



Funeral services will be held on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 10:00 AM in La Chapelle de Martin & Castille in Lafayette for John Allen LeBlanc, 77, who died on Sunday, April 1, 2018 at his residence in Lafayette. John fought the hard battle for the last 7 years from complications of a staph infection, amputation of his right leg and eventually Alzheimer's.

Deacon Art Bakeler will conduct the services. Entombment will be in St. John Mausoleum. Eulogist will be his wife, Shirley Thibodeaux LeBlanc. Musical selections will be "Amazing Grace", "Shirley Jean", "When The Saints Go Marching In", and "How Great Thou Art".

He leaves to cherish his memory, his beloved wife Shirley Thibodeaux LeBlanc; two daughters, Donna Ernst and her husband, Thomas "Tom" Ernst and Sonya Key and her husband, Gary Key; one son, Kevin LeBlanc and his wife, Kathy; two sisters, Barbara Molbert and Diana Romero and her husband, Chester "Tony" Romero; five grandchildren, Damion Garrett and his wife, Michelle, Brazos Bennight, Glenda Key, Jessica Ernst and Laura Key; three great grandchildren, Devin Garrett, Jeanne Garrett and Sebastian "Buddy" Garrett; his childhood and best friend for 70+ years, Norris "Boobie" Sonnier; and most of all his companion and comforter, 12 year old "Rusty", all 11lbs of him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John LeBlanc and Marie Louise Guilbeau; nieces, nephews and numerous cousins.

John Allen LeBlanc was a native of Lafayette, LA born on Oct. 20, 1940. He enlisted in 1959 into the Army and was stationed at Ft. Lewis, Washington. While there he was taught cross country skiing as part of his military exercises. From that experience he came to love snow skiing, mountain hiking and downhill biking. His love for the mountains was undeniable, always in his travels he wanted to go to the mountains. John was always ready to travel and has snow skied all across the United States and Canada. When he was home his sport of choice was golf, and was a member of Lafayette Senior Men's Golf Association. He was always up for a challenge.

On December 1, 1962 John and Shirley Thibodeaux were married in St. Genevieve Catholic Church and for the next 55 years and 4 months it was the best "roller coaster ride of their lives". He was owner of John Allen LeBlanc Painting and Wallpapering for 40 years. During those 40 years John worked for three

generations of clients. For many he was a friend, someone they considered as “family”.

In the early 1990’s John discovered another passion of building replicas to scale. He replicated 41 different sites and ALL of them were donated to various museums, foundations and individuals throughout the world. Several are located in Lafayette and surrounding areas, such as Lafayette Parish Court House, Lafayette City Hall, Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum, ULL, Lafayette, LA, Vermilionville Historic Village, Acadian Memorial located in St. Martinville, LA, Acadian Museum in Erath, LA, Baton Rouge, Louisiana State Capitol and Old Louisiana State Capitol, Louisiana Creole Heritage Center - Northwestern State University Natchitoches, LA, Odgen Museum of Southern Art, New Orleans, LA, visitors Center in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada, Moncton University Museum, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, La Mesa, New Mexico and France. On April 18, 2015 Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne proclaimed that John Allen LeBlanc to be an Ambassador for the State of Louisiana for his hard work in preserving the state’s history and heritage by sharing our culture with the world. In June 2015, the Creole Heritage Center at Northwestern State University presented John with the People’s Award for “their appreciation for replicas of historic buildings preserving Louisiana and Creole heritage for generations to come”.

On July 11, 2015 John was inducted into the Acadian Museum, Erath LA “Living Legends” for his replicas and efforts in educating the history and culture through his works.

John wanted our children, grandchildren great-grandchildren and future generations to understand what was here in the past and hope they learn to appreciate that “You can’t understand who YOU are unless you understand who and what was here before”.

Pallbearers will be Kevin LeBlanc, Brazos Bennight, Damion Garrett, Thomas “Tom” Ernst, Gary Key, Jared Thibodeaux, Richard Molbert, Damon Romero. Honorary Pallbearers will be James “Jim” Thibodeaux, Anthony “Tony” Romero, Ravis Molbert, Norris “Boobie” Sonnier.

Memorial contributions in Mr. John Allen LeBlanc’s name may be made to Nursing Specialties, Inc. (Hospice), 1025 Camellia Blvd., Lafayette, LA 70508 .

The family requests that visitation be observed in Martin & Castille's DOWNTOWN location on Friday from 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM and will continue on Saturday from 8:00 AM until time of services.

A Rosary will be prayed on Friday, April 6, 2018 at 6:30 PM in Martin & Castille Funeral Home.

A heartfelt appreciation is extended by the LeBlanc family to the nurses and staff of NSI Hospice for their kindness, compassion and gentle care given to Mr. LeBlanc during his time of need.

View the obituary and guestbook online at www.mourning.com

Martin & Castille-DOWNTOWN-330 St. Landry St., Lafayette, LA 70506, 337-234-2311

