



Johnny L. Teale

DEC 15, 1954 - MAY 7, 2023



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Johnny L. Teale

DEC 15, 1954 - MAY 7, 2023

John Teale was born December 15, 1954 in Alexandria, Louisiana and passed away peacefully in his home in Tucson, AZ on May 7, 2023.

John spent the majority of his childhood and early adulthood in Albuquerque, NM, graduating from Highland High School in 1972, and earning his bachelors and masters degrees from the University of New Mexico in 1976 and 1978. He moved to Tucson after graduating from UNM and was one of the first 100 people in the IBM Tucson plant. He was influential in IBMs tape business, took 32 trips to Japan and saw the world, has many recordings at the Computer History Museum, and he would tell you to “Google that sh*t” if you want to learn more. One of John Teale’s most significant contributions to IBM was the commercialization of the data storage product line called Linear Tape Open (LTO). Under John’s direction, starting in 1990, IBM Tucson funded prototyping and eventual development of the technologies critical for the success of LTO: time-based servo, longitudinal position encoding, flexure-based actuators, flat head-to-tape interfaces, and adaptation of three generations of film-based magnetoresistive disk heads. John also played a key role in establishing the industry wide LTO consortium. By 2019 LTO outstripped all competitors’ capabilities and ever since maintained 100 percent market share of the data archiving market.

He is survived by his wife Chris Teale, daughter Rikki (Steve) Bellinger, son Brad Teale, Terry Teale, sisters Cindy Harris and Rami Gallegos, step-sons Dylan Telford and Kyle Telford, grandchildren Cora, Marvin and Lucy, Tuxie the cat and Mack the tortoise. John was an avid Kansas City Chiefs, Arizona Diamondbacks, and UNM Lobo fan. In lieu of flowers donations to the University of New Mexico College of Engineering scholarship fund.




Events

Johnny L. Teale

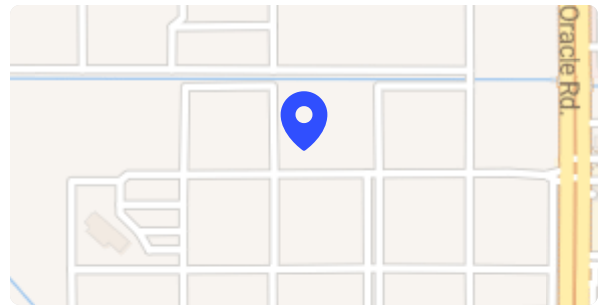
DEC 15, 1954 - MAY 7, 2023

Gathering of Family and Friends

 **Friday, May 12, 2023**


 10:00 AM MT


 **Evergreen Mortuary Chapel**
3015 North Oracle Road, Tucson AZ 85705

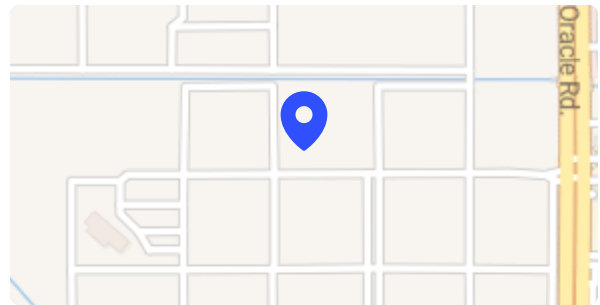


Service

 **Friday, May 12, 2023**

 10:30 AM MT

 **Evergreen Mortuary Chapel**
3015 North Oracle Road, Tucson AZ 85705





Tribute Wall

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Marcia Jakab posted:

Chris, I am so very sorry to find out about John's passing. Almost two years ago already. Please accept my sincere belated condolences. I got a call just this evening (March 31, 2025) from the Town of Marana wanting to speak to a Board Member from Palisades at the Pines. I was shocked, as I moved away 8 years ago . . . and then they asked for Skip Osgood who passed away 5 years ago. That's what led me to Google for John - and then so sad to find out he's gone too. (Skip, John & I used to joke about the only way we could get off that HOA Board was to either move away or die . . . guess we all proved that to be true.) I was fortunate to get to know John through that HOA Board. He was a super guy. It was John's big Christmas Star, on high, shining over the quarry golf course that meant it was officially the holiday season. I will always remember that birthday party you hosted for John in 2016 just before my Bill passed away. We had such a nice time celebrating with you all. Chris, I hope you are doing well. Again, I am so sorry for your loss. You and John were great together. Know that I'm sending a virtual hug your way. Marcia Jakab (formerly N Douglas Fir Dr - now Charleston SC)

