



John W. Gochenour

September 5, 1952 - September 29, 2025

The staff of Heishman Funeral Home/Valley Funeral Service sends condolences to the family of Mr. John W. Gochenour.

John W. Gochenour, 73, passed away at his home in Woodstock, VA on September 29, 2025.

He was the son of John Wilbur and Jessie Lee Gochenour, both deceased. John was a graduate of the 1970 class of Central High School and a 1974 graduate of VA Tech with a B.S. degree in business. He dearly loved his alma mater and always intensely followed the sports seasons of Tech football and basketball. He joined the Southern States workforce and retired after thirty years spent in Front Royal and Upperville Southern States.

John was number 6 of six children.

His older brothers have all predeceased him. They were Ralph Gochenour (Bonnie), of Maurertown, VA, Harold E. Gochenour (Dixie) of Bowie, MD, William R. Gochenour (Jill) of Woodstock, VA. Two sisters survive him. They are Judy G. Shirkey (Henry) of Edinburg, VA and Linda G. Wilkins (Mike) of Woodstock, VA; his family also includes numerous nieces and nephews.

In 2014 John was diagnosed with Type I insulin dependent diabetes. After

several serious surgeries John declared that his diabetes was manageable. With help and support from his friends and family time was eleven more years.

Family visitation will be held Friday October 24, 2025, from 6PM to 8PM at Valley Funeral Chapel in Edinburg, VA. Graveside services will be held Saturday, October 25, 2025, at Gravel Springs Cemetery in Star Tannery, VA at 2PM with Rev. Nate Robinson officiating.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to a Food Bank of your choice or to the Shenandoah County Animal Shelter, 268 Landfill Road Edinburg, Virginia 22824.

Online condolences may be left at www.valleyfs.com

Arrangements are in the care of Heishman Funeral Home Inc., Valley Funeral Service Branch, Edinburg.

Cemetery Details

Gravel Springs Cemetery

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **24**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Valley Funeral Service
14116 South Middle Road
Edinburg, VA 22824
(540) 984-3700
secretary.valleyfs@yahoo.com
<https://www.valleyfs.com>

Graveside Service

OCT **25**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Gravel Springs Cemetery
1870 South Pifer Road
Star Tannery , VA 22654

Tribute Wall

TH

“ Hard to accept that John is gone. I met him in the early 80's, he was picture of perfect health. He was tall, strong and quite a lady's man way back then. John was a man of many moods back then. Over the years John went from many moods to a mellow guy who was a joy to be around.

I last saw John several months back. I could see his health was in decline but what a great time we had. He had driven all the way from Woodstock to Leesburg just to hang out with me for a few hours. He brought an iPad with him and showed me what seemed to be his entire life's work. He showed me hundreds of farms he had been to over the years dating decades back. He remembered all feed, seed, fertilizers and chemicals he had sold to each one. He had quite a career at Southern States. He practically gave his entire adult life to Southern States. He was as loyal as loyal can be.

Southern States owes John a huge amount of gratitude. He was honest and filled to the hilt with integrity. I don't think you could pay John to tell a lie, he was as honest as they come.

I don't know who Larry is but John sure was talking him up on that last

visit. He was showing me pictures of lumber, a saw mill and he went on and on about Larry who I think he said was his nephew. He was so proud of Larry.

Though I knew John for well over 40 years it's hard to believe that tall strong man got old. Time was not kind to him in the last year of his life. Even while dealing with health issues John could still teach you a thing or two. He was super intelligent and if you talked to him you would usually learn something you didn't know.

I'll close with a little story on his last visit that will show John sure knew how to pull a fast moment of humor on you. I asked John why so many Gochenours live in Woodstock, are all you people related down there? He grinned and said well there are two large Gochenour families in Woodstock but not related. He said he was part of "the tall" Gochenour family while the other family was kinda short like me. I had to laugh because compared to John I am short. He was laughing and I'll always remember that. Big John was quite a man, he was one of a kind. I know John still has a large family in

Woodstock but I know too he has a large family in heaven. I feel certain they welcomed him with open arms. Enjoy those wings Big John, you earned them..

Tom Hall - October 22, 2025 at 07:30 PM

JC

“ *John was a classmate.....he was a great guy and a lot of us stayed close after graduation.....we just had a class reunion and we missed him very much....God bless you John.....rest in peace my dear friend.....*

Janis Click - October 22, 2025 at 01:45 PM