



## John Austin Carey

November 3, 1944 - December 27, 2017

John Austin Carey, 73, husband of Dudley Hogue and father of Robert Carey-Hogue, died peacefully in his sleep in Overland Park, KS, on December 27, 2017, after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Loving, thoughtful, and committed to social improvement and equality, John was a leader and inspiration in the many communities he touched throughout his life. An openly gay man in a time and place where sexual identity was rarely discussed much less declared, he succeeded in making the people around him feel safe and comfortable, regardless of their beliefs or lifestyles. He was truly a gentle-man who afforded hospitality to all.

John worked in the arts and social services throughout his career. He was also involved in many efforts for social good, including the churches he attended, the choral and theater groups he supported, and programs such as the AIDS service agencies and civil rights organizations in which he participated.

Born November 3rd, 1944, in Memphis, TN, John attended Memphis Central High School, graduating in 1962. He received his bachelor of arts from The University of the South (Sewanee) in 1966 with a degree in psychology and French. He was awarded a master's degree in theater from the University of Memphis in 1971.

John's early career included administrative roles at the Market House Theater in Paducah, KY; the Lyceum Theater in Arrow Rock, MO; Playhouse on the Square, Front Street Theater, and Circuit Playhouse in Memphis; and theaters in New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Virginia. He performed in and directed multiple productions at these and other venues.

Moving to Kansas City in the early 1980s, he served as general manager of the Kansas City Ballet, executive director of the Kansas City chapter of Young Audiences, executive director of the Kansas Arts Commission, executive director of the Kansas City Women's Chorus, and as a grant writer for Swope Parkway Health Center and Kansas City Hospice.

He and Dudley moved in 1996 to New York, where John served as curriculum director for the American Management Association.

John and Dudley adopted Robert Carey-Hogue in 1986, when Robert was 15 years old. In 1986, they were united as a family in a ceremony of commitment performed by then-Kansas City Mayor Emanuel Cleaver, who later, in the United States House of Representatives, led the Congressional Black Caucus. John and Dudley were legally joined in marriage in 2014.

John was preceded in death by his parents, Samuel Davids Carey and Ethel Elizabeth Poindexter Carey; his brother, Patrick Poindexter Carey; and his son, Robert Carey-Hogue.

In addition to Dudley, John is survived by his niece Rachel DeBusk (David) of Seattle; niece Elea Carey (Scott Ware) of San Francisco; grandnephews John Fisher Ware and Charles Patrick Ware of San Francisco; son-in-law, Rand Souden, of Palm Springs; sister-in-law Kay Carey of Memphis; and sister-in-law Arvelle Carey of Grants Pass, OR.

Dudley asks that memorial donations be made in John's name to First Lutheran Church, Kansas City Hospice, Kansas City Women's Chorus, or Heartland Men's Chorus.

# Tribute Wall

TM

“ *John and Dudley made my time in Kansas City a memorable time of love and friendship. Much love to you Dudley and hope we can see each other soon. Thom Miller*

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**Thom Miller** - January 06, 2018 at 05:52 PM

JS

“ *One of my clearest memories of John (and Dudley) was one night in 1985 shortly after my stepson (Sean Schwabauer) was killed in a car accident. It was late at night and we could not sleep. We heard a knock on the door and there stood John and Dudley. We invited them in, and their soft smiles, kindness, and overwhelming compassion was healing. My wife Gloria slept well for the first time in days. It takes courage and strength to do what John and Dudley did-just be with and expose your humanity to two people in agony. I thank you John.*

*Jack Shelton*

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**Jack Shelton** - January 06, 2018 at 12:42 PM

SD

“ *We remember John as the consummate southern gentleman always concerned for his guests' welfare and comfort. Our times on the patio at Dudley and John's apartment were fun and easy as they included us into their family of ever-expanding friends. Dudley our hearts and prayers are with you. Peace and Blessings. Shera and Doug*

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**Shera and Doug** - January 03, 2018 at 07:32 PM

MB

“ Thinking of you Dudley and remembering John's intelligence, wit and calm as I had the pleasure of working with him at Kansas City Hospice.

*Peace to all,*

*Mary Zahner Bauer*

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**Mary Zahner Bauer** - January 03, 2018 at 11:53 AM

SJ

“ Stephen W. Johnson purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of John Austin Carey.



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**Stephen W. Johnson** - January 03, 2018 at 09:32 AM



“ I think John may have been the first "out" gay man I ever knew. It was 1978; I was 15; he was my best friend's uncle. He was the sweetest man, so dear and so funny.

*The last time I saw him was the day before his brother Patrick's funeral. (Another amazing man, whom I adored.) I am pretty sure John didn't know who I was - he'd had Alzheimer's for many years at that point - but you would never have known it - he hugged me tight, spoke to me as if I were his long-lost cherished friend. He comforted me!*

*My condolences to Rachel, Elea, Arvelle, the grandkids and spouses, and most of all Dudley, devoted husband and caregiver - love you all! xoxoxo d*

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**Donna Upton** - January 02, 2018 at 08:12 PM

Jl

“ Well...Being a straight Black female...John invited me to his 50th Birthday Bash...John prefaced it with " I'd like for you to come...But I know you probably won't and you don't have too but I'd like for you to come' ... I thought about it and thought " what the heck" Needless To say I came and had the Time of my life...Meeting New People, Laughing and Singing Karaoke! I think I sang a Diana Ross Song ; " Stop -n- The Name of Love! I had the Time of my life. I thank John for increasing my knowledge about people and being more acceptable of people and their Differences!...Indeed a Life Well Lived! May you Rest In Peace! And So It Is Ashay!

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**Jeanette Ighedosa** - January 02, 2018 at 07:05 PM

TH

“ I first met John when Dudley was the Executive director for the Kansas City Women's Chorus. Also at First Lutheran. He was gentleman and always greet me with a smile and a big hug. I told him I really loved his bowties. I will miss him, rest in peace John. My prayers and thoughts for the family and Dudley. Sincerely Trudy Hadl.

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**Trudy Hadl** - January 02, 2018 at 03:23 PM

ED

“ Dudley and Carey-Hogue Family,  
We are so saddened to hear of John's passing but inspired by his numerous accomplishments and grace. Much love to you all!

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**Ellen King-Adrienne Verhoeven DeLanda** - January 02, 2018 at 12:46 PM