



## John G. Morgan

July 28, 1919 - October 11, 2013

John Gabriel Morgan, 94, died Friday, October 11, 2013 at Hubbard Hospice House in Charleston, WV. He was born in Putnam County on the family farm on July 28, 1919 to Dr. Rembrandt Morgan Sr. and Anna Evaline Smith Morgan. He was their firstborn. He plowed fields with horses with his father, and with his mother made many trips across the river in a johnboat to trade eggs and butter for flour and sugar at Poca.

He graduated from Winfield High School and went on to graduate from Morris Harvey College. He was in the Coast Guard during WWII, sailing to Guam to bring back the wounded, but believed that he was undeserving of any praise since many others gave all.

Morgan covered the Statehouse for more than 30 years, recording partisan battles and corruption scandals. He also did extensive historical research, producing a Gazette book on West Virginia governors that still is a staple in schools and libraries -- and producing a history of Charleston. He joined the Gazette staff in 1947. In the 1950s, he was awarded a Reid Fellowship for 18 months of study in India and Pakistan. He loved India, Pakistan, and their people.

Upon his return, he married Rita Avanelle Cox of Nicholas County. She greeted him as he got off the boat in San Francisco, and they said their vows

on July 19, 1955. They spent their honeymoon returning to WV by train, taking the southern route into Florida.

He loved teaching his family to play chess, and was the most patient of men. He was humble to a fault. However, he jogged into his 90's, could recite the Gettysburg Address and the Desiderata, the presidents and their vice presidents in order, and could name every county seat of every county in WV upon demand.

Morgan was a longtime member of Christ Church United Methodist. He retired to his East End home in 1982 and spent most of his time traveling with and caring for his wife Rita, until her death in 2007. Others who preceded him in death are brother, Rembrandt Jr., and baby sister Martha.

Surviving are two daughters, Sarah Morgan (Charles E. Douglas) of St. Albans and Laura (Rick) Ewalt of Nashville, Tenn., and grandsons, Travis Moles, Jason (Marina Enikeeva) Rhizor, and Alexander (Alexandra) Rhizor, and many loving nieces, nephews, and in-laws as well as numerous extended family members.

Funeral service will be held at 3pm Tuesday, October 15, 2013 in the chapel of Christ Church United Methodist, 1221 Quarrier Street, Charleston, with Rev. Dr. Randy Flanagan officiating. Burial will follow in the ancestral, Morgan Family Cemetery, Winfield. Visitation will be held from 1:30pm until time of service in the Potter Room of Christ Church.

Chapman Funeral Home, 3624 Winfield Road, Winfield is in charge of arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in any amount to Christ Church United Methodist, 1221 Quarrier Street, Charleston, WV 25301 or to the St.

Albans Historical Society (WV), 404 Fourth Avenue, St. Albans, WV 25177  
towards preservation of Morgan's Kitchen, a relic of the family farm.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **15**. 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Christ Church United Methodist  
1221 Quarrier Street  
Charleston, WV 25301

## Funeral Service

OCT **15**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Christ Church United Methodist  
1221 Quarrier Street  
Charleston, WV 25301

# Tribute Wall



“ *John G. Morgan*

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October 06, 2023 at 08:41 AM



“ *Dear Sarah, Laura and all family members,*

*You are in our Prayers. Your Dad inspired me and I feel honored to be involved in his care. Your caring for him has been a very heartening experience.*

*GOD BLESS,*

*Dr. G. Thakker.*

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**Doctor** - October 18, 2013 at 12:53 PM



*Thank you so much. Dad thought the world of you.*

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**Laura Ewalt** - October 21, 2013 at 08:19 PM

MP

“ Dear Family,

*My girls and I would like to extend our deepest sympathy to all of you.*

*We did not spend a great deal of time with your parents but enjoyed them very much.*

*I remember your dad doing the greatest imitation of Sid at Ginny's during one of the reunions.*

*I will always remember how much he cared for your mother.*

*My late husband Richard, was the son of Kathryn Nease. A cousin of your fathers .*

*Thinking of y*

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**mary ann persinger-nease** - October 16, 2013 at 10:45 AM

LE

*Thank you so much. Yes, we remember that imitation very well. He waved the cane around and everything. Also wore a fake mustache. Thanks a lot.*

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**Laura Ewalt** - October 21, 2013 at 08:20 PM

PD

“ *Laura, I wish that we could be there with you, Sarah, and the rest of the family during this time. Just know how much you are being thought of, and the love and prayers we send your way.*

*Pat and Bill*

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**pat dearth** - October 15, 2013 at 11:49 AM

LE

*Thank you so much for your prayers and love...also all of the phone messages...much love.*

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**Laura Ewalt** - October 21, 2013 at 08:20 PM

