



Dr. John Michael Hardin

November 28, 1980 - March 9, 2022

Dr. John Michael Hardin, age 41, of Bentonville, Arkansas, passed away Wednesday, March 9, 2022 in Bentonville. He was born November 28, 1980, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, the son of Drs. John David and Sara Gomez Hardin. He was raised in Pine Bluff where he attended elementary school through high school. He was a music enthusiast playing guitar, was accomplished in martial arts and had a passion for computer science and technology. John Michael graduated from Pine Bluff High School with the class of 1999 and continued his studies at Hendrix College where he earned a degree in Biology. He went on to medical school at Oklahoma State University in Tulsa where he obtained his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree. He subsequently completed his medical residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) at Kansas University Medical Center. Working in medicine was a calling for John Michael, following in the footsteps of his father. Most recently, he worked as a physical medicine & rehabilitation physician and served as the medical director of Everest Rehabilitation Hospital in Rogers, AR.

John Michael met Allison Tremor in junior high school through a mutual friend, and they became acquainted. They remained in contact through high school, but it wasn't until college that their love story began. The two were married June 18, 2005, in Tulsa, OK and were blessed with two daughters Jenna Marie and Jillian Bree who he doted on unabashedly. His family was the center of his world. They enjoyed quality time together watching movies, going to their favorite restaurants, exploring their community, and attending family gatherings.

John Michael's most recent hobbies included photography, wood working, playing ping pong, collecting watches, computers, and photo editing. He also connected on many levels with the superhero character Captain America, who overcame adversity and fought valiantly despite having no superpowers. He was known to adorn his Captain America suit and to visit pediatric patients with medical conditions including cancer to brighten their day. This represents who John Michael was to the core.

He loved people and people loved him. John Michael's smile would light up every room he

entered. He had a great sense of humor and loved making dad jokes. He was a sentimental man and always remembered the birthdays and anniversaries of all of his friends and family. John Michael adored his mother, treasured his long talks with his father, and was cherished by his two older sisters.

As a medical doctor, John Michael cared deeply about his patients. Although he never wanted recognition, he was often rated number one among his peers in patient satisfaction. Patients appreciated the quality time he spent with them, his compassion towards others, and his natural ability to establish a sincere genuine connection. He used his personal journey overcoming trials and tribulations to inspire others to achieve their own physical rehabilitation goals.

John Michael's impact on others is far reaching, and his legacy is legendary. He lived fully in the present. He radiated kindness and gave of his heart freely and unapologetically. Love was his essence. John Michael chose these heartfelt, humble words for his social media profile: "Just a simple man, with a wonderful family and three princesses: two call me Daddy and one married me".

John Michael is preceded in death by his father Dr. John David Hardin.

He is survived by his wife of 16 years Allison Hardin; daughters Jenna and Jillian; mother Dr. Sara Gomez Hardin; sister Dr. Sara Maria McCoy and husband Mike McCoy; sister Dr. Vanessa Branch and husband Dr. Drake Branch; nieces and nephews Mathew and Nicholas McCoy and Ellie and Harrison Branch; beloved aunt Dr. Martha Adams; cousin Chris Dow and a host of extended relatives, colleagues and friends.

A visitation reception for family and friends will be held at 6 pm Thursday, March 17, 2022, at the home of Drs. Vanessa and Drake Branch. Please feel free to wear red, white or blue and/or captain America clothing in honor of our "Captain" John Michael at the visitation. Memorial Mass will be held at 11 am Friday, March 18, 2022, at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Fayetteville with interment to follow at Fairview Memorial Gardens. The family will gather with guests for a reception following the burial at Saint Joseph Catholic Church. Services are under the direction of Nelson-Berna Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Fairview Memorial Gardens

1728 East Mission
Fayetteville, AR 72703

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 17. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Drs. Vanessa and Drake Branch Residence
3740 East Natchez Trace
Fayetteville, AR 72703

Memorial Mass

MAR 18. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Saint Joseph Catholic Church
1722 N Starr Dr
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Reception

MAR 18. 12:30 PM (CT)

Saint Joseph Catholic Church
1722 N Starr Dr
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Tribute Wall

EM

“ Years ago, I met 'JM' John Michael through my step mother. We had just moved to Oklahoma and I was still young, I had never had a real father figure in my life. John Michael filled that role, in ways and memories that I still carry with me today. Some of my greatest memories were with him, and even though we hadn't seen each other or spoken extensively in years, I always saw him as more than just a family friend. He helped me, cared about me, and was the kind of person I always wanted to become. Someone who could make anyone laugh when they needed it.

