



John Bolden

September 14, 1950 - July 23, 2025

Johnnie "John" Bolden was born on September 14, 1950, to James and Bessie Bolden in Winter Park, Florida. He was preceded in death by his parents. Throughout his life, John demonstrated an unwavering commitment to his family and community.

From an early age, John professed his faith and was baptized, upholding the values of persistence, education, and devotion. As a lifelong member of Ward Chapel AME Church for over 70 years, he remained actively involved until his passing, contributing to various boards and committees to support the church's foundation and future viability. His dedication ensured that the church continued to serve successive generations, just as it had supported him.

John graduated from Winter Park High School in 1968, excelling in Track and Field, and served as a drum major at Hungerford High School. He pursued higher education at Florida A&M University, where he joined the Alpha X chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated in the spring of 1969 and obtained a bachelor's degree in business in 1972.

John began his career in the automotive industry with General Motors Inc. in Michigan. In 1983, he transitioned to the Chrysler Corporation, where he held several leadership roles, culminating in his retirement as the Regional Manager of Wholesale Parts in 2008. He forged enduring professional

relationships and was particularly respected for his mentorship, guidance, and commitment to supporting both colleagues and friends in their professional development.

In 1978, John married Blanche Smith in Cleveland, Ohio. Over the next 47 years, their love continued to grow, and they were blessed with two sons, Marcus and Brian, whom they raised with strong values emphasizing excellence, faith, education, and community service. Through example, John demonstrated the values of being a devoted husband, immediate family, and he mentored many young people and acted as a father figure to those in need, offering guidance, counsel, and steadfast support.

His love for giving back to Winter Park, along with 13 other members, led to chartering the Winter Park Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi in 1992. John relished in pouring back into his community through the chapter's Kappa League and welcoming dozens of new Brothers into the Bond, including his sons and nephews.

Widely respected for his character and integrity, and since, John approached every relationship with integrity, kindness, and engagement. He took pride in sharing experiences from his academic and professional life, celebrating the successes of loved ones, and participating in meaningful conversations. Whether serving in church leadership, organizing reunions, or maintaining connections with classmates and fraternity brothers, his optimism was evident. John's legacy of generosity, wisdom, and unwavering encouragement continues to inspire all who knew

John was preceded in death by his brothers Willie James Bolden (Dianna) and Eddie Bolden, his mother, Bessie Bolden, and his father, James L. Bolden.

John's cherished memory lives on through his beloved wife, Blanche; his sons, John Marcus Bolden Jessica) of Portland, OR, and Brian James Bolden (Sharell) of Dallas, TX, and his treasured grandchildren, Brian James Bolden II, John Marcus Bolden II, Brantley Royce, and Makayla Lynne. He will also be remembered by his sister, Betty Anderson of Maitland, FL, and his lifelong best friend and confidant, Deborah Kirby of Winter Park, FL. He is also held in high regard by a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family, and many dear friends whose lives were enriched by his kindness, wisdom, and signature laugh.

Cemetery Details

Pineywood Cemetery

1900 S Lakemont Avenue
Winter Park, FL 32790

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 1. 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM (ET)

Ward Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church
160 S. Pennsylvania Avenue
Winter Park, FL 32789

Service

AUG 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

Ward Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church
160 S. Pennsylvania Avenue
Winter Park, FL 32789

Tribute Wall

MS

“ *MONICA DENISE SCOTT lit a candle in memory of John Bolden*



MONICA DENISE SCOTT - August 15, 2025 at 02:05 PM

MA

“ *He will definitely be missed. We had so much fun and conversations of laughter. He was a jewel! Ms.Mary and Family*

Mary - August 02, 2025 at 11:28 AM

AA

“ *Blanche, Marcus and Brian, Our sincerest Condolences. You and the family are forever in our prayers.
The Allen Family*



Alicia Allen - August 02, 2025 at 01:56 AM

SL

“ To Blanche, Marcus and Brian. I am at such a loss for words and as John knew about me this doesn't happen often. But when you lose a friend and brother like John, the words don't seem to come the way you you want to express them. John has been one of my closest friends and confidants in the world for over 20 years. We would talk a minimum of two or more times per week. We often talked about our families, friends, church and fraternity, not to mention the good old times at Chrysler. Blanche, Marcus and Brian be encouraged. The God we serve doesn't make mistakes. If he had asked for input with this decision, I would have asked for more time with my Brother. Since he didn't, I take comfort knowing John is with him.