March 31 at 6:02 PM



Leslie Meaney posted:

I'm late to this news. John & I had lost contact, and for that, I am extremely saddened. But I still hold a special place in my heart for him. John gave me the most special gift that anyone has ever given me. Spending an enormous number of hours over a period of at least 6 months playing online, John patiently (well, sort of) taught me to play competitive bridge. In one particularly grueling (and frustrating for John) session, I distinctly remember him telling me that he was literally pounding his keyboard to get something through my, at the moment, thick head. He also told me later that it was a labor of love. Once I had finally mastered the skills, bridge enriched my life in so many ways, I cannot possibly put it into words. Thank you and good bye dear friend.

March 12 at 11:21 AM



Cindy Harris posted:

John, I am thinking of you today on your 70th birthday. I managed to post a reel with music to Instagram with just a few pictures; that's a tech win for me. I miss you and loved you so much. Cindy Teale Harris

December 15 at 4:34 AM



Tribute Wall

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AL

Alan O Lebeck posted:

1006 Tramway Lane NE Albuquerque, NM 8712227 March 2024 To the family of John Teale: I was very sorry to find out that John had passed away. You have my deepest sympathy. John Teale was one of the best students I had when I was Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of New Mexico. John was in at least two classes in design I taught to undergraduates. Then he did a Master's degree where he became a Research Assistant on an ONR project. I required all students to do a Master's thesis. He did really good work and we coauthored three reports and two published papers noted below. I was happy to see that John went on to a long career at IBM. We kept track during his early years there but then I left the University and connections faltered. I am very sorry for your loss. Sincerely, Alan Lebeck Former Professor UNM Mechanical Engineering Lebeck, A.O., Teale, J.L., and Pierce, R.E., "Hydrodynamic Lubrication and Wear in Wavy Contacting Face Seals," Journal of Lubrication Technology, Vol. 100, January, 1978, pp. 81-91. Teale, J.L. and Lebeck, A.O., "An Evaluation of the Average Flow Model (1) for Surface Roughness Effects in Lubrication," Journal of Lubrication Technology, Vol. 102, No. 3, July 1980, pp. 360-367. Thesis: Teale, J. L., "Surface Roughness Effects in Hydrodynamic Lubrication," MS Thesis, Mechanical Engineering Department, University of New Mexico, August, 1978.

March 27 at 11:58 AM

RP

Ray Pierce posted:

Our most sincere condolences to Johnny's family. I recently learned of his passing when a mutual friend sent me a Christmas card with the sad news. I met Johnny in June 1976 when he and I started graduate school at UNM. We had the same thesis advisor (Dr. Alan Lebeck) who was also the Principal Investigator of the research project we were both on as Research Assistants. John and I shared an office and worked closely together during those years. Upon graduation, we both got employment offers from IBM Tucson and started working there at the same time. We continued our friendship during those early days at IBM Tucson, although John worked in Product Development in tape drives and I worked in Product Test in floppy disk products. After I left IBM in 1981 we still exchanged Christmas cards, but over the years we unfortunately lost touch. Upon reflection I have many fond memories of Johnny. As so many have already noted, he was super-smart while still being very personable and having a great sense of humor. If we had the same class, I always knew who would be the top student. After my having attended a military academy (college) and just completing a five year tour in the Army, meeting Johnny with his long hair and beard was a refreshing start to my civilian life. And despite the fact that I had been married for four years and starting a family when John was still single we still got along famously. Thank you Johnny for being my friend and introducing me to green chili burgers, Fleetwood Mac, and that dive of a bar on the east side of the Sandias we rode our motorcycles to, where we listened to music, and played pool. Ray and Diane Pierce A donation to the Professor Charles "Gib" Richards Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship fund at the UNM Department of Mechanical Engineering was made in the memory of Johnny L. Teale.

December 20 at 6:17 AM



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Mike Liddicoat And Heather Otto posted:

Chris, We are so sorry to hear about John. I hope you received my email from about two weeks ago, sharing a few thoughts about working with John. Our working relationship from my time in Tape was one of the most positive part of that time. John's technical knowledge and contributions and most importantly John's sense of humor were characteristics I'll always cherish. God bless you and your family. Mike and Heather

May 25 at 2:12 PM



Christine Teale July 10 at 3:00 PM

Hi Mike and Heather sorry to respond so late. Yes I received your email and read your story at the service . Thank you !



