



## Dr. John Erwin Casto

July 13, 1936 - April 13, 2018

Dr. John Erwin Casto, 81, of St. Albans went home to be with the Lord on Friday, April 13, 2018 at his residence.

John was born in Charleston to the late Foster and Beatrice Car Casto. The family moved to St Albans where they became members of St Mark's Episcopal Church.

He was a graduate of St. Albans High School, class of 1954, the last high school class to graduate from the old school. John then entered Marshall College as a pre-med student and was a member of the Army ROTC and Pershing rifles, Sigma Phi Epsilon and the school choral program. It was there at Marshall that he met and married the love of his life, Janett Cotton, his wife for the past sixty-one years.

Upon completion of his pre-med entry requirements, he was accepted into the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, TN. During his years at Southern College, he served as vice-president of his class and also of the Phi Theta Upsilon Professional Fraternity. Upon graduation, John accepted a commission into the US Army Medical Service Corp in Fort Sam Houston, TX. He traveled by plane and railroad to the 42nd field hospital in Verdun, France, which later became the 319th Station Hospital and there served as Chief of the eye clinic.

After his Army commitment, John and Jan returned home and after exploring various locations they decided to start a family and an Optometric practice in St. Albans. He retired from optometry after 50 years of practice but continued to dedicate his time to the community after his retirement.

Surviving are his loving wife, Janett Lee McDaniel Cotton Casto; daughters and sons-in-law, Allison Lee and Robin Breeden and Ashley Janett Burgener, son and daughter-in-law, John Cotton and Amy Casto. Also surviving are grandchildren, Haley Yost, Ryan and Daniel Burgener, Nathan and Cate Breeden, JC, Blake and Seth Casto, and great grandson Declan Yost, and nephews Richard and Randy Hamilton.

John served in all offices of the West Virginia Association of Optometric Physicians, serving as President in 1976; the West Virginia Board of Examiners, then on to the Southern Council of Optometry serving as its President in 1984 and as a Trustee to the Southern College of Optometry in 1996.

Through his efforts in optometric education, John has received many awards including Optometrist of the Year by the State Association; Optometrist of the South; Lifetime Achievement Awards by Southern Council, Southern College of Optometry, American Optometric Association and by the West Virginia Association of Optometric Physicians. In July 2017, he was inducted into the American Optometric Associations Optometry Hall of Fame.

John was very involved in his community and various clubs and organization, just to mention a few, the St. Albans Chambers of Commerce, St. Albans STARTA, St Albans Rotary, and St Albans Hall of Fame Board. He will be inducted into the St. Albans Hall of Fame later this year for his lifetime dedication to our community and schools.

Graveside service will be held at 11:00 am Monday, April 16, 2018 at Cunningham Memorial Park, Upper Mausoleum Chapel, St. Albans. You may visit his tribute page at [Chapmanfuneralhomes.com](http://Chapmanfuneralhomes.com) to share memories with the family.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to St. Mark's Episcopal Church, In Memory of John E. Casto, 405 B Street, St. Albans, WV 25177.

Bartlett-Chapman Funeral Home, family owned and located at 409 Sixth Ave., St. Albans is honored to serve the Casto family.

# Cemetery Details

## Cunningham Memorial Park

815 Cunningham Lane  
Saint Albans, WV 25177

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

APR 16. 11:00 AM (ET)

Cunningham Memorial Park  
815 Cunningham Lane  
Saint Albans, WV 25177

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. John Erwin Casto*

October 06, 2023 at 08:41 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Dr. John Erwin Casto.*



April 22, 2018 at 09:50 PM



“ *I first met John in the last year of my training to be an optometrist. I spent a 3 month externship in his office in St Albans. That was the beginning of a relationship that lasted till last week. He was a friend and a mentor. I was honored to be present for his induction into the American Optometric Assocoations Hall of Fame last year in Washington DC. No one deserved that recognition more, or was more gracious and humble in accepting that award. For all he did for optometry, that did not define him. His wife and children were clearly his most cherished priorities.*

*As a faculty member of the KY College of Optometry I often tell my students about the pioneers of modern optometry. When I told them I was off campus to attend his funeral they knew who he was.*

*To say he will be missed seems to pale in the reality his loss will be for myself and others*

*RIP my friend. Till we meet again.*

**Greg Moore OD** - April 19, 2018 at 07:22 PM

 David Gallian

“ We are saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. Casto. May God give your family strength, courage and comfort in the days to come.

*Our Deepest Sympathies,*

*The Gallian Family.*

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**David Gallian** - April 17, 2018 at 08:08 PM

WW

“ I just want to thank Dr. Casto for all his hard work fighting for an expanded scope of practice in optometry. Many future practitioners will benefit from his efforts and he will not be forgotten. Sending thoughts and prayers to his family and friends.

