



John Taylor VanHook Jr.

December 30, 1947 - November 10, 2023

It is with a very heavy heart that I share that my dad, John Taylor VanHook Jr., passed away peacefully of natural causes. He was a long-time resident of El Segundo, CA and loved every minute of living there. Born and raised in Alton, IL, where the family were part owners of the local newspaper, John thrived in school and in all sports. He moved to El Segundo after graduating from Western Illinois University. After learning as much as he could about the community, he decided this was where he wanted to live. He involved himself immediately in the town, and after he married my mom in 1978, his first purchase was a house on Arena Street and then the drive-thru dairy on the corner of Pine and Main. The years in El Segundo were spent on all of the athletic fields. He was a sports fanatic and loved watching me in every sport I tried. He spent hours with me on the softball field. He taught me how to play, how to win, how to lose, but most importantly, to never give up. He never missed a game or a practice. His efforts did not go unnoticed, and I went to college on a scholarship to play softball. After 30 years in El Segundo, he moved to Punta Gorda, FL, where he lived for many years. After taking ill, I moved him to Las Vegas, where I reside, so that I could be closer to him. We spent very special and quality time until his passing. He leaves behind his daughter, Rachel, his sister, Jane Singer and brother-in-law, Tom Singer from Mill Valley, CA and numerous nieces and nephews. He was my mentor, my trainer, my teacher, but most of all my Dad. He will be missed by all who knew him. RIP Dad, with all who passed before you. You will be in my heart forever.

Graveside services will be held at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, September 21, 2024 at Alton City Cemetery. Gent Funeral Home in Alton is in charge of arrangements. Online guestbook and information may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Alton City Cemetery

Alton, IL

Previous Events

Graveside Service

SEP 21. 1:00 PM (CT)

Alton City Cemetery
Alton, IL

Tribute Wall

DW

“ Hooker was a great friend at WIU. I remember when he and I went to see *EASY RIDER* that had just come to the theater at Macomb. Neither of us had ever seen a film like it before. John said, “Wow! That will be a classic! “. He was right. We had many fun experiences together and with the brothers of Delta Sigma Phi. John was a terrific person and a fine friend. I will always remember his unique exuberance and joy of living each and every day to the fullest. I know we will meet again.

Dick Weart - December 25, 2025 at 03:31 PM

GD

“ So sorry about John’s passing. I got to be with him when he hit a hole in one at Deep Creek Golf Course in Port Charlotte. He was a mentor and friend. God bless him. Greg Dalton, Port Charlotte, FL

Greg Dalton - November 11, 2025 at 07:41 PM

TC

“ He was a great friend at Western Illinois. RIP John!

Tony Cardona - September 13, 2025 at 10:59 PM