Daniel Winarski posted:

A donation to the Computer History Museum has been made in memory of John Teale. Accompanying the donation was this statement: "John had the unique ability to bring people with diverse skills together and focus them on the common goal of advancing tape archival storage. John's insight and technical background led the Linear Tape Open "Ultrium" team at IBM to unimagined levels of lasting accomplishment." John, this could not have happened without you, Daniel Winarski

May 21 at 12:02 PM

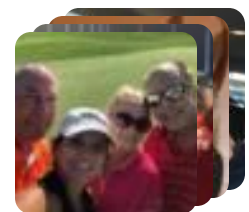


Christine Teale July 10 at 3:02 PM

Thank you Dan



Chris Teale shared 23 photos to the **Family, Friends, and Fun** album.



May 9 at 9:27 AM



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ES

Erik Solhjell posted:

I am deeply sorry to hear of John's passing. I had the pleasure of meeting John many times over more than 20-25 years when I was heading the tape drive development at Tandberg Data and later when I had started Tandberg Storage where we developed a series of half height LTO drives. I also had the special pleasure of meeting John here in Norway, and I still remember the nice dinner we had one evening at Lillehammer with a very interesting technical discussion afterwards lasting until the early morning. John was technically brilliant, but he was also a very warm and kind person. My deepest condolences to his family. Erik Solhjell Oslo, Norway

May 15 at 8:17 AM

EA

Enrique Aviles posted:

Very sad to hear of John's passing. Our deepest condolences to his family. John was a brilliant technologist, with many significant contributions to tape data storage. His leadership and talent for negotiation led to the amazing success of LTO, which continues as the dominant tape technology in use today. Enrique and Jennifer Aviles

May 12 at 5:41 AM

BJ

Brad Johns posted:

I am very sorry to hear of John's passing. It was my pleasure to have worked with John for over twelve years in Tucson. He was one of the smartest, most articulate technical visionaries I've ever worked with. His leadership and passion for the LTO program resulted in one of the most successful storage industry products of all time. As a marketing and business guy I learned an incredible amount about tape storage technology from him. He also was a skilled negotiator and demonstrated his talent when dealing with other members of the LTO consortium. He was a bigger-than-life character, and I'll also remember and treasure the time we worked together. Brad Johns

May 12 at 4:46 AM



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Mike Conklin posted:

I am very sorry to hear of John's passing. I am so blessed I was able to visit with him in Tucson last year. It was really fun and touching to reminisce our IBM adventures if only for a short visit. John and I worked together on multiple tape products over the years. We bumped heads, compromised and made deals for the success of the tape programs. John was always able to build bridges across the organizations to move products forward when others would throw in the towel. It was John's true grit that I remember and admired most. Those grueling development and manufacturing technical challenges, endless investigations and sleepless trips to Japan. No one at IBM could match John's determination and stamina. I learned many lessons from John. His critical thinking, technical skills and leadership were an example to all of us. May you rest in peace John, Kanpai! Mike Conklin

May 11 at 1:52 PM



Satoshi Wada posted:

I am very sorry to hear your loss. You were leading not only technology but also business of tape products. It was great experience for Yonezawa team to work with you. We missed you but will be always in our memory. Satoshi Wada from Yonezawa

May 11 at 12:31 PM



Blair Finkelstein posted:

Many will recall John's technical brilliance and product management skills. I, however, will always remember his humor, his joy, and his grace under pressure.

May 11 at 7:01 AM



Terry Lieber posted:

If it wasn't for John, I would have missed out on some really good music. He would let Rami and me listen to his albums when we were in junior high. I still remember hearing Elton John for the first time at Rami and John's. And of course Bruce Springsteen. Funny the things we remember.

May 11 at 5:14 AM



Anonymous sent an Enchanted Cottage to the Teale family.



May 11 at 5:04 AM



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MS

Marcia Sampson posted:

Rikki & Steve, I am so sorry for your loss. Know you are both in my thoughts. Marcia Sampson

May 11 at 4:49 AM

KR

Kevin Reardon posted:

