



Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis

June 20, 1923 - January 6, 2018

Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis departed this life Saturday, January 2, 2018. He was born June 20, 1923, the son of Ples and Elizabeth (Bush) Lewis-Hemphill in Inverness, MS. John left home at the age of 16 and resided in New Orleans, Louisiana. At the age of 18, he returned to Mississippi until he moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan in 1951.

John went to Mississippi every couple of weeks for years to move families from Mississippi to Kalamazoo. He helped many of his family and friends migrate to the north for better opportunities in the 1950's.

John was employed by Wiseman Brothers Company until his retirement.

John accepted Christ at an early age. He was a faithful member of Friendship Baptist Church for 60 years and was an active member until he went home to be with the Lord. He served as a Trustee and also sang with the Male Chorus. He displayed a loyal commitment to his faith, laboring for most of his 94 years through song, singing in numerous quartets groups from Mississippi to Michigan in such groups as the Golden Bells, Gospel Tornados, Southernaires and the Gospelairees.

John was known by many affectionate names such as "JT", "Jake", "Cooter", "Granddad" and "Old Man". He loved singing with a passion as he would wake

up and start singing in the middle of the night. He could fill the house with a gospel song at anytime of the day. He also enjoyed talking on the phone to everyone and spending time with family and friends.

John also ways lived by the motto, "Your Word Is Your Bond". He never met a stranger and would always make you feel at home. He would give the shirt off his back. But, most of all he kept in contact with his family near and far weekly. He also looked forward to eating at Cracker Barrel every Friday and Sunday. John could keep family and friends attention captivated for hours telling stories about his life and experiences over the years. Those stories and all the words of wisdom will greatly be missed.

John was preceded in death by his parents, Ples and Elizabeth (Bush) Lewis-Hemphill; stepfather, Walter Hemphill; 4 brothers, WG Lewis, Sam Lewis, Walter Hemphill Jr. and Andrew Hemphill; 2 sisters, Lurenza Johnson and Annie Bell Cox; 2 sons and 1 daughter, Clifton Lewis, Jesse Lewis and Lurenza ("Sister") Lewis.

He leaves to cherish his memory: 1 brother, Archie Hemphill of Kalamazoo, MI; 5 sons, John (Phyllis) Lewis, Oliver Lewis, Robert Lewis all of Kalamazoo, MI; James Lewis of Chicago, IL and Lance Pitts of Milwaukee, WI; 7 daughters, Velma Lewis, Dorothy Lewis of Chicago, IL; Linda Nabors, Gloria Ivey, Lori Ann (Pastor Lenzy) Bell, LaBrenda Jackson all of Kalamazoo, MI; Tiffany Pitts of Milwaukee, WI; 41 grandchildren; 63 great grandchildren and 11 great-great grandchildren; 3 sister-in-laws, Doris Hemphill of Kalamazoo, MI; Jackie Hemphill of Gary, IN and Freddie Mae Hemphill of Chicago, IL; a special niece, Pat Raines; 2 special cousins, Betty Bush and Pearlie Williams; special friends, Pastor Jean Smith and Willie James Ross Jr. (who went to Cracker Barrel with him every Friday and Sunday for dinner). He also leaves to mourn his passing a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends for he will be truly missed by all.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery

1015 Gull Rd
Kalamazoo, MI 49048-1733
(269) 337-8227

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 13. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

The Galilee Baptist Church
1216 North Westnedge Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

A Homegoing Celebration

JAN 13. 12:00 PM (ET)

The Galilee Baptist Church
1216 North Westnedge Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis*

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ *Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis*

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ *Ruth Hall-Ross lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis*



Ruth Hall-Ross - January 21, 2018 at 04:24 PM



“ *Barbara Phillips lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis*



Barbara Phillips - January 20, 2018 at 11:13 AM

CB

“ Carrie Baker lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis



Carrie Baker - January 15, 2018 at 12:32 PM

MW

“ Michael And Barbara Watson lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis



Michael and Barbara Watson - January 14, 2018 at 12:45 PM

AL

“ Anson Lounsbery lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis



Anson Lounsbery - January 13, 2018 at 06:03 PM

EF

“ Earline Fields And Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis



Earline Fields and Family - January 13, 2018 at 12:39 PM

DF

“ *Diane McPherson-Carver And Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis*



Diane McPherson-Carver and Family - January 13, 2018 at 10:43 AM

SA

“ *Sherry Anderson sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis*



Sherry Anderson - January 13, 2018 at 10:20 AM

SA

Mr "JT" will truly be missed. Along with his singing. He was a friend of my dad..Whenever I would see him his saying was " you don't believe it do you" with his fist balled and a gentle nudge. He served the Lord with gladness a prime example of staying on the battlefield until I die. Rest Deacon, you served us well.

