



Robert John Hayler

June 11, 1964 - December 23, 2021

Robert John Hayler of Asheville passed away peacefully and comfortably on December 23, 2021 at Duke University Medical Center. He was born in the small town of Red Oak, Iowa to Bob and Arlene Hayler on June 11, 1964, and moved to Asheboro, NC with his family in 1975.

John was a graduate of the Asheboro High School class of 1982 and went on to obtain degrees from Belmont Abbey College and Western Carolina University. He was a partner/owner in a Jacksonville, FL restaurant franchise, before settling down in Asheville to begin a successful career in sales with Wolsley Industrial Group and the Ferguson Company. His ability to form meaningful relationships with his clients and business associates, as well as his classmates and neighbors, was a life skill that served him well during his sales career and life in general.

Endowed with an interest in travel and adventure, John developed that spirit through the many hobbies and activities he pursued throughout his life. He was an avid and accomplished whitewater kayaker in his younger days, and obtained his pilot's license through his midlife years, flying to connect with friends from his hometown, his college years, and beyond. But as his life progressed, John developed a new passion: his daughter, Maddy. Traveling and exploring with Maddy was the mission that brought the greatest joy and purpose to John's life. While many of their travels revolved around collecting

baseball paraphernalia at the legendary major league parks, John made sure that everything they did was to provide joy and life experiences for Maddy. From their European adventures, to a tour of Pixar studios, to ComiCon conferences to entertain Maddy's interest in Anime, John's later life was dedicated to his beloved Maddy.

John was preceded in death by his mother, Arlene M. Hayler. He is survived by his daughter Madelyn 'Maddy' Juliet Woodworth Hayler of Asheville; his father Robert "Bob" Hayler of Charlotte; his sister Anne Marie Hammonds (Ryan) of Asheville; brother David Edward Hayler (Myra) of Boone, NC; nieces and nephews Ellie Hammonds and Will Hammonds of Asheville; and Cheyenne Hayler and Marissa Hayler Million of Deep Gap, NC; and by Maddy's mother, Amanda Woodworth of Asheville.

The family would like to extend our thank you to the many beloved friends, nurses, and doctors at Duke University Medical Center that provided support, comfort, care, and treatment throughout his extended fight. A special appreciation and recognition is expressed to the Thursday night poker club for their regular and much needed distraction, and all of his friends and neighbors that provided emotional and logistical support while watching over Maddy for him during his time away from home.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations be made in John's memory to the Duke Adult Bone Marrow and Transplant (ABMT) Patient Fund at: <https://www.gifts.duke.edu/dukehealth?designation=3990947>

A memorial service will be held at Morris Funeral Home, 304 Merrimon Avenue, Asheville 28804 on Saturday January 15, 2022 at 1 pm. The family will receive visitors one hour prior to the service. Out of an abundance of caution regarding Covid-19, the family respectfully asks that masks be worn at all times prior to and during the service. For those unable to attend the

service, a link to a video stream will be provided on the Morris Funeral Home website on the day of the service.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 15. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Morris Funeral & Cremation Care
304 Merrimon Ave.
Asheville, NC 28801
(828) 252-1821
info@morrisfamilycare.com
<http://www.morrisfamilycare.com>

Memorial Service

JAN 15. 1:00 PM (ET)

Chapel of Morris Funeral Home
304 Merrimon Ave.
Asheville, NC 28801
(828) 252-1821
info@morrisfamilycare.com
<http://morrisfamilycare.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Morris Funeral & Cremation Care created a Webcast in memory of Robert John Hayler*



Morris Funeral Home - January 15, 2022 at 10:46 AM

LJ

Love ❤️ you dear friend

Laurie Jaccard - January 15, 2022 at 11:32 AM

KB

Dear Mr. Hayler. I am so sorry to hear of John's passing. He will always be remembered by the Greiner as one of our extended family members. I was so happy Jim and I were able to reconnect with John at Grayson's game in Atlanta a few years ago. We spent alot of time visiting with him and catching up on his life. He was such a super guy! What an inspiration he was throughout his illness. He was always so upbeat and positive, even though I'm sure that must have been a tough journey. I know how proud you must be of the man he became. Please know that you, Maddy, and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. With love, Kristen Greiner Betts

Kristen Greiner Betts - January 15, 2022 at 11:55 AM

JG

So sad. I had a great conversation with John in Atlanta before Grayson's game. So sorry to all family and friends. He was a very nice man. God bless! 🙏

Jeff Gray - January 15, 2022 at 12:33 PM

CB

Love to all the Haylers. My thoughts and prayers are with you and will continue to be in the coming months.