I am so very sorry to hear about John. I am really going to miss him. I have so many great memories, it's hard to think about him not being here to make new ones, but the ones I have are very special to me. I met John at IBM and we became close friends working together on a midrange tape product that we both thought would change the industry. Unfortunately, it didn't change the industry, but meeting John did change my life as our two families spent weekends and vacations together for years. Probably the thing we were both most proud of is inventing LTO and watching it become the dominant tape product in the industry. The memory of John and I sitting in my backyard having a few beers and brainstorming LTO will always be with me, but the things that I remember the best are all the times we spent together shooting pool, listening to music, and spending time with our "extended" co-joined families. John was incredibly intelligent, talented, insightful and fun to be with. He was my very best friend and I'll never know anyone like him again. In many ways we were fire and ice, and that's probably why it worked so well. Listening to music was a big part of our lives and relationship. There are so many songs that were important to both of us. We wore out more than a few copies of Exile On Mainstreet, lots of Bruce Springsteen, Jethro Tull, Oasis and Prince. I don't have a single song I can think of that defines him but there are so many that when I listen to them, he immediately comes to mind ... and always will. Kevin and Gwen Reardon

May 11 at 2:41 AM

FO

From Keiichi Okada sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Teale family.



May 10 at 11:36 PM



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Bob Maness posted:

There are few times in life you are privileged to be part of a transformation in an industry. John was the kingpin of such an event with the development and delivery of LTO. I was privileged to know John and be part of that team. He was a brilliant man and taught me a lot. As a "marketing wonk" and not much of a tape guy in an engineering world, I was pretty much an outsider when the LTO project started. John brought me in to the team, respected what I said, and never patronized me or made me feel like I had no value. He had a great sense of humor, smart as a whip, was unflappable, and took no shit. A truly amazing man. The world was so much better that he was here and so much worse that he left. I wish him the best in the next world.

May 10 at 2:46 PM



Koji Goto posted:

Dear Mark-san,I was deeply saddened to learn about the loss of Teale -san by Wada-san. Please accept my heartfelt condolences. Teale-san was an exceptional individual whose presence will be greatly missed. As you are aware, his dedication, passion, and commitment to the LTO business was truly inspiring. He had a unique ability to bring enthusiasm and energy to every project, and his expertise and contributions were invaluable to NEC.I certainly miss him however he will be in our spirits.Pray for Teale-san.Thank you.Koji Goto from Tokyo.

May 10 at 12:16 PM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful Dreams to the Teale family.



May 10 at 10:30 AM



Anonymous sent a Serene Retreat to the Teale family.



May 10 at 10:16 AM



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Barry Rudolph posted:

John was an amazing guy. One of the smartest guys I have ever known - technically and in terms of human behavior and how an entire industry worked. He was able to navigate technical innovation, market innovation, and the chess game of all the players in the industry. He made an impact that changed an entire industry and had a personal impact on many people throughout the world. But John was a lot more than this. More than a brilliant executive, he was a person that was fun to be around. He had a curiosity about so many things and wanted to accomplish things that could not be done with conventional thinking. After we both retired we had great, thought provoking discussions about science, people, society, the origins of the universe, health, healthcare I could keep going on topics. These were all just a heck of a lot of fun, enjoyable times together. Even after the last set of health challenges we still had great discussions by email or text. John was precise but enjoyed pushing himself. He was also a fighter. Some of the last text conversations we had were about technology that could allow for natural voice AI assisted speech technology and research he had been doing on several companies pioneering this. He made a positive impact on so many, changed an industry, and made life a lot for enjoyable for all of us that knew him. Special human that I will miss - but given his broad curiosity I hope he now knows all the secrets of the universe ...

May 10 at 10:14 AM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Teale family.



May 10 at 9:37 AM



Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Teale family.



May 10 at 12:12 AM



Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Teale family.



May 9 at 12:42 PM



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Strength & Solace Spray to the Teale family.

May 9 at 11:35 AM



Bruce Master lit a candle in honor of Johnny.

I am so sad to hear about John's passing. I worked with John on the LTO program at IBM and admired his intellect, leadership, insights and strategies as well as his sense of humor. I also played golf with John and his golf game and golf stories made the outings that much more enjoyable. Rest in peace, Johnny...God Bless!

May 9 at 11:23 AM



Richard Myers posted:

John was responsible for leading the development of the most successful tape storage product in history... I remember traveling with him to Japan to meet with NEC in the late 90's... John was an outstanding engineer and he was able to convince NEC to partner with IBM to create the first LTO tape drive. His team in Tucson worked closely with NEC over the next two years and solved new engineering challenges to create the highest density tape storage. John always enjoyed taking on what others might consider impossible, and he had a way of inspiring others to join his vision of what could be. I'm so proud to have called him a friend.

May 9 at 9:27 AM



Media

Johnny L. Teale

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Chris Teale shared 23 photos to the **Family, Friends, and Fun** album.

