

# John W. Thornton

April 21, 1936 – July 2, 2022

John W. Thornton, 86, was born in Shawnee, OK, to Vernon and Lucinda Thornton, on April 21, 1936, and passed away on July 2, 2022. He graduated from Bartlesville High School in Bartlesville, OK. Following graduation from high school, he attended Oklahoma State University where received the bachelor's degree. He received the Ph.D. from the University of Washington, after which he began working at Oklahoma State University where he taught biology and zoology for 38 years. During his time at Oklahoma State, he served as President of the Faculty Council. John cherished the outdoors and enjoyed hunting, especially coon hunting, fishing, and wildlife photography. His coon dogs were wonderful hunting companions. After retiring, he joined the Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers Association and especially enjoyed attending the annual meetings held at US national parks throughout the nation. He received several honors from the organization. Friends and family enjoyed his annual calendars featuring some of his favorite shots taken during the past year. John and his wife, Beth, also enjoyed traveling with friends and experienced a number of amazing trips. John was preceded in death by his parents, John and Lucinda Thornton, his brother, Gus Thornton, and his son, David Thornton. He is survived by his wife, Beth, of 66 years, son Bill Thornton (Debie) of Ponca City, OK, his daughter Cindy Thornton (Ian) of Conway, AR, brother Vernon (Becky) of Wellington, FL, two granddaughters (Jennifer and Lyndse); one great granddaughter, Addison, and two great grandsons (Jaelon and Aiden), as well as a number of nieces and nephews.