



## Mr. John W. Modaff

October 26, 1935 - August 9, 2010

John Wilbur Modaff, 74, passed to the next life, Monday, August 9, 2010. Born on October 26, 1935 in Wheaton, Illinois to Philip and Margaret Modaff.

“Willie” as he was known by his family, the youngest of ten children, learned the value of hard work as he was raised on the family dairy farm. After volunteering for the draft and serving with the paratroopers in occupied Japan, John returned to start his first career in finance. Starting in collections for a finance company he rose to Vice President of the First National Bank of Elgin. At the same time he started his family, marrying Diane Swift in 1959 and raising two children. In 1985 they moved to Asheville. He started his second career in employment services purchasing Friday Staffing, nurturing and growing it into the largest firm in the region. All the while he continued with his passion in golf, bringing his handicap as low as 8. His passion for Diane continued through 2000 after their 40th anniversary, when she succumbed to Ataxia. Twice lucky in love John married Betty Ann in 2006 and they enjoyed a wonderful life together.

John is survived by his wife Betty Ann; his children, David and Lynda; his grandchildren Caitlyn, Jake, Deanne, Haley and Neil; his brother Donald and sister Florence.

In addition to Diane and his parents, he was preceded in death by his siblings, Anna, Raymond, Cora, Esther, Edward, Louise and Clarence.

A memorial service will be held 10:30 a.m., Friday, August 13, 2010, at First Presbyterian Church with reception to follow.

Memorials may be made to either: Care Partners Foundation, PO Box 25338 Asheville, NC 28133. Please include a note that it be designated toward Hospice; or to the American Cancer Society.

Morris Funeral Home, 304 Merrimon Avenue is in charge of arrangements. Condolences may be sent through the website [www.morrisfamilyfuneralhome.com](http://www.morrisfamilyfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Riverside Cemetery

53 Birch Street  
Asheville, NC 28801

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. John W. Modaff*

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October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *My name is Diane Klein Billings and your dad was my god father! My mom and dad are Char and Dennis Klein. I have pictures of your dad...he stood up in my parents wedding! Sadly, mom died in 2006. My sister Karen saw this obituary and I just wanted to let you know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. Dennis, Karen and I remember fondly visiting the house in Wayne! I also remember your mom (Diane) being so nice to me at my high school graduation party....I had been sick for a week and still was not feeling well and she made it a point to seek me out and talk to me...it meant alot as I just wasn't feeling well and couldn't circulate and thank everyone! Anyway, please know we're thinking of you and I thought you might enjoy a voice from the past! I was also very sorry to hear about your mom's passing.....my mom was still alive when she passed. It is never easy to lose a loved one....but knowing everyone cares is so comforting.*

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**Diane Billings** - October 03, 2010 at 06:11 PM



“ *Dear Dave and family, Even though I never knew your father, I have lost mine and know the hurt and loss it holds. From his picture it looks like you will have some wonderful memories to hold on to. My deepest sympathy  
Sally Jones*

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**Sally (Toastmaster)** - September 15, 2010 at 03:52 PM

DB

“ Dear Dave and family, We are saddened to hear about your dad; and Caitlyn and Jake's grandpa. I saw the obit in the Daily Herald. Hope Cait and Jake are doing well as young adults now! Sincerely, your friends from Crystal Lake, Donna & Tom Bieschke and family

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**Donna Bieschke** - September 02, 2010 at 12:08 PM

BG

“ Dear Dave, I was shocked and saddened today to learn of the death of your father. He was a pleasure to work for and with at Friday's. He always had a smile and a kind word. John brought out the best in people. I know he will be greatly missed by all whose lives he touched. Sincerely, Bobbie Baird Greene

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**Bobbie Greene** - August 27, 2010 at 12:59 PM

RD

“ Betty Ann, we are so sad to hear of John's passing. He was a wonderful, kind gentleman and we certainly enjoyed knowing him for a brief time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.  
Richard & Roberta

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**Richard Roberta Drew** - August 22, 2010 at 10:41 PM



“ Dave, My wife Nancy and I share in your grief. We have both lost our parents, so we know the sorrow you are feeling. Get out your photo albums and share and laugh at the many good times. Tim & Nancy Cochran

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**Tim Cochran** - August 13, 2010 at 04:36 PM



“ *Dave, We are very sorry to hear of your father's passing and want you to know that our hearts share your sorrow. May God comfort you and your family and give you peace. Betty & Ron McCallister*

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**Betty McCallister** - August 13, 2010 at 10:22 AM



“ *David, I am sorry to hear about your dad. I sympathize with you and your family but be assured that God is faithful and His comfort will make you strong during these days. Your friend, Dale Robinson, Candler Concrete*

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**dale robinson** - August 12, 2010 at 04:12 PM



“ *Dear Betty,  
I'm so sorry to learn that your dear husband passed away. We met while he was a patient at Golden Living and I so enjoyed talking with you. My heart is with you and if there is anything I can do for you please let me know.*

*Becki Hensley (Fred Hensley & Opal Sprouse)*

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**Rebecca Hensley** - August 12, 2010 at 09:14 AM



“ *Our condolences to you David and Linda. We worked for Friday's and always felt that John was fair and cared for his employees. He was not only our employer but a friend. We know you will miss him.*

*Bill & Sharon Guy*

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**Sharon & Bill Guy** - August 11, 2010 at 08:17 PM