*-A current optometry student*

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**Whitney Weber** - April 17, 2018 at 04:50 PM

JD

“ From a second year student at the Kentucky College of Optometry I just wanted to share my appreciation for Dr. Castro for everything he did for the profession. My condolences to friends and family.

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**Jordan Davidson** - April 17, 2018 at 01:38 PM

BF

“ Thank you Dr Casto for all you have done for the Optometry profession. Because of you, we are able to give our patients the care they deserve.

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**Brett Freitag** - April 17, 2018 at 01:29 PM

WB

“ Without Dr. Casto’s drive and willingness to work for the profession of Optometry we would not be able to provide proper care for our patients. All his hard work will carry forward with the new generation of optometric physicians and I know what he has done will never be forgotten.

Thank you

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**Will B** - April 17, 2018 at 01:26 PM

BF

“ Thank you Dr Castro for all you have done for the Optometry profession. Because of you, we are able to give our patients the care they deserve.

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**Brett Freitag** - April 17, 2018 at 01:26 PM

NM

“ Dr. Casto- I’m a student at the Kentucky College of Optometry and I wanted to thank you for the work you did in expanding the scope of our profession. Students like me can better serve patients because of the work you did for our field. My condolences to your family.

Sincerely,  
Nitya Murthy

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**Nitya Murthy** - April 17, 2018 at 01:23 PM

MO

“ So many great memories of being at Dr. Casto's house when we were hanging out with his son John. He was unfailingly kind and patient with us kids being there. Remember him always along each race course (with Mrs. Casto) during Cross Country season encouraging John and the rest of us on the team. Even when I was a somewhat "troubled" kid the Casto's always welcomed me into their home. Will always be grateful and remember his kindness!

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**Mark Oliver** - April 16, 2018 at 11:55 AM

TO

“ I am truly saddened to hear of John's passing. I first got to know John with SECO as a trustee. We had begun doing some volunteer work with different committees and I lucked out to get the exhibits. John made sure to make me feel welcome and made sure not to add too much advice until he saw I was hanging from the rope that was extended to me. As I advance through the chairs of the Executive Committee for SECO, John always sent a note of congratulations and encouragement. I have each and every one of them and treasure those with my memories of leading SECO. As one of my SECO Presidential visits, I was fortunate to attend the WVAOP meeting in 2016, for the 40th anniversary of the passing of the therapeutics legislation that John was instrumental in helping to pass for the whole of Optometry, but starting in West Virginia. He was featured in a video that explained all that was done and accomplished to do such a monumental thing for our profession. We all will be indebted to John and those who he worked with to make our profession something to be very proud of. I am sorry for you loss, my prayers are with you, your family and all of us who will miss him so.

*Kindest regards,*

*Ted McElroy, OD  
Past President, SECO International*

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**Ted A McElroy, OD** - April 16, 2018 at 08:45 AM

SH

“ I’m so sorry for the loss of your husband. I’ve met him a couple of times while working with you in the SOS Office. After reading such a nice obituary he had a lot of accomplishments and was a wonderful doctor. You always spoke so highly of him.

*Special prayers for you and your family,  
Sharon Huffman*

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**Sharon Huffman** - April 16, 2018 at 01:06 AM

SC

“ Such a wonderful man. Allison I am so sorry and send hugs to you and your family. So many fond memories of you and your family. Also with Dr Casto being my eye doctor since Junior High, I would and still always compare to him. None have ever come close to the gentle care your dad always gave each patient. He will be greatly missed. Love and prayers to you all.

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**Sherrie Flowers Combs** - April 15, 2018 at 09:51 PM

LB

“ Lynette Cotton Blake lit a candle in memory of Dr. John Erwin Casto



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**Lynette Cotton Blake** - April 15, 2018 at 04:53 PM

 Cindy  
Shope-  
Strock

“ *I was very saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. Casto. He and Jan offered us their hospitality for several Christmases over the years; their home was filled with warmth, laughter, life and love and we will always be grateful for our time spent there. Jan, Allison, Ashley and Cotton, our thoughts and deepest sympathies are with you. He will be missed.*

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**Cindy Shope-Strock** - April 15, 2018 at 04:04 PM

DL

“ Dear Janet and Family

*With a deep sadden heart I write this condolence to you and your family. There are no words I can say to relieve the pain you and your family are feeling after such a loss of a spouse, a father, and a GREAT FRIEND. As you all know I experienced a similar situation about 5 years ago with the loss of Charlene. It isn't easy and as people tell you time does have a healing power. Although there isn't a day that has gone by where I don't think of her. And I am certain all of you will go through the same situation with your loss. Thank GOD for our memories that help bring our loss ones back to us.*

*Life is like a deck of cards, we never know what we will be dealt with. But if we believe in our LORD then the unknown becomes easier to deal with. I read an email that was very interesting. It said I don't like buttermilk, I don't like lard and I don't like raw flour. But mix them all together and I do LOVE biscuits.*