Cindy Brittain - January 15, 2022 at 01:21 PM

JR

A life well lived Sail on John.. you earned your wings

James Ross - January 19, 2022 at 11:00 AM



“ *Robert John Hayler*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM

LA

“ *Happy heavenly birthday John! Hope it was a good one. miss you ole pal. Laurie*

Laurie - June 10, 2022 at 08:40 AM

JP

“ *This is more difficult than I imagined. I have known John for more than 50 years. Although we didn't communicate as often as we should have, I always knew we were good friends and would remain that way forever.*

I remember the fun we had riding motor bikes and staying at each other's house. John was not flashy, loud or known as the cool kid but what people didn't know was he is the cool one. He had the ability to make people smile, laugh, feel at ease.

I was always impressed with his relationship with Maddy. When we were together with Maddy, it was apparent his commitment and love for her.

In my eyes, John was a great person! I enjoyed the time we had together. You are missed by many my friend. Thank you for being a great one!

Jim Phelps - January 16, 2022 at 01:54 AM

LN

“ *Maddy, Bob, David, and Ann - Reconnecting with John several years ago was a great joy.*

I met you, Maddy, with your dad when you came to the Iowa State Fair about five years ago now. That was a fun day. You met my sister Julie in London when you and your dad had that amazing trip to England.

John and I talked often about the childhood we had in Red Oak. The camping trips at Pilot Grove made a big impression on us. Walking after dark at the park. Pete Olive would lead "Class on the Hill" and taught us about stars, constellations, and planets. We had a pretty magical childhood.

I love this photo of John that you chose. That smile, the big eyes, and the Hawkeye cap make this a true snapshot of John. Iowa never left him and the Red Oak High School Class of 1982 considers him a member.

Our hearts are broken and we know that he had so much more to offer the world. He's challenged us to live life fully with bravery and love. We should all live like John.

Sending light, comfort, healing, and strength from Grinnell, Iowa, and Saxmundham, UK.

*With love,
Laura Nelson Lof and Julie Nelson Elgar*

Laura Nelson - January 15, 2022 at 02:03 PM

LS

“ So sorry to learn of Johns passing. We met in Red Oak, IA as children before he moved to NC. Thanks to FB, we reconnected again after many years & he was still considered as a part of Red Oak Class of '82 even though he didn't graduate with us. I will miss seeing his posts of his adventures. He was a great person taken too soon! My sincerest condolences to his father, his daughter Maddie and to all his NC friends that knew him. May he rest in peace.



Lynn Sundberg - January 14, 2022 at 09:13 AM

LC

“ I didn't know you well, but the bit I knew was clearly top notch. You were a sincerely nice person and a doting father. I am too old to be a BM donor now but I will give platelets regularly now in your honor. Rest In Peace.

L Keely Carlisle - January 13, 2022 at 09:07 PM

RC

“ John was a topnotch salesman and a truly good guy. My thoughts are with his family.

Rick Casey - January 11, 2022 at 09:02 PM

MF

“ I offer my sincere condolences to Maddy and John’s family. I have known John for over 25 years, since he started covering the Paper Mill for Frischkorn. One of my greatest blessings in life has been becoming friends with him as time passed and we worked together on many projects. There are so many words to describe him as a work colleague – dedicated, conscientious, engaged just to call out a few – he always wanted to completely meet his customer’s needs, offer appropriate alternatives, and be part of the solution. There are likewise many more words to describe the friendship he offered and extended to me – engaged, interested, caring, connected, upbeat, positive - the list could go on. We were next door office neighbors for many years, and I always looked forward to spending time with him regardless of it being related to work or simply hanging out and conversing about our personal lives and the things we were dealing with and experiencing. It was during one of these office visits that he confided to me of his diagnosis, a moment I will never forget, and naturally my heart sank a little hearing this news. He was simultaneously matter of fact and positive about the situation, and we talked about continuing a positive outlook as things progressed and engaging in prayer for healing and comfort. I kept up with his progress as best as I could, trading texts and a few phone calls. I ran into him on Haywood Road prior to his trip to Duke – the last time I saw him in person, and he told me of the plans for his treatment. We talked about “keeping the faith”, and he talked of his faith in a very intimate, personal way.

I learned of his passing on 12/23, a sad day indeed, but not a situation without hope, as I am convinced that the glory of Heaven was waiting for John.

