



# Dr. John Gregory Hayes

JUL 9, 1942 - JUN 6, 2024



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## **Dr. John Gregory Hayes**

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**D**r. John G. Hayes, Ph.D., 81 (29,918 days), of Charlotte, left this world on Thursday, June 6, 2024.

Dr. Hayes was born on July 9, 1942, in Dodge City, KS, and grew up in Great Bend, KS. He was the eldest son of Joseph “Gordon” Hayes (d.1992) and Edith Magelina (Meisner) Hayes (d.1995) and brother to Robert Hayes of Topeka, KS, and Joseph “Joe” Allen Hayes (d.2022).

Dr. Hayes met the love of his life, Mary Hottenstein, at Kansas State University in 1964, where he received his undergraduate and graduate degrees in Sociology. They were married on June 3, 1966. His love for her lasted 21,188 days (58 years), and his last thought was for her. Together, they raised two children, Stephanie Hayes Hsu (Lexington, MA) and Mahlon Gordon Hayes (Huntersville, NC). He was “Pop Pop” to Mira Hsu, Sean Hsu, Jonathan Hsu, and Myles Hayes. His love and pride for his children and grandchildren were evident in every conversation you had with him, and his greatest hope was that they live their best lives and never “give up their shot .”

Dr. Hayes served as an SP5, Secretary to the Chief of Staff in Berlin, Germany, before attending Purdue University, where he received his Ph.D. in Sociology in 1975. His areas of study included Social Organization, Research Methods, Intergroup Relations, Social Change, and Social Conflict. He was a professor of Sociology at UNC-Charlotte and Sacred Heart College but found his calling working with the Housing Authority of the City of Charlotte as Director of Resident Services and the Chattanooga Housing Authority as Deputy Director for Planning and Program Development. His life’s work was to ensure that all families became self-sufficient and were given the opportunity to fulfill their dreams. He captured this journey in his final work, *The Campaign for Family Self-Sufficiency; Housing’s Role in Making a Difference*.

The funeral service will be held on Wednesday, June 12, 3:00 PM at James Funeral Home in Huntersville. The family will receive friends following the service for a time of visitation and reception at the funeral home. Chaplain Bonnie Klos will preside, and the United States Army will conduct the military rites. A viewing and reception will follow the service.



## Obituary

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Dr. Hayes requested memorials be given to the Training Active Bystanders program at <https://www.trainingactivebystanders.org/donate/>, A.C.E Academy for the Chess Club at <https://www.aceacademycharter.org/donate/>, and the S.T.E.M. Club.

James Funeral Home, of Huntersville, is serving the family and obituary lovingly written by the family.




# Events


**Dr. John Gregory Hayes**

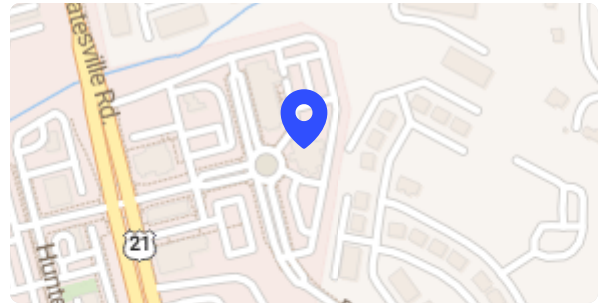
JUL 9, 1942 - JUN 6, 2024

## Funeral Service

 **Wednesday**, June 12, 2024

 3:00 PM ET

 **James Funeral Home**  
10520 Arahova Dr, Huntersville NC 28078





# Tribute Wall

**Dr. John Gregory Hayes**

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**James Funeral Home** shared a **Video**.



June 12 at 2:51 PM



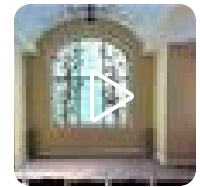
**Barbara Scherer** June 26 at 5:04 PM  
Beautiful tribute - Cousin George and Barbara



**Lynnette La Marca Nelson** June 13 at 12:17 AM  
A beautiful tribute to a life well lived by Dr. John G. Hayes who showed us the meaning of family and what it takes to be a committed, dedicated advocate for others, and how to walk the talk at every turn. Go in Peace and Love. - Lynnette La Marca Nelson, Rockton IL.



**James Funeral Home** shared a **Webcast Video**.



June 10 at 2:32 PM



**Nina Ventra** posted:

I met John through our work with the City of Chattanooga. He was a mentor who became a friend over the years and I knew I could count on him for good advice, beautiful photographs and stories about Dora and Izzy. I also admired his unabashed adoration of Mary. One can only dream of finding an enduring love like theirs. Much love Mary, Stephanie, Mahlon and grandchildren. Your husband/father/grandfather was a good man who made a difference. Nina Ventra

June 12 at 10:45 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Dreams From the Heart Bouquet to the Hayes family.



June 10 at 7:49 AM



## Tribute Wall

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MP

**Mitch And Terri Pittman** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Hayes family.



June 8 at 3:29 PM

BP

**Boyd Patterson** posted:

I worked with John when he was helping reduce gang violence in Chattanooga. He was blessed with both the spirit for making a positive difference and the ability to do so. The multiple grants that John landed totaled in the hundreds of thousands of dollars and made a major impact on the Chattanooga community. It was a joy to regularly sit at the table with him, brainstorming new concepts, with his infectious enthusiasm for helping underserved citizens. The world lost an undercover saint this week; John definitely deserves the peace he's enjoying now. -Boyd Patterson

June 8 at 7:04 AM

BH

**Bob Hayes** June 11 at 12:05 PM

Missing my brother John every day. Many memories come to me from our childhood in Great Bend, Kansas and throughout all those thereafter.



# Media

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James Funeral Home shared a Video.

June 12 at 2:51 PM



**Barbara Scherer** June 26 at 5:04 PM

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June 10 at 2:32 PM

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# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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