



John Shacter

September 26, 1921 - March 1, 2022

John Shacter, age 100, of Kingston, TN, passed away on 3/1/22 in Nashville, TN. Originally from Vienna Austria, John fled Hitler with his accordion at age 16, and was sponsored to come to the United States by cousins Sara and Al Gitlin of Philadelphia. John won a scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania in chemical engineering and was recruited to work on the Manhattan project in Oak Ridge. His team at K-25 made several breakthroughs in gaseous diffusion, accelerating the enrichment of uranium and ultimately speeding the development of the bombs that ended WW2. John's love of music and dancing led him to his future wife, Kathleen Ott Williams, who was teaching junior high school Phys ed at the time. They were devoted to each other until she died in 2012.

John was also Manager of Planning for Union Carbide Corporation and ran a consulting group for the Atomic Energy Commission. He became a sought after speaker and teacher in technical and business management. He was active in political and educational discussions, writing newspaper columns (Hurdles and Horsesense for the Oak Ridger) and speaking to radio and civic audiences. He was a relentless advocate for children and education and spent his later years volunteering in schools at all levels in many places.

One of John's life's joys was sharing his gift of music. He played the piano at informal parties and had enthusiastic followers at each of his senior living facilities.

He leaves "adoptive sister" Zena Gitlin Cohen (Gil), daughters Suzanne

Shiple, Linda Lundin (Ed Van Voorhees); granddaughters Jessica Lundin Prest (Christopher), Ellen Van Voorhees Reyes (Carlos); grandsons Ben Lundin (Julia), Matthew Van Voorhees (Cheryl); and 9 (almost 10) great grandchildren. Last September he was proud to celebrate 100 years of life with his friends and family.

He will be greatly missed by all.

The family will receive visitors at West End United Methodist Church 2200 West End Ave Nashville, TN on Friday, April 8 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Adult Community Training 5410 Hwy 321 N., Lenoir City, TN 37771 or Roane County Imagination Library, P.O Box 128, Kingston TN 37763. Kyker Funeral Home of Kingston is serving the Shacter Family. www.kykerfuneralhomes.com

Tribute Wall

KW

“ I am a now-retired chemical engineer who worked at K-25 (and later at ORNL) along with John and other planners who were Manhattan Project alumni. John, through his University of Tennessee connections and engineering/systems analysis mentoring, essentially helped get the completion of my PhD program at UTK "off the ground" in the early 1980s. Through his efforts and those of Richard Høglund at K-25 and Prof. John Holmes of UTK, I was able to write a thesis on projecting the economics of pioneering energy-related technologies, which later proved useful for uranium enrichment technology decisions by what is now DOE. He was also interested in Nuclear Power advocacy, and both of us attended conferences and co-drafted position papers for the American Institute of Chemical engineers. I also remember the warm hospitality extended to me by John and his family in Port St. Lucie, FL. My thoughts and prayers are with your family.

Kent Williams, Knoxville

Kent Williams - March 06, 2022 at 12:32 PM

BK

“ I am a volunteer driver for "Round About Roane" in Kingston. I met John when he was living at Jamestown. We took numerous rides together and I always enjoyed and loved hearing his stories of when he came to the US and of his reminiscing of various things when we would drive through Kingston and about how he enjoyed his time on Watts Bar Lake. My thoughts and prayers are with the family. May God comfort your during this time.

Beverley Kelley - March 05, 2022 at 10:23 AM