



## John Delbert Cowan

September 17, 1936 - September 1, 2020

John Delbert Cowan, 83, of Bartlesville, died Tuesday in Norman. As much as he loved softball, baseball and football, John loved his family and God even more.

John was born the son of Henry B. and Opal W (Syler) Cowan on Sept. 17, 1936, in Bartlesville, OK. John formed his love for sports from a young age playing softball through grade school, baseball during high school and even worked at the baseball stadium while the Bartlesville Pirates were a minor league farm team for the Pittsburgh Pirates – all this before graduating from College High in 1954 and joining the U.S. Air Force serving from 1955 to 1959.

John met the love of his life Rosalie Diehl at the First Assembly of God Church at 3rd and Virginia in Bartlesville. They went together two years before uniting in marriage on June 9, 1956, while John was on leave from the Air Force. John and Rosalie made their first home in Peru, Indiana, until being reassigned to Clovis, NM. After his honorable discharge in 1959 they moved back to Bartlesville where John started his 33-year career with Phillips Petroleum Company in 1960 at the research center retiring in 1993. After 60 years of loving marriage Rosalie preceded him in death on Oct. 15, 2017. Shortly after, John moved to Norman to be closer to his two daughters Gayla and Cynthia.

John loved the Lord and his church family. Over the years, he's been a faithful volunteer, serving in the various ministries of the church including youth, Bible Quiz, Sunday school teacher, sound, and most importantly but much lesser known, mowing the church lawn for 16 years. John and Rosalie were known as encouragers who mentored many and shared laughter and God's love with His people.

John and Rosalie were enthusiastic University of Oklahoma (OU) sports fans and over the past 40 years, attended home games and many of the bowl games. Their most memorable bowl game was the Rose Bowl and Tournament of Roses Parade they attended in 2003. Boomer Sooner! All that being said, John loved playing softball, which he did his entire life – even playing two games just last week and mowing his lawn, of course. He was the past president of the Bartlesville Softball Association, past president of the Washington County Baseball and Softball Association, and served on the Bartlesville Parks Board for 12 years, Deputy State Commissioner for ASA (Amateur Softball Association) and served as State Director for 15 years, totaling 30 years with ASA.

John is survived by two daughters Gayla Pickle of Norman, and Cindy Freeman and Jerry of Bethany; and three sisters Alice Norton and Delbert, Donna Smith, and Shirley Vaughn and James. He is preceded in death by his parents; wife; brother Timmothy Cowan; five sisters Uleta Cowan, Juanita Farrell, Isabel Pratt, Patricia Walker and Georgia Watkins; and one beloved grandson Alan Pickle.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the SpiritCHURCH All In New Campus Fund, 2121 S Madison Blvd, Bartlesville, OK 74006.

Visitation to be held Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Davis Family Funeral

Home – Walker Brown Chapel. Services are to be held Friday, September 11, at 2 p.m. at Spirit Church in Bartlesville. Interment to follow at Memorial Park Cemetery. Services are under the direction of Carter Davis and the Davis Family Funeral Home – Walker Brown Chapel. Online condolences and remembrances may be shared at [www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com](http://www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Memorial Park Cemetery Bartlesville

4200 Nowata Road  
Bartlesville, OK 74006

# Previous Events

## ALL DAY VISITATION

SEP 10. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory - Walker Brown Chapel  
4201 Nowata Rd  
Bartlesville, OK 74006  
(918) 333-7665  
davisfamilyfuneralhome@gmail.com

## Funeral Service

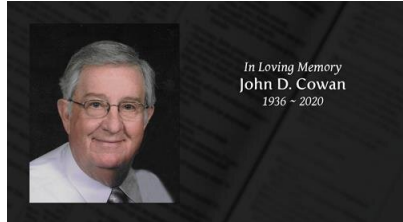
SEP 11. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Spirit Church  
2121 S Madison Ave  
Bartlesville, OK 74006

# Tribute Wall



“ *Davis Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John Delbert Cowan*



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**Davis Family Funeral Home** - September 09, 2020 at 06:27 PM

BD

“ *John loved to laugh. He loved his family so much. He and Rosie were the ultimate couple. Together again. Wonderful memories of church, softball, Murphy's,, etc. You left your mark in this world John. Rest now thy good and faithful servant. God comfort those left behind with a special touch for Gayla and Cindy.*

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**Barbara Davis** - September 11, 2020 at 08:00 PM

MR

“ *Gayla and Cindy sorry to hear of john's passing. I have know john for 40 plus years. John , Sparling Norwood and myself started the Washington County Softball Association.He and a lot us work any days to get the fields ready to play. John was president for many years. He worked hard to make the association what it became. I know he loved playing ball or he would not have played all these years. My prayers will be for you and your family.*

*Melvin Robinson*

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**Melvin Robinson** - September 11, 2020 at 03:48 PM

GD

“ Gayla and Cindy, my heart is broken for you. Thank you for sharing both your Father and Mother with me and other members of my family. My memories that I have of the times I was with them are forever in my cherished treasures. I can only hope to be half the man that I saw in your father. I pray for you both that God give you comfort in your time of loss.

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**Gary Davis** - September 11, 2020 at 08:24 AM

LJ

“ A truly great man who will be remembered for his kindness, sense of humor, and dedication to God and family. John impacted my life as softball coach, Bible Quiz coach, and soundman for my wedding, plus he was a friend. I am so grateful that I knew him and Rosalie. I hope and pray that a lifetime of beautiful memories will comfort all who knew and loved him. My thoughts and prayers are with you!  
Lynette Jenkins

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**Lynette Jenkins** - September 10, 2020 at 10:25 PM

HJ

“ We always thought a lot of John. He was always willing to help around the church and did many things there. He ran the sound for the several cantatas that the choir presented and did a very good job. So thankful for his life.

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**Howard and Phyllis Johnson** - September 10, 2020 at 08:35 PM

BM

“ I was one of the many people who benefited from knowing John. I knew John from Washington County Softball where he was a tireless worker and player, acting as league organizer, officer, team coach and all around driving force. We had three leagues/levels of teams. John was so instrumental in the development of the WCSA. He sold advertising signs along the fencing to raise money for lighting, a concession stand and new fencing. In addition he put together a team of young kids high school and college age to bring a new blood to the sport. It was a real pleasure working with John who unlike me had an even temper and was a walking testimony to his faith. He will be missed.

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**Billy D Middleton** - September 09, 2020 at 07:17 PM



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



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September 09, 2020 at 05:04 PM

GR

“ So very sorry to here about John...John loved to play softball and I played against him for many years. He gathered info about me for the oklahoma softball hall of fame...That was very. special for me..

*My very best to his wife..*

*Gary Ross*

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**Gary Ross** - September 07, 2020 at 08:50 PM

BW

“ Sorry to hear the sad news. I only knew John as a softball teammate for the Roadrunners. He was congenial, soft-spoken, and a determined competitor. Thoughts and prayers to the family.

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**Bob Willis** - September 05, 2020 at 10:56 AM

CS

“ My deepest condolences to the John Cowan family. May god comfort and hold you close in this time of loss. I shared many hours with John in organizing, building, coaching and playing softball around the Bartlesville area. My prayers for your family.

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**Carl Sears** - September 02, 2020 at 04:28 PM