



## John Donald Herring, Ph.D.

December 25, 1969 - July 7, 2014

John Donald Herring was born to John and Donna Herring on December 25, 1969 in Fresno, California and went to be with his Lord on July 7, 2014 unexpectedly at the age of 44.

John graduated from Fowler High School. From there, he enlisted in the United States Army National Guard where he served his country proudly. He later obtained his Bachelor Degree in Criminology from Fresno State University. He went on to further his education and obtained his Master's Degree in Public Administration from National University and recently completed his Doctoral Degree in Organizational Development from Alliant University.

John worked as a Police Officer with the Fresno Police Department for the past 19 years. He was a devoted husband and father to his beautiful family. John enjoyed camping, dirt bike riding, weightlifting, and attending Sanger Apache and Fowler Redcat football games. He took pride in playing on the Fresno Police Officer's softball team as well as playing on the FPD Football team in the Pig Bowl. John also enjoyed rooting for the Fresno State Bulldogs, Nebraska Cornhuskers and the San Francisco Giants.

John was a man that had a zest for life and a genuine love for his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He and his family attended The Well Community Church-

Clovis Campus. He made everyone feel welcome with his witty sense of humor and outgoing personality.

John is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 18 years, Melissa; their two children, Trevor John and Sarah Christene; his parents, John and Donna Herring; his grandfather, David Winniford; his siblings, Lisa Brown and her husband Doug, as well as Susi Finley and her husband Jeff; his niece and nephews, Jackson, Dylan, Taylor, Logan and Carter. He will also be missed by many extended family members, colleagues in the Fresno Police Department and friends he has made along the way.

A Celebration of John's Life will be held at People's Church on Tuesday, July 15, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.

Remembrances may be sent in John's honor to the Fresno County Peace Officer's Memorial Foundation, P.O. Box 4290, Fresno, California 93744.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

JUL 15. 11:00 AM (PT)

People's Church  
7172 N. Cedar Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93720

# Tribute Wall



“ *John Donald Herring, Ph.D.*

September 15, 2022 at 09:34 PM



“ *To all of John's family!*

*I was out of town and was unable to attend the memorial for John, but I wanted you to know that I was one of his Police Academy classmates in 1994. Melissa, I did meet you but it's been years ago. He adored you! I think you were such a great strong force in his life. I am so happy to know he was in a great church family, too - (Police Academy days didn't leave a lot of time for deep discussions!).*

*John was always a HAPPY and FUN friend - would do anything for anyone, and when I met up with him through the years, I always felt like it was being with one of my three brothers growing up - all of mine were big, blonde, and blue-eyed and funny, just like John.*

*I will miss him, but I know where he is, and that we shall meet up again!*

*Love and Sincerity,  
Marilyn Weldon - Retired FSO*

Marilyn Weldon - August 13, 2014 at 12:21 PM

DJ

“ *My sincere sympathies to the Herring family. I have fond memories of John's service to the Fresno Unified School District, specifically Hoover High School where I was vice principal and principal for several years. He was always professional, helpful and great to have around in difficult situations. He will be greatly missed.*

*Doug Jones*

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**Doug Jones** - July 24, 2014 at 12:44 AM

TF

“ *It's been two weeks and we still do not believe your not around.*

*We not only considered you and your family good neighborhoods but good friends. We can not help thinking about you and what a special person you were. We will always remember your generosity and your sense of humor.*

*About 11 years ago, our family had a house fire and we could not live in our house. In fact, we were gone for exactly one year before we were able to return. The day after the fire, you pulled up in your camp trailer, parked it in front of our house and drove away. You told us it was for us to use as long as we wanted. You would not take no for an answer when we said, we would be fine and would not need your camp trailer. Boy were we so wrong. Your stubbornness, thoughtfulness and your camp trailer, sure came in handy!*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Herring Family.*

*The Valenzuela Family*

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**The Valenzuela Family** - July 23, 2014 at 09:32 AM

JC

“ Dear John and Donna

*I am so sorry for your loss! I was out of town when the notice appeared and so could not attend the memorial, but I did want to let you know of my sympathy. I never met your son but can not imagine the feeling of sorrow.*