*Lord, when things come up that we don't like, when life gets hard, when we just don't understand what you are saying to us, we just need to relax and wait 'till you are done mixing, and probably it will be something even better than biscuits.*

*Regina and I both had an operation that doesn't allow us to travel. We won't be able to come to the funeral, but John and all of you will be in our prayers.*

*We will be making a donation to St. Mark's Episcopal Church, In Memory of John E. Casto,*

*Janet, may GOD BLESS you and your family, especially in your hour of need.*

*Don Litterini and Regina Pasini*

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Don Litterini - April 15, 2018 at 02:57 PM

RA

“ I just have to say that John ( my favorite uncle ) had such a positive influence on my life and career. He was loved and respected by my family and I. He was so influential in his profession in the state and admired by his peers. His affect on the practice of optometry will be long felt in the state of WV.

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**rande** - April 15, 2018 at 02:54 PM

SC

“ I was saddened to hear of John's passing. It was my privilege to share the care of many mutual patients through the years. He was a dedicated practitioner, who was very respected by both his colleagues and patients. I last spoke with John in person when he was at the levy, touring a docked sea vessel. He will be missed. May God rest his soul.

*Steve Cassis MD*

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**Steve Cassis** - April 15, 2018 at 01:44 PM

 Max Whiting

“ What a great man. I am so honored to have come to know Dr Casto. His words and his heart were such an inspiration to me...I pray for peace and love for your family during this time...I will miss seeing you....

*Max Whiting, RN*

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**Max Whiting** - April 15, 2018 at 12:36 PM

PT

“ *My name is Phi Tulloh, a fellow graduate with John in the Class of '54. As Class President I wish to express our grief in behalf of our Class. John was dear to all of us and especially me, for we spent many experiences together throughout the years. John will be sorely missed and we send our deepest condolences to Jan and Family. Memories will not fade for us that knew Dr. John Casto.*

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**Phillip Tulloh** - April 15, 2018 at 10:47 AM

MB

“ *Please accept my sincere condolences to John's family.*

*My older brother, Duane Clatworthy, was a very close friend to T. J. Casto. As a lifelong resident of St. Albans, I have always thought highly of both T. J. and John, as so many other members of our community have.*

*My first eye exam and my first pair of glasses were with John. He was a great man, who strongly believed in helping others, and helped so many others.*

*RIP Dr. John Casto.*

*Mickie Burrows*

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**Mickie Burrows** - April 15, 2018 at 10:44 AM

CR

*I would like to extend my condolences to the Casto family. I was an employee for Dr Casto many years ago . I will never forget the patience and kindness he showed me while training me to work in his optometric practice. After marrying and leaving West Virginia I was also employed at other optometric practices. Because of the skill that I learned while at his practice. I became a valued employee for several other optometrist in Mississippi and Ohio. His wife Jan was always encouraging to me I know this is a sad loss for the St Albans Community. May God grant you comfort and peace through his presence as you grieve the loss of your loved one. Sincerely, Connie Simon Rose*

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**connie simon rose** - April 17, 2018 at 10:34 AM

MV

“*Dr. Casto was a gracious man and wonderful colleague. In my travels to optometric meeting across the country there was rarely a time that someone did not mention his name and his influence in our profession. Rest well, John. You had a beautiful life.*

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**Monty Vickers** - April 15, 2018 at 09:42 AM

FO

“*Jan , Eileen and I were very sad to learn of johns passing. He was a fine man and I am sure the community will miss him. We have very fond memories of you and John and family while we lived in St. Albans. Please share our condolences with Allison , Ashley and John. Frank and Eileen Orlando*

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**Frank Orlando** - April 15, 2018 at 08:29 AM



“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,  
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,  
  
May your memories of John Erwin Casto, give you peace, comfort and strength...  
  
Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete.  
I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten..  
My thoughts  
and prayers to the family of ....  
  
US Army Veteran, John Erwin Casto, is “A True American Hero”  
God Bless†  
  
† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †*

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**Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum** - April 15, 2018 at 07:35 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to John and family during this most difficult time. May God's love give you comfort and strength.*

*Vicki Janney*

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**Vicki Janney** - April 15, 2018 at 06:21 AM

JO

“ I first met John in 1986 as a 4th year extern in his Optometry practice. He taught me many things but the most significant were to treat patients not only as patients but also as friends with respect, dignity, and most of all kindness. Over the following 30 years my admiration for this gentleman only grew. He was a great man and may God bless his family.

*James Herman OD.*

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**Jim Herman, OD** - April 15, 2018 at 02:20 AM

EJ

“ I was saddened to read about the passing of Brother Casto, and my thoughts & prayers are with his family, friends & chapter brothers.

*While I never had the honor of meeting John, I pledge that the SigEp Patriots Project will always celebrate & remember his life and military service.*

*Fraternally,*

*Ed Jones  
Baltimore, MD*

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**Ed Jones** - April 14, 2018 at 06:13 PM