



John L Holliday Sr

December 12, 1949 - January 1, 2025

John L. Holliday was born December 12th 1949 in Wilmington North Carolina to William and Florence Holliday. He departed this earth to be with the Lord January 1st 2025 .

John was educated in the Wilmington North Carolina public school system and received his degree from Winston-Salem University where he was a standout football player and member of the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity.

John worked as a counselor for several years at Sycamore Group Home where he was a mentor and father figure to troubled young men. He believed everyone should have a someone to listen to. After his departure from the group home; John worked for and retired from Louis Dreyfus Distribution Center and became an owner and operator of MJ-VEL Janitorial Services.

John loved being a provider for his family and was a devoted husband to Mattie Holliday for 48 years. John never missed an opportunity to shower the love of his life with many expressions of love and truly exemplified the sanctity of marriage.

He was a man of integrity, humility, wisdom and thoughtfulness. Alongside his wife, John was and remained a champion for individuals with mental and physical disabilities helping to raise and care for numerous children and adults

until his passing.

John was a lover of the ocean and loved to be near the beaches where he could fish until the sun retired. He especially loved returning home to Wilmington NC to be with family and to go fishing. In addition to fishing John loved watching his Yankees, was an avid gardener and enjoyed researching The Buffalo Soldiers.

John especially loved to shop for his family and never met a Costco, BJ's Shop Rite or The Restaurant Depot he didn't like. His favorite drink of choice was his beloved Fiji Water and Coconut Water.

John leaves to cherish his beautiful memories to his wife Mattie Holliday, son John Holliday Jr.(Rayna) daughter Tina Williams (Don) daughter Loretta Bryson (Larry II) Demetrius Pinder (Heather) Andre Ricks (Marlene) Ronydall Dobson, daughter Tracy Matthews, Ronald Gibler Parents (Preceded in death William and Florence Holliday. Siblings: Willeen Holden (Preceded) Earline James, William Holliday, James Holliday (Joann) Patricia Mack (Ernest) Grandchildren Kayla, TyQuan, Khaiyla, Branden, Brea, Brianna, Jamere, Jayda, Gabriella, Tre'Sean, Jamysiah, Jayvon, Larry Bryson III. Special grands: Austin, Dustin, Zakiya, Genesis Longtime friend: Artis Owens. Special niece Sharron Dixon Host of nieces and nephews.

John's favorite ending remarks was "I love you and there's nothing you can do about it"

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 18. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Gore Funeral Home
1910 Lancaster Ave
Wilmington, DE 19805
(302) 274-2960

Celebration of Life

JAN 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

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1910 Lancaster Ave
Wilmington, DE 19805
(302) 274-2960

Tribute Wall



“ Gore Funeral Home created a John Holliday Memorial Service in memory of John L Holliday Sr



Gore Funeral Home - January 17, 2025 at 11:59 AM

RM

“ 🙏

Roxanne Meade - January 19, 2025 at 08:49 AM

RM

“ I call a good friend on Dec.29,2024 Sunday evening in Delaware,I ask about John and Maddie, I was told John had a injury but do not worry then I see Johns obituary in January 2025 GOD KNOWS ALL THINGS 🙏

My dear friend JOHN LEE HOLIDAY SR.rest in peace to a King that you are.My heartfelt condolences to the Holiday family/all his loved ones that cross his path just as I was bless to have 🙏💜🙏✝️
Roxanne Meade-South Carolina



Roxanne Meade - January 18, 2025 at 02:45 PM

GA

“ On New Year’s Day, we said goodbye to a remarkable man, a man whose presence in our lives was as unexpected as it was extraordinary. Poppa Holliday was not just a relative; he became family in the truest sense of the word. We discovered this connection years ago, during a simple business transaction, that he was my grandmother’s cousin. But it wasn’t just the family ties that made him a treasure—it was his heart, his wisdom, and his unwavering support.

In a year that was defined by tragedy and heartache, it was Poppa Holliday who was there when we needed him most. He was there, offering comfort, and most importantly, perspective. When the world felt heavy and broken, he knew exactly what to say to lift me up. He helped me reclaim my strength, reminding me of my success. His words—gentle, yet powerful—empowered me as a mother, as a woman, and as a person healing from deep pain. I am so grateful as many are for God blessing us with his presence.

*Poppa Holliday never faltered in his role as a mentor and guide. He knew what it meant to be strong, wise, and respected. His strength wasn’t just in his actions but in the way he treated others—with kindness, respect, and the quiet dignity that comes from a life well-lived. He taught my children, now adults and myself that real strength isn’t loud or boastful; it’s steady, enduring, and full of grace. He will forever have a special place in my heart, gone but never forgotten. Momma Holliday, I pray that you are comforted and know that you will continue to have our support and prayers. Lovingly,
Gayle*

Gayle - January 17, 2025 at 03:33 PM

TA

“ Poppa Holiday was the true embodiment of what it means to be a man. In our family’s time of greatest need, he stood by us with unwavering support, offering not only his prayers but his strength and kindness. His words were a beacon of hope, reminding us that even in our darkest moments, there was always light at the end of the tunnel.

Poppa’s compassion, wisdom, and generosity touched us all in ways words can’t fully capture. He will be deeply missed, but his legacy will live on forever in our hearts. We will honor him with the respect he deserves and carry his memory with us always.- love always Tahira

Tahira - January 17, 2025 at 10:52 AM

SF

“ In loving memory of a truly wonderful man.
from: Michael Horstman & Michele San-Horstman



San-Horstman Family - January 16, 2025 at 11:50 PM

PM

“ Patricia (Bea) and Mack purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of John L Holliday Sr.



Patricia (Bea) and Mack - January 16, 2025 at 03:48 PM

DP

“ I’ll forever be grateful for the love, protection & care provided by my Dad, John Holliday Sr. He instilled a strong work ethic and taught me that loyalty and respect are paramount. God bless to The Best!



Demetrius Pinder - January 14, 2025 at 09:29 PM



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

January 14, 2025 at 09:15 PM

MO

“ Mom purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John L Holliday Sr.



Mom - January 13, 2025 at 09:56 PM

CT

“ Charles Talley lit a candle in memory of John L Holliday Sr



Charles Talley - January 10, 2025 at 06:28 PM

VH

“ Valerie Hubbard-Bell lit a candle in memory of John L Holliday Sr



Valerie Hubbard-Bell - January 10, 2025 at 04:21 PM

MM

“ Mickey Merckling planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John L Holliday Sr.

Mickey Merckling - January 10, 2025 at 08:25 AM

MM

“ Mickey Merckling purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of John L Holliday Sr.



Mickey Merckling - January 10, 2025 at 08:25 AM

PJ

“ *To Mattie and Family:*

We, the members of the Winston-Salem State University Class of 1973, are deeply saddened to hear of the passing of our dear classmate; I (Prince) met John as we shared our freshman college year in Brown Hall at WSSU; needless to say, a camaraderie formed between the fellas that arrived from various places and stayed on the 5th Floor of the dorm; we formed friendships that would never be forgotten. May John, who we nicknamed (Doc Holliday) from the character of the then tv show Gunsmoke, rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon him; until that great day when we all shall meet again; we stand on the promises of God. Amen!!! Alleluia!!!! Ramily Forever - Prince and Nancy Patterson Jernigan: Severna Park, MD - WSSU Class of 1973.



Prince and Nancy Jernigan - January 09, 2025 at 06:43 PM