LE

“ *Laura,  
I am sorry for the loss of your Father. My  
thoughts and prayers are with you & your  
family.  
Take care,  
Lori Ewalt*



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**Lori Ewalt** - October 15, 2013 at 11:37 AM

LE

*Thank you Lori...really appreciate all of your messages throughout all  
of this.. Much love.*

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**Laura Ewalt** - October 21, 2013 at 08:22 PM

KG

“ *Sincere sympathy to the Morgan family. I  
didn't know John that well but I knew he was  
always around my family. My granny (Vessie  
Gibson) always talked about John and told  
me stories. I was always told about the  
Morgan house on Rt.60 in St.Albans my granny always talked about  
that. My family all lthat the world of John. He was always at any  
funeral of the webbs that I went to. He was always a kind spoken  
man. Prayers for the family/*



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**Kelly Gibson Grimmett** - October 15, 2013 at 08:09 AM

LE

*Thank you Kelly...yes our father spoke often of Vessie as well...thank  
you for your kind words.*

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**Laura Ewalt** - October 22, 2013 at 11:15 AM

SM

“ Sarah, I'm so sorry to hear about your loss.  
You are in my thoughts.



Sarah McDougall - October 15, 2013 at 07:25 AM

HH

“ Laura and Sarah, I'm sorry for the loss of your father. He was a kind and gentle man that was always interesting to talk with. He was proud of his daughters and grandchildren. He and your mom were great across the street neighbors to my mom and dad on Quarrier Street. My sympathies. Herb Harr

Herb Harr - October 15, 2013 at 06:55 AM

LE

Thank you Herb...yes our parents were such good friends. Thank you for your kind words.

Laura Ewalt - October 22, 2013 at 11:16 AM

SK

“ Laura and Sarah, So sorry to hear about the loss of your father. Laura, my dad said that he saw you recently in Charleston and you mentioned that your dad was not doing well. My heartfelt sympathy. Selwyn Knap

Selwyn Knap - October 14, 2013 at 09:56 AM

LE

Thank you Selwyn...yes your dad is a real trooper riding his bike on the boulevard! Thank you for your kind words.

Laura Ewalt - October 22, 2013 at 11:17 AM

BR

“ Sincere sympathy to the Morgan family. I thought he was a wonderful gentleman. With sympathy, Martha Bradley.

Bradley, Martha - October 14, 2013 at 09:50 AM

LE

Thank you Martha. Dad went to church for as long as he could. Thank you for your kind words.

Laura Ewalt - October 22, 2013 at 11:18 AM



“ Dear Laura and Sara,  
I'm so sorry for your loss. You girls did an amazing job of taking care of your loving dad. I know he was so proud of you two. I remember the time your momma bought me a beautiful dress. I went over to show it off to your parents and I hugged them. Then your dad put me at arms length and smiled saying "you look prettier than princess Diana. "  
My prayers are with you two and your family. All my love Nancy

Nancy Fischer - October 14, 2013 at 09:12 AM

LE

Thank you for the memories, Nancy..I had never heard that sweet story before! So glad you knew him.

Laura Ewalt - October 21, 2013 at 08:32 PM

BA

“ Belinda And Aaron lit a candle in memory of John G. Morgan



Belinda and Aaron - October 13, 2013 at 10:10 PM



*Brandt, Im sorry about your uncle. Aaron and I wont be able to come for the services, but I would like to come in the spring and go to the cemetery.*

*Much love to all who loved him.*

*Belinda K. and Aaron Morgan*

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**Belinda Marie McLaughlin Knoblock** - October 13, 2013 at 10:25 PM

KS

“ *Growing up on the East End with John and Rita, Sarah and Laura...that beautiful house, that old Bakelite phone upstairs, the Kanawha riverbank, those long blocks to walk. I remember talking with John and Rita, Laura and Sarah, about politics and history and family, about where we lived, where we grew up, where our parents grew up...how times changed. John loved his family effortlessly and thoroughly. He mastered and shared his insights into history, West Virginia, Appalachia, and our turbulent politics. He got irony, with a twinkle in his eye. I remember such interesting conversations in that elegant East End living room. John spoke to even children with respect, always listening and speaking sparingly yet thoughtfully. I wanted to be like him when I grew up, still do. Best memory and one of the best of my childhood: I see him bending to go into an old doorway, after he drove Laura and I out to his mother's place to find trillium for our biology project. It was a magical day in the woods, with a little ole lady, a tall, kindly father, and my best friend. John was a gentle giant of a soul. He enriched the people he touched. I am so grateful I knew him.*

*Kelly Shreve*

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**Kelly Shreve** - October 13, 2013 at 07:20 PM

LE

*Thank you so much Kelly...what awesome memories...so glad you knew him.*

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**Laura Ewalt** - October 21, 2013 at 08:37 PM