From the Gospel of John, 10 v 27:

“My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life and they shall never perish no one will snatch

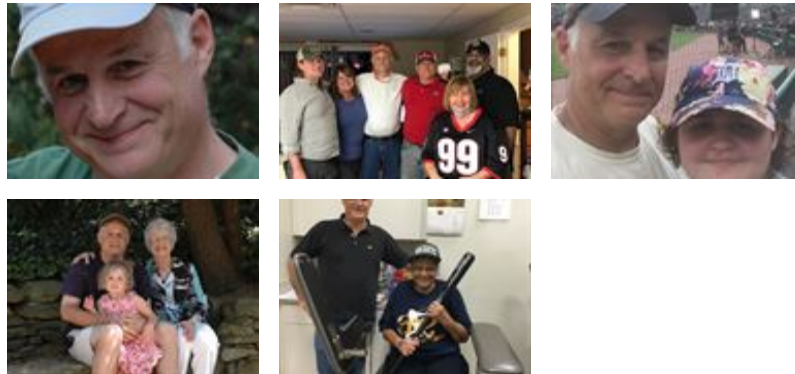
them out of my hand.”

*Sincerely,
Michael Ford*

Michael Ford - January 10, 2022 at 10:20 AM



“ 46 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Morris Funeral Home - January 10, 2022 at 09:26 AM

CA

“ *John was a most kind and generous soul. We spent often only one day a year together, but I had such love for John. We did get to spend more time together recently, hanging out at the cancer center with concurrent treatments. John wasn't just generous, his soul was fed by helping those less fortunate. He made donations to folks he had never even met before. He even offered his home to someone unable to afford to house themselves during the cold months he was at Duke. He gave so many gifts I cannot begin to count them, but the greatest gift of all was his friendship. He will be missed. My heartfelt sympathies go out to the love of his life, Maddie, and all his family and friends. I will honor John's legacy by continuing to bring awareness to Be The Match. With forever love in my heart for John, I will continue my battle with the bravery and hope he inspired.*

Christine Aiken - January 09, 2022 at 11:48 AM

SR

“ *Spirax Sarco - Southeast Region purchased the Tranquil Seas for the family of Robert John Hayler.*



Spirax Sarco - Southeast Region - January 07, 2022 at 05:49 PM

KM

“ *John was one of the most capable salesmen I ever had the pleasure of working alongside. A champion for his customers, he understood their needs as well as they did, which enabled him to serve them well. Similarly, he was his own advocate. He studiously educated himself on his disease to understand his needs, enabling him to partner with his medical team for the best possible results.*

John was heroic. He was a noble father who deeply loved his daughter, Maddy, of whom he spoke with pride and joy. He was a brave patient, who approached his illness like a problem to be solved. He talked perpetually about his treatment plans, always ending with an unnecessary apology for taking so much time.

John was faithful. He frequently shared stories of his journey, pointing to things that could not have been a coincidence. He believed he was where God wanted him to be, and I know that he is now in His good hands.

John was a friend. I miss him but look forward to seeing him again.

Keith McElroy

Keith McElroy - January 07, 2022 at 03:00 PM

MS

“ John, was a co-worker that I knew quite well through our many phone calls over the last 20 years. We did not meet in person but this by no way diminished our friendship. I followed his cancer journey from the beginning. He also followed mine when I was diagnosed with breast cancer a year later. We bonded over our treatments and stories. John would certainly hold my feet to the fire when it came to how certain things impacted his job and his customers! He stress tested the various commission systems we were on and likely benefited many salesmen with his tenacity for accuracy in the numbers. He would send me candy on occasion just to say thank you for the help. For those of us in the Wolseley/Ferguson world, we feel his loss and our customers will too. May his memory be a blessing.

*Mary Schlanger
Richmond Wolseley Industrial Group Branch*

Mary Schlanger - January 06, 2022 at 10:31 AM

BC

“ John was such a great person to work with. We never got the chance to meet in person but I talked to him a lot on the phone. I am sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time.

*Babs Chandler
Wolseley Industrial
Washington NC*

Babs Chandler - January 04, 2022 at 01:27 PM

LM

“ My condolences to Maddy and the Hayler family. John and I grew up in the same small town and then we ended up working for the same company. It was a privilege to know and work with John. He will be missed!

Linda Maclroy - January 04, 2022 at 10:40 AM

JM

“ I was so surprised to see this today as John was a fighter! We shared some really good memories together - a trip to New Orleans and he took me on a flight in his plane. John was a genuine friend and a devoted father to Maddy. He will be sorely missed.

Sincere condolences,
Jennifer Milton

Jennifer Milton - January 04, 2022 at 09:26 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert John Hayler.



January 03, 2022 at 07:24 PM

JW

“ Thank you for making me enter the bone marrow donor registry!
God Bless!

jill whatley - January 02, 2022 at 06:36 PM

KP

“ *I will always remember John as a great man. Always kind. My thoughts and condolences are for the family.* ”

Ken Powell - January 02, 2022 at 04:09 PM