*Love and prayers, Jean (Coffey) Cole*

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**Jean H. Cole** - July 19, 2014 at 08:19 PM

HA

“ Dear John and Donna and Herring Family,  
*I do not understand God when something like this happens. It was much to early for John to leave. May you find some peace in knowing how many people truly care about him and you, and that he is with his heavenly Father in a wonderful place.*

*God's blessings,  
Harlan Awbrey*

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**Harlan Awbrey** - July 18, 2014 at 04:23 PM

CG

“ John and Donna,  
*Im so soooo Sorry to hear about this Beautiful Young Man. I just cannot imagine the grief you feel. I guess the question is , Why Him ? Only the Lord knows that one. Being the parent of two , thirty three and thirty one, I know this is tough....My Heart goes out to the Entire Family .*

*Craig Giordano  
Longs Drugs Downtown*

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**Craig Giordano** - July 16, 2014 at 03:19 PM

JB

“Our Warmest thoughts and Prayers are with the entire Herring Family. What a shock to our neighborhood hearing about John's passing. Every morning Pat & I hear cars go by and expect to see John driving by and waving as he usually did. Talking to John in front of our home about retirement and various other subjects will always be remembered. He always made you feel special in every way. May God comfort and bless the entire Herring Family at this time of need”.

Your Friend & Neighbor  
Jim & Pat Bertram

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Jim & Pat Bertram - July 15, 2014 at 03:18 PM

YW

“Dearest Herring Family, I just recently ran into John we shared great memories about my late husband Don Walentuk, also known as Double D. We laughed about the workouts at the Lincolns, such great memories. We all loved his great sense of humor. He went on to show me the pictures of his children and his wife and how proud he was of his family he dearly loved. May God comfort you during this difficult time. God Bless- Yolanda Walentuk



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Yolanda Walentuk - July 14, 2014 at 11:48 PM

DR

“John was such an outstanding man. I was always so impressed with John's personality and professionalism. I really enjoyed being in his presence. He has left a great legacy! I had the great honor of working with John's father when I was the Assistant Principal at McLane in 1987. And then years later, i had the great opportunity to work also with John on a number of school events and school sites

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Dan Robinson - July 14, 2014 at 09:52 PM

EP

“ John, Donna, family. Needless to say, I was shocked when I received the word of your son's passing. Our children (no matter their age) should leave this earth before their parents. My heart is aching for you and for his wife and children. It is unexplainable to me while I cry for you and yours. Take comfort in the knowledge that he is with God at this very moment! I pray that he and Bill can get together in heaven.

*Richard sends his condolences also...*

*Eileen & Richard Bernier*

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**Eileen Phelps-Bernier** - July 14, 2014 at 02:33 PM

TB

“ My condolences to the entire Herring Family. John will be missed!

*Bejarano Family*

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**Teresa Bejarano** - July 14, 2014 at 10:39 AM

LD

“ Today was an awesome day! I got to see people I love, watch my boy do his first football practice, I worked out 3 times today. Morning, Noon and night...my last workout was my run in the heat....I dedicated all my workouts today to John Herring Jr. He was a selfless man who worked hard for not only the citizens of Fresno, his family and fellow FPD Cops..John was not a runner, but he spend countless hours helping out with my Baker 2 Vegas Running Team this year staying awake over 24 hours with Todd Fraizer to make sure runners got to their legs on time.... John drove me to my leg, it was freezing cold, he stood behind he and wrapped his arms around me for body heat to keep me warm before my run, then right before the start I realized I did not have my lighted vest I needed to get on the course...I started stressing out...He sneaked me by this big ol heater that we were not suppose to be standing close to..he said stay here..Ill be back...then calmly, "Linds I got this..you are going to run."..Needless to say he came through like a champ...Not only did I run...I ran my best ever in Vegas...Thank you buddy...All 3 of my workouts today were in your memory!!!! See you again some time in a much better place. Im so glad you did not suffer..

