lawyer. We were your babysitter. I kept all three boys. Your dad and Mom would come to pick you up and sit down and visit awhile. I usualy had other children to keep, ,as that was what I did instead of working out, but your dad always would visit and make us feel like family. He was a real trooper and know he will be missed, but know how much he loved his family.

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**ollen ,mildred stepp** - April 28, 2016 at 10:31 PM

JP

“ I moved our family here in 1973 from Nashville, Tennessee and had taken a very large cut in pay and was having some financial difficulties. One day I decided I needed some legal advice and walked a block or so from my office down the street where I saw a sign in front of an attorney's office. I went in and John had me come in. As it turned out I really didn't have anything to be concerned about financially and that helped me but more than that, John helped be feel good about myself. I never forgot that and over the years we became friends. At times we were on different sides of political issues but when we finished talking somehow John had managed to get me to see things the way he did. I learned to value his friendship as well as his legal skills but really it was just about knowing John.

Whenever John's name came up over the years my mind always took me to one basic thought, "John Lisle was a very kind hearted man".

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**jim potts** - April 28, 2016 at 09:20 PM

TH

“ John was a friend of many years. We, along with other coffee shop regulars, had many spirited political conversations! He was a man of his word and fantastic lawyer.

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**Tommy Holland** - April 28, 2016 at 09:09 PM

CH

“ Connie Hieb lit a candle in memory of John Lisle



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**Connie Hieb** - April 28, 2016 at 08:26 PM

CH

*John, although I didn't get to spend a lot of time with you, as we were growing up, I will always have the fondest, loving memories of you, your parents, and your siblings. May you RIP.*

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**Connie Hieb** - April 28, 2016 at 08:28 PM

RH

“ HE WAS MY FRIEND AND PAL FIRST. THEN, HE WAS A MENTOR TO MY IMMEDIATE AND EXTENDED FAMILIES HERE AND AROUND THE STATE. JOHN SERVED OUR FAMILIES AS LEGAL COUNCIL AND FREELY GIVING US ADVICE WE ALL TOOK SERIOUSLY, GUIDING US IN BUSINESS VENTURES THAT WERE OVER AND ABOVE OUR ABILITIES TO ESTABLISH AND MANAGE. THERE IS NOT ENOUGH SPACE FOR ME TO WRITE ALL THE STORIES OF FORTY-FIVE YEARS OF OUR CLOSE NET TIES, RAISING OUR CHILDREN INTO ADULTHOOD. THE HARRISON BLUEBERRY FARM WOULD NOT HAVE EXISTED FOR THIRTY-THREE YEARS, HAD JOHN NOT CONSIDERED, LATER SOLD TO US, THE TEN ACRE PROPERTY FRONTING JOHNSON ROAD. JOHN'S LOVE AND DEVOTION TO THE PRACTICE OF LAW AS CITY ATTORNEY HERE AND LATER EXTENDED TO THE ARKANSAS SENATE...REVEALED HIS PASSION TO REPRESENT ALL THOSE WHO NEEDED COUNCIL, MANY WHO HAD NO MEANS TO FUND REPRESENTATION IN THE SYSTEM. IN SHORT HERE, WE LOVED HIM AS A MAN OF HIS WORD, FATHER, COUNSELOR, MENTOR AND BEST FRIEND.

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**RON HARRISON** - April 28, 2016 at 07:29 PM