I never got to see him in my adult life, aside from the yearly happy birthday message, which he never once missed. I never got to tell him how much of an impact he really had on me, and how he made me the man that I became. I hope to find solace in knowing that, wherever he is in this life or the next, he's making those around him smile.

Elijah Mithaven - May 07 at 09:35 PM

AH

“ My name is Allison Hardin, and I never met Dr. Hardin, really. I just happened to have a Gmail address that was very nearly the same as his wife's. In 2019, Dr. Hardin accidentally sent me a receipt for a return to Kohl's. I replied to him that I'd be happy to help, except that I didn't have that item; was it possible he meant to forward this to someone else? He "haha"ed and thanked me for getting the email straight. In addition, he sent a photo of *his* Allison Hardin. I made a joke about how she was much prettier than me, and Dr Hardin replied: "Always remember, you are beautiful because God made ya that way. :)" Every once in a while, I would get an email that I believed was intended for "his Allison," and each time I forwarded them, Dr. Hardin was kind and funny, thanking me for keeping things intended for "his bride" going to the right place. I enjoyed being able to help keep him updated as the occasional business got our email addresses crossed.

Today, I got another accidental email that was intended for Allison Hardin of Arkansas, and forwarded it to Dr. Hardin's email, as I usually did. But this time the title got my attention - it was an email on how to move forward after the loss of a spouse. Oh no.

Allison, I want you to know what many have likely told you already - that your husband was kind, funny, and loved you and your daughters very much. He didn't mind sharing his love for you with strangers, and sharing his love of God, either. I imagine there's a very deep hole in the middle of Arkansas where he once stood. My mother's husband died when he was 48, and left a similar hole. It's been 29 years, and I can say that the love he left us with has been a comfort every day. I wish the same for you.

Reflecting Dr. Hardin's love for you and your daughters back to you,
Allison Hardin (South Carolina)

Allison Hardin - May 04 at 07:06 PM

KC

“ Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Saint Joseph Knights of Columbus

Knights of Columbus - March 29 at 01:50 PM

WP

“ My husband was in Everest Rehab Hospital for one month a year ago. Dr. Hardin came in the first day and had a prayer with us which meant the world to both of us. Dr. Hardin visited most every day while Wes was a patient there and always was concerned with Wes' health as well as visiting about all kinds of other things. One day in our talks he found out I made my own Peanut Butter. He got so excited and said he loved Peanut Butter and wanted to taste my home made . A day later I brought him a jar of Peanut Butter and he immediately went into the little kitchen area and opened it and ate some.

I have a picture of him clapping and rejoicing the day Wes was discharged the day before Christmas.

"We are honored to have had the opportunity to know him if only for one month. We had a lot of discussions in that month.

Our condolences to his family. He will be missed by many many people.

We pray God will comfort you in knowing he is with his Savior and give you the strength to continue on.

God bless you

Wesley and Lila Pulst

Bella Vista AR

Wes and Lila Pulst - March 21 at 02:25 PM



“ Dr. Hardin was the first doctor who really listened to what was wrong with me and helped me. What a wonderful man. Love and prayers to his three princesses.

Juanetta Murphy - March 21 at 01:54 PM

BH

“ John Michael was in the med school class behind me. He was in residency class behind my husband. He was friends with people from my high school. Suffice it to say, he is tangled into so many lives and there are so many points of connection I can hardly keep track. Every memory I have of John Michael is joyful and kind, regardless of the situation. We all have hard days, but even so, I never saw him let anything get him down. It has been years since I last saw JM, but we would always get a happy birthday or merry Christmas text message. I will miss his loving, giving nature. He has left a legacy and impact that goes on and on. Thank you for being you, John Michael!

Allison, and girls - sending you so much love. I know this is beyond hard.

Wonderful husbands and Dads leave gaping holes. I know John Michael was both because he was also a wonderful friend.

With love,

Brande Harris

Seth Duncan Chandler

Brande Harris - March 19 at 05:40 PM

JS

“ Allison and Family, My prayers and thoughts are with you during this time of sorrow. John Michael will be missed. We love him and you all so much. May God wrap his arms around each of you. We love you.

Judy Spurgeon

Judy Spurgeon - March 18 at 12:42 PM



“ Yellow Sunflowers (Silk Cemetery Flowers) was purchased for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.



March 18 at 11:42 AM



“ Mrs. Fields Crimson Nibbler Trunk was purchased for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.



March 17 at 09:28 PM



“ Memorial Trees was purchased for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.