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Lindsay Dozier - July 12, 2014 at 07:59 PM

RH

“ I was shocked to hear of John's death, and at such a young time in his life. Although I saw him from time to time at work, I did not know him very well or have stories of interactions with him. But I have known his Dad for a very long time, having "grown up" in the Department with him. And knowing that his Dad was the School Resource Officer at McLane High School, my alma mater, very close to the time that I was attending there.



My thoughts and prayers are with John's family, and his parents and immediate family, and his extended family. From the remembrances, I've seen, I know that John had a strong faith in God. I know that John is with God, waiting for those he left behind in a physical sense. But will never leave, in their thoughts and prayers.

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**Richard Hanson** - July 12, 2014 at 12:43 AM

KR

“ Wow what an impressive man the world lost. So saddened and I pray for his family and friends.

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**Kristin** - July 11, 2014 at 11:52 PM



“ My deepest sympathies to the entire Herring family. My prayers and thoughts are with you Melissa, Trevor & Sarah.

Gayle Vaughn (friend of Anne Tellez)

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**Gayle Prohaska Vaughn** - July 11, 2014 at 11:45 PM

HP

“ John, you were and are a cops cop. You treated everyone you encountered with respect and you received it in return. I am honored to have known you and your spirit will live in us.

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**Henry Perea** - July 11, 2014 at 11:27 PM

LO

“ Sincere condolences to the Herring family and friends. I grew up in Fowler with John. I will never forget the fun Spanish Club field trip to Great America when we hung out with classmates all night and had the best time ever. After high school, we both pursued careers in criminal justice and I often ran into him in the community. He always greeted me with a big smile and a warm Redcat hug. This sudden loss makes my heart heavy and sad, but I am comforted in knowing that John had a fulfilling family life, career, education, and most importantly, that he fell to sleep in Christ. Rest in peace, Big John, see you when Jesus comes to take us all home!

*Love, peace, and Redcat spirit, sincerely, Lorraine Sepeda*

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**Lorraine** - July 11, 2014 at 06:39 PM

MW

Words cannot express the sadness I feel for the Herring family; especially John and Donna and Mike and Cindy since they are the ones I happen to know. But also to his wife and children who must be going through such grief at this time. The Bible says "weep with them that weep". Indeed I do and pray for God's comfort during this very difficult time...Love and blessings to you. Marie Walker

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**Marie Walker** - July 13, 2014 at 11:57 PM

EM

“ I am sadden by your sudden passing. I last saw you at the ball park where my grandson played, by Sunnyside racquet club. I was happy to have seen you then. It was always a pleasure. Hard to write, with tears in my eyes, to say Til we meet again. Peace of the Lord be with You. Esther Perez Martin Retired Sr CSO FPD



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Esther Martin - July 11, 2014 at 05:06 PM

RM

“ I was so saddend and shocked to hear the news about John. My heart goes out to his wife, children, parents and sisters. I haven't seen John in years, but going to school with him from kindergarten to high school graduation gives you a sense of a lifelong bond and friendship. My first memory of John was in kindergarten, in Mrs. Panzack's class - he was the tallest kid there - and the tallest kid in class until at least 7th or 8th grade. He always had a smile on his face. There was no doubt he'd follow in his father's footsteps and become a police officer. I know his family must be proud of all his accomplishments. What a wonderful legacy and example he has left for his children. It saddens me deeply that he has left this earth so young. I know his Maker has welcomed him with open and loving arms, and will have a very special place for him.

*My condolences to the entire Herring family.*

*Renee Topoozian Missakian*

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Renee Topoozian Missakian - July 11, 2014 at 11:56 AM

AD

*"Hi Mo, Trevor, and Sarah - I could not believe it when I happened to catch the article. Michelle just got back to AZ and called to say she was so glad she was able to stop by to see you. I am so sorry but am also so thankful you had him for the time you did. Despite the shock and grief, I am hoping that many in your circle of friends and family will have the opportunity to pause and consider John's testimony and reflect on their own needs to have a right relationship with God. I am learning in life that God is good -- all the time -- even when our circumstances aren't. May He bless you all with His comfort and strength!" ~~ Anita Downing, Nampa, Idaho*

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**Anita Downing** - July 14, 2014 at 02:20 AM