



John David Selig

February 20, 1936 - December 12, 2024

I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no “brief candle” for me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.

— George Bernard Shaw

John David Selig, community leader and beloved patriarch, died Thursday, December 12th, after a full and contributory life. He was 88.

John was born in Hot Springs, Arkansas to Joseph and Frances Selig, née Miller, on February 20, 1936. Little brother to JoAnn Kay (B.J.) Selig Smith and older brother to Larry Joe (Barbara) Selig, he came up in downtown Hot Springs, as a frequent pump attendant at his father’s “C-Joe Texaco” at Malvern and Grand Avenue, before attending Subiaco Academy and then graduating from Hot Springs High.

While attending the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, John avoided paying \$5 to his Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity by bringing Helen Elizabeth Boyd to a dance. The rest is Selig family lore. After graduating from U of A and marrying, the two set off on a life of adventure that included 7 moves, 5 states (New Jersey, Arkansas, Oregon, Mississippi, and Washington), 4 children, 11 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren.

John's 64 years of marriage to Helen formed the soundtrack of his life: her support of his U.S. Army Signal Corps, Dierks Lumber, and Weyerhaeuser career and graduation from the Harvard Advanced Management Program - "We are so PROUD of you", her insistence on family bonding - "Now, honey", her shared passion for the community - "Come on, John", and her time at their piano (a gift from him) - "Just one more song".

After retiring from Weyerhaeuser in his hometown of Hot Springs, John was not content to "relax." Instead, he became President of the Garland County Habitat for Humanity - helping to build over 150 homes, Hot Springs Rotarian of the Year, Chair of the Garland County Economic Development Corporation, Chair of St. Joseph's Hospital, Charter Member of Garvan Gardens, Board Member of the Sisters of Mercy, Board Member of Arkansas Bank and Trust, Board Member of the Hot Springs Area Community Foundation, Board President of the Oaklawn Center on Aging, Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year, and a frequent bingo caller and Board President of The Caring Place after his beloved Helen became a regular participant.

John loved to bass fish on Lake Hamilton, support local political campaigns and civic causes, travel with his 4 generation family, take morning walks through Pike Place Market in Seattle, host Papa's Summer Camp, tell (possibly exaggerated) stories to his grandchildren and great grandchildren, and proudly sustain an ecosystem of woodpeckers, hummingbirds, and bluebirds from his back porch in Hot Springs.

John was preceded in death by his father, mother, brother, and wife, and he will be missed by many, including his sister and children: Dr. Sarah Selig Carrier (Mark) of Johnson City, Tennessee; John Mark Selig (Jeannie Fetting) of Benton; Scott Selig (Kris) of Durham, North Carolina; and Michael Selig of Big Sur, California; along with his grandchildren: First Sergeant Allister

Hawkins (Shawna), Dr. Evan Allie, Kevin Selig, Rose Lacy Selig (Chase), Anna Murphy (Brian), John Samuel Selig (Amelia), Clifford Hawkins, SarahBelle Evans (Dylan), John David "Jack" Selig, Mary Catherine Selig, and Vyla "Sy" J'Neve Selig; and his great grandchildren: Elliott Sarah, Rose Elizabeth "Ellie", Theodora Joyce "TJ", Addilyn Rae "Addie", Helen Ann "Hattie", Bella Kane, Joseph Isaac "Jack", and Millie Margaret.

He taught us to lead with compassion, love with wry humor, serve in all the ways we can, and bring gratitude to each day. John, Dad, Papa, you passed us the torch. We are honored to carry it forward.

Memorial Mass will be held at St. Mary of the Springs Catholic Church in Hot Springs, Arkansas on Saturday, December 28th, at 11:00 am followed by a reception. All are welcome to attend. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The Caring Place or Garland County Habitat for Humanity.

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

DEC **28**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary of the Springs Catholic Church
100 Central Ave
Hot Springs, AR 71913
(501) 623-3233

Tribute Wall

DB

“ To all of the Selig Clan-- You had the best parents anyone could ask for and I am sorry for your loss of a truly remarkable man and friend. I remember running in the streets of Hot Springs in the early mornings before light with John and Helen, and many times it would just be me and John. It was a fun time to getting to know him and we always enjoyed our talks and laughs. It was obviously he adored Helen and she adored him. I copied the "Papa Selig Camp" with my own Camp DeDe that I still hold annually for my kids/grandkids each summer. John and Helen taught me so much about living life and their presence in my life will continue on in so many memories. Rest in peace John.



DEBI BARNES - January 11, 2025 at 11:38 AM

JO

“ In my some 21 years with Weyerhaeuser Co. I reported to many VP's. John was one of the very best. We had a good working relationship as well as a personal relationship. He will be missed. Prayers and blessings to the family. Jim Odendahl

James Odendahl - December 31, 2024 at 03:43 PM

KB

“ I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no “brief candle” for me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.

— George Bernard Shaw

This was the John Selig that I knew and respected. I always enjoyed his stories, kind words and encouragement. He will be missed as a member of our Habitat Family. His work with our Organization was a true blessing. His friendship just can't be replaced.

Rest in Peace my Friend we will continue to burn the torch.

*Kim Billingsley
Jessieville, AR*

Kim Billingsley - December 28, 2024 at 10:52 AM

CC

“ John was a great friend and wonderful neighbor. He was an inspiration to all that knew him. We will miss him a lot!

Cheryl Cooper - December 27, 2024 at 02:18 PM

TC

“ John welcomed me to Weyerhaeuser and encouraged me to become part of the Hot Springs community. He took me to the HSCC for my first round of golf there. He and Helen and the boys were engaged in the community and made a difference. John will be missed.

Theford Collins

Theford Collins - December 20, 2024 at 09:46 PM

JO

“ *Very blessed to have known and worked with a real man and Christian that inspired me and my family. he exhumed confidence and was always there to listen. He loved his family dearly and his eyes twinkled when he spoke of them! May the lord bless the family and welcome John to join Helen.*

jim olmedo - December 20, 2024 at 10:38 AM

BC

*When John and I worked together he was VP of Southern Lumber. One fond memory, we celebrated a good operating year and John bought each of his team a Buck knife. He included me in that celebration. Each knife was unique with each name engraved on the wood handle. I still have it all these years later and cherish the memory. As others have said, John was an exceptional leader well respected by his peers and adored by his direct reports. I enjoyed working with him and know I have lost a friend. Best regards to John's family.
Bill Corbin*

Bill Corbin - December 22, 2024 at 08:19 PM

QH

“ *John was a great man. An inspiration to many and an example of a great leader in business and politics and personal development. I know he will be missed tremendously.*
Q. Byrum Hurst

Q Hurst - December 15, 2024 at 06:23 PM