Quiet Hero of Gonzalez: Serving America, Serving Water, Serving the Lord

Subtitle: The Public Stewardship of John Jeremiah and Gonzalez Utilities

Life Marked by Steady Faithfulness

John Jeremiah Jr. was born on February 19, 1946, in Panama City, Florida. After graduating from Bay High School in 1964, he earned his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Florida in June 1970.

He began his professional career that same year as an electrical engineer in Pensacola at Monsanto, later known as Solutia. His work required precision, responsibility, and careful stewardship. Those same qualities would define his entire life. John retired from Solutia in 2001 as a Senior Engineering Specialist.

But John's commitment to service extended far beyond his profession.

Serving America with Honor

John joined the Army Reserves in 1970 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on June 13, 1970. Over the next twenty plus years, he served faithfully in leadership and intelligence roles, eventually commanding a company.

His promotions reflected consistent trust and proven character:

- First Lieutenant in 1973
- Captain in 1978
- Major in 1982
- Lieutenant Colonel in 1989

He retired from military service in 1991 and later transferred to the Retired Reserves in 1994. His nation benefited from his discipline, courage, and leadership.
Yet even while serving in uniform, he was quietly building something just as impactful at home.

Protecting the Water of Gonzalez Since 1994

John began volunteering with Gonzalez Utilities in 1994. For over 30 years John has given his time to ensure that families with Gonzalez Utilities have safe, reliable water and he continues serving the community of Gonzalez.

His name appears again and again in the official record of service, serving as Vice President and President multiple times between 1994 and 2025. But his impact cannot be measured by titles alone.

Yes, he has led in board meetings.
Yes, he has helped oversee budgets and steward resources carefully.
Yes, he has helped protect what has been reported as some of the purest water in Escambia County.
But his service does not stop at administration.

Leadership in Boots, Not Just in a Suit

John does not confine himself to the boardroom.
He sweeps the parking lot.
He trims trees.
He watches over the employees.
He checks on things personally.
He takes some of the staff fishing.
He does whatever needs to be done.
He is present. Quietly there, but boldly present for service.
He is not above any task. If something needs attention, he handles it. If something needs cleaning, he cleans it. If something needs oversight, he gives it careful attention.

That kind of leadership creates a culture of honor and accountability.
Thousands of people are impacted every day because one man chose not to simply hold a title, but to serve.

A Man of Prayer and Light

John loves the Lord.

He opens meetings in prayer.
He prays over meals.
He brings a steady, quiet brightness wherever he goes.
He does not seek attention, yet his faith is unmistakable. His leadership is shaped by his devotion to God. The integrity with which he handles public resources flows from his personal walk with the Lord.

When thousands of homes receive clean water, they may not realize that behind that system stands a man who prays.

Behind the infrastructure stands faithfulness.
Behind the budgets stands stewardship.
Behind the operations stands prayer.

Faithfulness You Can Taste

The next time you drink a glass of water, wash your dishes, brush your teeth, water your lawn, wash your car, or even flush, remember this:

Safe water does not happen by accident.
It takes oversight.
It takes sacrifice.
It takes integrity.
It takes someone willing to serve in both visible and invisible ways.

For more than five decades, John Jeremiah has done just that.
He has served his nation.
He has served his profession.
He has served his community.
He has served his Lord.
And because he did, thousands of families are healthier, safer, and blessed.

Honoring a Quiet Hero

John Jeremiah's life reminds us that greatness is not loud. It is steady. It is faithful. It shows up year after year and does whatever is needed.
Not just in the boardroom.
Not just in administration.
But in the parking lot.
In the trees.
In the small tasks no one else sees.
His faithfulness flows further than he may ever know.
And an entire community drinks from the fruit of his service.