May 21 at 8:06 AM





Media

Johnny L. Teale

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CT





Media

Johnny L. Teale

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CT



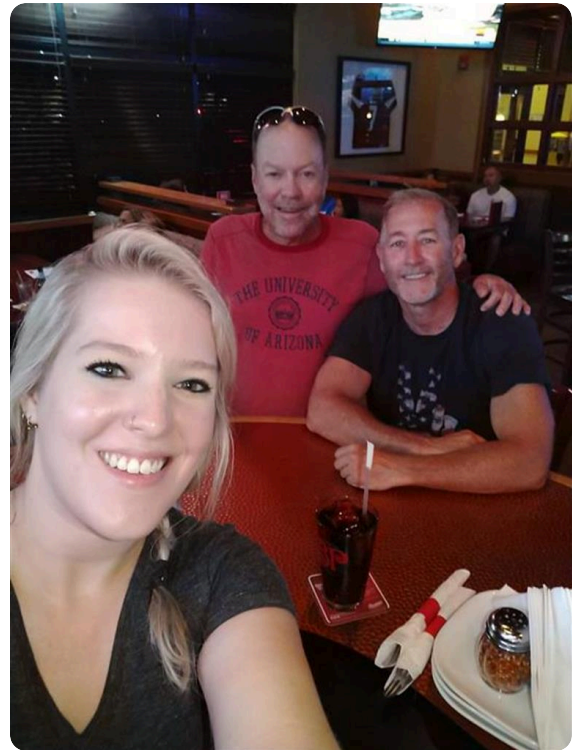


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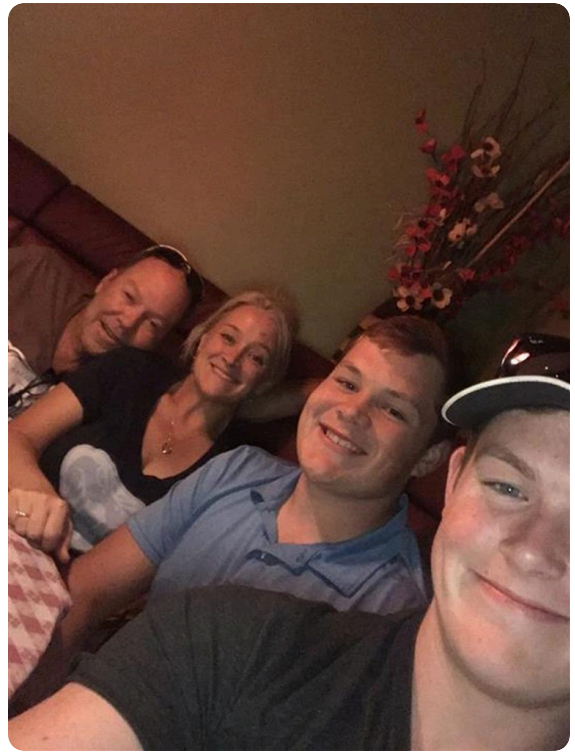


Media

Johnny L. Teale

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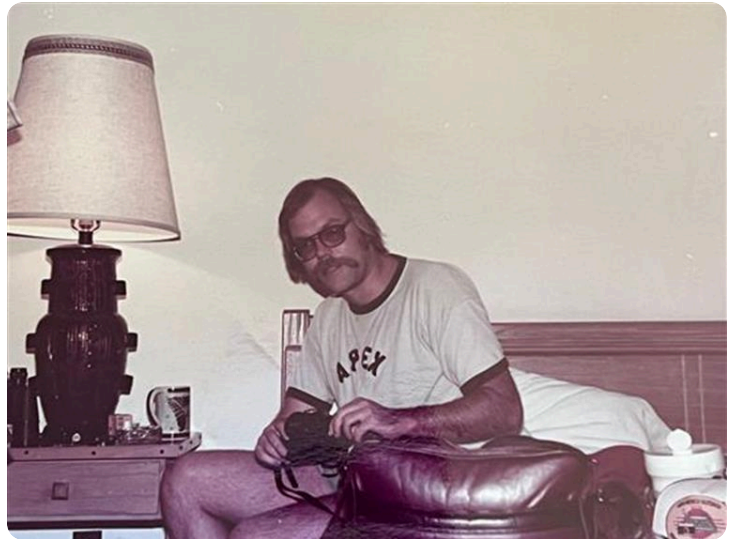


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CT





Media

Johnny L. Teale

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CT





Memories only last if you share them

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



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