

John Oliver Platz, 86, of Atlanta, died Thursday, July 10, 2008.

He was born July 10, 1922, in Texarkana, Ark., to Alice Mary Crook and John Henry Platz. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He worked 21 years for the General Merchandise Company in Milwaukee. General Merchandise then merged with JC Penney Company to form a catalogue division, and he continued with the organization for four more years. He later worked for Stone Marketing Corporation in Boston. As a pioneer of the mail order business and an inventor, his expertise was sought by Sam Walton and Warren Buffet. He retired in 1979. He met his future wife, Ann Williams Platz, on a trip to the Holy Land in 1980. He moved to Atlanta and became a partner in Ann Platz & Co., an interior design firm and writing and speaking organization. He was a member of Mount Paran Church of God in Atlanta.

Survivors include: his wife, Ann Platz; a son, John Joseph Platz; two daughters, Courtney Zankowski and Margo McDonald; three sisters, Ellen Rumbach, Juanita Barba and Ernie Smith; seven grandchildren, Jonathan Platz, Jeremy Platz, Ivey Williams, Dickson Jones, Morris Mirmow, Catherine McDonald and Stuart McDonald; and two great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Sunday at Mount Paran Church of God. Memorial donations can be sent to Wellspring Living, 140 Howell Road, suite C2, Tyrone, GA 30290; or Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, 1 Billy Graham Parkway, Charlotte, NC 28201.

Beck Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements. An online guestbook is available at [www.beckfuneralhome.com](http://www.beckfuneralhome.com).

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