Sid Lyles

Sidney Lyles - August 01, 2025 at 03:29 PM

DB

CONDOLENCE to the family.
Diane Bell Cleveland, Oh

Diane Bell - August 02, 2025 at 09:45 AM

CJ

“ My condolences to the family 🙏



Cheryl M Jamieson - August 01, 2025 at 03:06 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of John Bolden.*



August 01, 2025 at 11:53 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of John Bolden.*



August 01, 2025 at 09:56 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Bolden.*

August 01, 2025 at 09:56 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Bolden.*



August 01, 2025 at 09:05 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Bolden.*

August 01, 2025 at 09:05 AM

JM

“ Johnie and I worked together at Chrysler Service and Parts Operations Orlando for many years. I will never forget his laugh. So free and given with true honesty.

John Mielke - July 31, 2025 at 08:15 PM

WC

“ Wanda ,Kyle and Cori Cunningham purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of John Bolden.



Wanda ,Kyle and Cori Cunningham - July 31, 2025 at 03:20 PM

WC

“ Wanda ,Kyle and Cori Cunningham planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Bolden.

Wanda ,Kyle and Cori Cunningham - July 31, 2025 at 03:20 PM

PA

“ You are a blessing. Laughter is truly the best medicine. It's a highway to heaven, none can walk up there, but the pure in heart...you are now walking up the King's Highway. Rest Well. Rev. Patrea



Patrea - July 30, 2025 at 10:17 PM

TF

“ *The Keelan Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John Bolden.*



The Keelan Family - July 30, 2025 at 09:01 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of John Bolden.

July 30, 2025 at 09:00 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Bolden.*



July 30, 2025 at 09:00 PM

NI

“ *Nike purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of John Bolden.*



Nike - July 30, 2025 at 06:21 PM

DB

“ Douglas & Jacque Bass purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of John Bolden.



Douglas & Jacque Bass - July 30, 2025 at 05:05 PM

NF

“ Nathaniel Ponder and family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John Bolden.



Nathaniel Ponder and family - July 30, 2025 at 03:34 PM

YF

“ Yang family purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of John Bolden.



Yang family - July 30, 2025 at 11:29 AM

TF

“ The Hill Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John Bolden.



The Hill Family - July 30, 2025 at 08:30 AM

MH

“ Melodi H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Bolden.

Melodi H. - July 29, 2025 at 08:48 PM

MI

“ John was an Amazing Hero of Mine!
I Respected & Honored him as a Friend.
And, I send My Love to myDarling Blanche at this Time of such
Heartbreak.
You are like 'MyFamily' Always, Beyond Forever.
I'll Always Treasure a Moment years ago, when John stepped in &
rescued me!
John Bolden was such a Galant Gentleman.
I Cherish MyBlanche & I send MyLove to the entire Family at this
Sad Time.
May God watch over The Bolden Family!
MissMary (& myJohn, the Cradles)

MissMary - July 29, 2025 at 02:25 PM

WG

“ Willie Gregory planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Bolden.

Willie Gregory - July 29, 2025 at 12:05 PM

WG

“ Willie Gregory purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of John Bolden.



Willie Gregory - July 29, 2025 at 12:05 PM

MF

“ *Blanche & family, Betty and the Bolen family,
Sending our heartfelt condolences, prayers and love in the passing
of John who touched so many and was a great friend also, he will
truly be missed. May the love you'll shared and God's Comforting
Grace cover you during this time of grief. 🙏❤️🙏*

Mary Raglin Daniels & family

Mary Raglin Daniels & Family - July 29, 2025 at 10:45 AM

DB

“ *To Blanche, Marcus and Brian I thank you for sharing your husband
and dad with my family. John gave so much of himself helping
others. There are no words to describe the emptiness I feel in my
heart. Remember Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot Heal.
May God's Grace and Love that you shared comfort you at this
difficult time. John is with his Heavenly Father and all of us who
believe will see him again in the presence of the Lord. Until then
RIP my Brother.*

Dianna Bolden - July 29, 2025 at 07:37 AM

RB

“ *To the Bolden Family. Wishing you our
sincere condolences. Words of sympathy feel
inadequate in expressing grief and sorrow for
a loss so great. Sending a warm embrace and
all our love during this sad time.*

Ron & Doris Brookins

Ronald Brookins - July 29, 2025 at 07:33 AM



PC

“ To Bolden family and my best friend Betty Anderson Bolden condolences my little bro John RIP god love you so do i

Phyllis D Cooper - July 28, 2025 at 06:52 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of John Bolden.