March 17 at 06:33 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.



March 17 at 10:53 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.



March 17 at 07:57 AM



“ With Distinction was purchased for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.



March 17 at 07:56 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.



March 16 at 09:11 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.



March 16 at 05:32 PM



“ Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.



March 16 at 04:49 PM

SG

“ I meet John Michael at a table tennis club in 2015 and we instantly became friends.

Some months later we discovered we had mutual friend - Paul Bolt. We 3 had a lasting friendship since. When we could, us three "Amigos" would get together over a ping-pong or out to dinner. We cordially just called him JM.

Always a smile, a lot of laughter, and friendly banter throughout the rest of his life. He will live in our thoughts and memories the rest of our lives.

JM was very compassionate, encouraging, and supportive to me and my wife Cindi during a couple difficult times in our lives. Our sorrows turned into smiles when JM was around.

We will miss you my friend.

Eternal rest grant onto him O 'Lord. May Your perpetual Light shine upon him, may JM rest in peace.

We pray for peace, comfort, and healing for Allison, children, for for all those who love him and will miss him.

Our sincerest condolences,
Skip & Cindi Green

Skip Green - March 16 at 03:15 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.



March 16 at 02:55 PM

CC

“ Chad & Rachel Clay purchased the With Distinction for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.



Chad & Rachel Clay - March 15 at 11:27 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.*



March 15 at 07:45 PM



“ *Memorial Trees was purchased for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.*



March 15 at 02:37 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.*



March 15 at 01:56 PM



“ *Mr. and Mrs. Tom L. McCoy purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.*



Mr. and Mrs. Tom L. McCoy - March 15 at 12:06 PM

TB

“ Dr. Hardin was an amazing & compassionate physician. In 2017, he was my son, Jonah's rehab doctor at NWMC. Jonah had broken his hip at Camp Barnabas and was sent to NWMC for surgery. Since he was not 18 yet, Dr. Hardin made an appeal to the hospital to let Jonah stay there for rehab. When he came into Jonah's room, he was wearing a "Captain America" lanyard, which immediately put Jonah at ease. He also prayed over Jonah & us! Our son, who is on the Autism Spectrum & who struggles with emotional development, would often get frustrated. His nurses would send for Dr. Hardin, who could walk into his room, and immediately start talking about Captain America and it would calm him down. He brought Jonah to his office to show him all of his Captain American decorations. He came by everyday to encourage Jonah to do his physical therapy. When Jonah completed his stay. Dr. Hardin came into his room and told Jonah how proud he was that he finished his rehab! Before he came into his room, Jonah helped me make a collage of Captain America things that we had put in a frame When Jonah gave him the gift, Dr. Hardin had the biggest smile on his face, which made Jonah's day! He told Jonah they would always be friends, and share their love of anything Captain America! We went back to NWMC to visit Dr. Hardin 3 months later & he still had Jonah's gift on his desk! We are so sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with your family. Thanks for sharing Dr. Hardin with us!

Tina & Johan Barfield and Jonah

Tina Barfield - March 15 at 10:53 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.



March 15 at 10:06 AM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.



March 15 at 08:59 AM

LM

“ Sending prayers to all of you. Linda and Ted McNulty

Linda McNulty - March 15 at 08:40 AM

LL

“ I was honored to work with Dr. Hardin during his time at the Fayetteville VA. He was a conscientious and caring physician. He will be missed.

Leslie G. Landrum, MD

Leslie G Landrum - March 15 at 08:07 AM

JW

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the Hardin family at this sorrowful time. God bless and keep you all.

*Jim & Ann wood
North Little Rock (formerly of Tupelo)*

jim wood - March 15 at 06:08 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.



March 15 at 05:48 AM

CD

“ John Michael was a year ahead of me in medical school. He was an avid practitioner of osteopathic Manipulative medicine and would help anyone and everyone who asked. He invited the whole class to his wedding which was a wonderful celebration and just beautiful. He was brilliant, gregarious, and kind. I have followed his family through Facebook through the years. Peace, love, and comfort to you in this difficult time. Heaven just got a little brighter.

Christine DiEnna, DO - March 15 at 01:08 AM

BC

“ Brian Curtis purchased the With Distinction for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.



Brian Curtis - March 14 at 11:59 PM



“ *With Distinction was purchased for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.*



March 14 at 09:17 PM

LK

“ *I am so sorry to hear of his passing. His mother was my teacher at SEARK and I loved her so very much. After reading this he must have had a lot of her qualities. My prayers for the whole family.*
Laura King

Laura King - March 14 at 09:02 PM

CG

“ *A good man who is gone too soon. May his memory continue to be an inspiration for everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him*

Carol Gambrill - March 14 at 09:01 PM

SF

“ *Just the best around. Nobody better. He will be missed tremendously. We love you John Michael.*

Scott Fowler - March 14 at 08:16 PM



“ *I am so very sorry to hear of John's passing. I worked with Sarah at Southeast Arkansas College and as everyone, I grew to Love Dr. Harding so very much!! My prayers go out to Dr. Harding and both of the girls for their loss!! God Bless!!*

Joe Powell - March 14 at 07:51 PM

BD

“ *John Michael was a wonderful young man. He was in my Gifted and Talented English class at Jack Robey Junior High. I know he will be missed. My condolences to all his family.* *Brenda Doucey*

Brenda Doucey - March 14 at 07:10 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.*



March 14 at 06:28 PM

SC

“ *I worked with Dr Hardin at the VA. I was one of his nurses. His compassion for his patients and the love of his family shown everyday. He loved Captain America. I found a drinking cup with Captain America on it. He was so excited he posted on Facebook. He loved his family and always smiled with he talked about his children. I also worked with Dr MCoy. He definitely made a mark on this lifetime and he will always be remembered for his love of family and his patients. You earned your halo and now fly high.*

Shelley Casselman

Shelley Casselman - March 14 at 06:04 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.*



March 14 at 05:33 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.*



March 14 at 05:22 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.*



March 14 at 04:02 PM

MF

“ My heart is broken for my dear friend Sarah and her family, including John Michael's wife, Allison, and his precious girls. John Michael was a wonderful person who I had the privilege of knowing as he was growing up in Pine Bluff. He loved his family, and he was a pleasure to be with. I'm praying for strength and comfort for all he leaves behind. Rest in peace, John Michael.

Mildred Franco - March 14 at 03:29 PM

BZ

“ John Michael aka Captain America. You were a friend to all! Just the very best! . . . you truly cared, you were real, “you were genuine,” you loved big, “you loved unconditionally” & filled this world with great joy and much laughter.

God blessed each whose life you touched, and you touched many! You set a selfless example we should all follow. You exemplified the love and light of Jesus!

Our hearts break the light in our lives has grown dimmer.

Prayers and love to your three princesses, your wonderful family, friends and coworkers until we meet in heaven in my minds eye I can see you standing there with Jesus and hear joyous laughter as you walk and talk together.

Bonnie Zorn - March 14 at 03:17 PM

AR

“ I am saddened to hear of his passing. What an amazing person he was. I can only imagine his spirit is living on with Allison and his girls. He showed up right after the tornado to our temporary office with drinks for a room of strangers. His heart was so big. I feel blessed to have known him even for a short time.

Allison Rhodes - March 14 at 03:02 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.



March 14 at 02:20 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.



March 14 at 01:36 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.



March 14 at 01:30 PM

AS

“ This wonderful human has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember, honestly. Being best friends with Vanessa came with us both being around our annoying younger brothers and that was just the way life was. I would visit their home and find John Michael and his dad sparing or fencing in their studio or find them watching movies together. As we grew older, time changes things, and John Michael became less of a younger sibling and instead, a great friend, father, husband and physician. He is the reason I joined the Multiple Sclerosis Society of NWA Committee years ago to raise awareness and help folks just like him through research and funding. John Michael was an inspiration to everyone he met with his kindness and respect he showed all humans along with his love of humor and sheer joy that he exuded from spending time with his family. I will miss John Michael and will think of him often as he was my brother, friend and inspiration. 💙

Ashley Stone - March 14 at 12:39 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.



March 14 at 12:07 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.*



March 14 at 11:28 AM

SL

“ *My heart is broken for the Hardin family. I was friends with Sara Maria when John Michael was born so I have literally known him his entire life. It has been so great to watch him grow into this amazing husband and father. It was obvious how much he loved his 3 girls and his family. All of this said... he will always be that tiny little boy chasing after the house full of teenagers. He was absolutely precious and so much fun. You will be missed John Michael. Love and prayers for your family!!*

shanna camp lyle - March 14 at 11:04 AM

SS

“ *Vanessa and family I am so sorry to hear the news. My memories of John Micheal in Pine Bluff all include him with a big smile on his face. Prayers to all of you. Wish I could give you a big hug Vanessa 💕💕 Sarah Beth*

sarah beth smart - March 14 at 10:50 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. John Michael Hardin.*



March 14 at 10:37 AM