July 28, 2025 at 06:29 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Bolden.



July 28, 2025 at 05:45 PM

MG

“ Mel and Catherine Garner planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Bolden.

Mel and Catherine Garner - July 28, 2025 at 04:12 PM

MG

“ Mel and Catherine Garner purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of John Bolden.



Mel and Catherine Garner - July 28, 2025 at 04:12 PM

DB

“ To Blanche, Marcus & Brian no words can express my appreciation for sharing your Husband and Dad with me and my family. John, my brother in law shared so much of himself with others. John will be missed by my family and so many others. John was my go to person when I needed answers, encouragement and reassurance. Every two weeks we talked about our faith in God, love for our families, difficulties in our life, our children and how blessed we were to be able to talk to each other. I hope the following words will be encouraging: Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot Heal. May God's Grace and the Love you Shared comfort you at this difficult time. RIP my Brother

Dianna Bolden - July 28, 2025 at 03:54 PM

JF

“ Joseph Morrell and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Bolden.

Joseph Morrell and family - July 27, 2025 at 07:38 PM

JF

“ Joseph Morrell and family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of John Bolden.



Joseph Morrell and family - July 27, 2025 at 07:38 PM

KA

“Buddy, I love you forever and then some. Thank you for Marcus! Thank you for Brian! Thank you for Mrs. Bolden! Thank you for the memories we will always have! I promise we will keep taking care of each other and I've got the kids! Our family prayers will always hear your voice! I love you so much!

kailey - July 26, 2025 at 11:00 PM

GM

“John and I worked together for Years at Chrysler. Our Deepest Sympathy. Our Hearts and Prayers go out to the Family. He will be missed.

Gaylon Morgan Retired Area Manager

Gaylon Morgan - July 26, 2025 at 10:08 PM

CM

“I don't no him on a personal level I no his niece Tanisha Lewis !! my sincere condolences to the family and friend's may they be comforted and find peace in the days ahead 🙏💜

Carla Moore - July 26, 2025 at 05:37 PM

T4

“The Fab 4 purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of John Bolden.



The Fab 4 - July 26, 2025 at 01:46 PM

T4

“ The Fab 4 planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Bolden.

The Fab 4 - July 26, 2025 at 01:46 PM

MD

“ Sending our sincere condolences, prayers and love to Blanche Bolden & family and Betty Bolden Anderson & family that God's Comforting Grace and the love you shared during this time of grief 🙏

Mary Raglin Daniels & family

Mary Rsglin Daniels - July 25, 2025 at 02:59 AM

GP

John will be missed, my brother Windell and john were childhood friends now they're together again. Rest my brother 🙏🙏🙏💖

Glenn Paige - July 25, 2025 at 08:27 AM



To Blanche and the Bolden Family my heartfelt condolences. Thank you for sharing John with us. We have known each other all of our lives. John was my special person. We were each other's go to person. I thank God for allowing us to have that wonderful, joyful, joking and serious brother sister relationship. John you paid the trump card that finally left me speechless. I know you love the Lord and I know you are with your father God, but it doesn't mean that I will not miss you..Who am I going to call now? Rest my brother..until we meet again...

Pearl Ings

Pearl Ings - July 29, 2025 at 10:14 AM

EW

To the Bolden Family, Blanche, Marcus and Brian. Please rest assured that the assembly of saints are rejoicing as they have received another saint in the heavenly band. John was a faithful friend and colleague whose laughter was contagious, his smile was disarming and his demeanor was always unassuming. It was a pleasure to have known him for almost 40 years. Working along side of him on the Hungerford Trust we witnessed a man committed to helping the youth of our area and whose tenacity for doing good was unparalleled! May he rest in the arms of the Almighty...

Edwin and Deborah Wright

Edwin Wright - July 31, 2025 at 04:17 PM