Sherry Anderson - January 13, 2018 at 10:25 AM

ES

“ *Earlean Robinson Scott lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis*



Earlean Robinson Scott - January 13, 2018 at 12:13 AM

BJ

“ *Bari Brown Jr lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis*



Bari Brown jr - January 12, 2018 at 10:56 PM

AM

“ *Audrey Rancifer Mcgrew lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis*



Audrey Rancifer Mcgrew - January 12, 2018 at 10:29 PM



“ *3 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Harper Funeral Home - January 12, 2018 at 09:07 PM

PG

“ *Pauline Gardner lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis*



Pauline Gardner - January 12, 2018 at 03:25 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Life Tributes



Harper Funeral Home - January 12, 2018 at 01:11 PM



“ My Condolences To The Lewis Family B. Ford.



Areatha Ford - January 12, 2018 at 12:06 PM



“ De Wilkerson lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis



De Wilkerson - January 12, 2018 at 11:34 AM



“ Alma Snell lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis



Alma Snell - January 12, 2018 at 09:40 AM

VM

“ Condolences to the family. Keeping all of you in prayer during this difficult time.

Valerie Mitchell



Valerie Mitchell - January 12, 2018 at 07:44 AM

KD

“ Kevin Dunigan sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis



Kevin Dunigan - January 12, 2018 at 06:02 AM

KJ

“ Kendric & Brittany Jackson lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis



Kendric & Brittany Jackson - January 11, 2018 at 11:23 PM

TE

“ Teresa lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis



Teresa - January 11, 2018 at 11:00 PM

AW

“ Andrew J Wilkerson lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis



Andrew J Wilkerson - January 11, 2018 at 10:25 PM

JB

“ JT I think knew everyone and that says a lot about the kind of person he was. He loved to visit his friends and he did that a lot. JT has known me since i was 10 years old, he was a very good friend of our family, David Singleton(lump) my uncle, Bennie, Richard our entire family. I loved him and was always a joy to see him. He was a man who said very little and was quiet, but did not mind telling his mind when he thought was needed. JT tell my Mom and family I love them. I will miss seeing you around JT. You were a good Stewart.

Jean Baidy - January 11, 2018 at 09:16 PM

GS

“ Gayle Singer lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis



gayle singer - January 11, 2018 at 07:36 PM

HH

“ McGrew and Holland families.



Henrietta Holland - January 11, 2018 at 07:20 PM

MW

“ Minister Flora Walker sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis



Minister Flora Walker - January 11, 2018 at 07:10 PM

IR

“ To The Lewis Family:

Our prayers and condolences are with you during this time of breavement.

Frank and Ida Robinson



Ida Robinson - January 11, 2018 at 07:04 PM

EF

“ Edith Gardner And Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis



Edith Gardner And Family - January 11, 2018 at 06:44 PM

BJ

“ *Bari Brown Jr lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis*



Bari Brown jr - January 11, 2018 at 06:40 PM

BJ

“ *Bari Brown Jr lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis*



Bari Brown jr - January 11, 2018 at 06:34 PM

GD

“ *Greg And Sonja Dotson lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis*



Greg and Sonja Dotson - January 11, 2018 at 05:23 PM

CS

“ *Clara Spencer lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis*



Clara Spencer - January 11, 2018 at 05:22 PM

PF

“ *PATTERSON FAMILY lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis*



PATTERSON FAMILY - January 11, 2018 at 04:21 PM

VO

“ *My condolences to the family of John "JT" Lewis.*



Vivian Ollie-O'Neal - January 11, 2018 at 02:50 PM

LC

“ *Lillie Cotton lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis*



Lillie Cotton - January 11, 2018 at 01:19 PM

RW

“ Our deepest condolences to the JT Lewis family. May God continue to put a song in your heart. He is the Wilkerson families last connection to the Mississippi Delta of the 1940's that how long our families knew JT. God Bless,

RJ & Anita Wilkerson



RJ & Anita Wilkerson - January 11, 2018 at 01:00 PM

WJ

“ William & Laverne Jones lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis



William & Laverne Jones - January 11, 2018 at 12:14 PM

KD

“ Kevin Dunigan lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis



Kevin Dunigan - January 11, 2018 at 12:12 PM

KD

“ Kevin Dunigan sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis



Kevin Dunigan - January 11, 2018 at 10:50 AM

MJ

“ Mary Johnson lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis



Mary Johnson - January 11, 2018 at 10:10 AM

ML

“ Michelle Lambert lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Lewis.



Michelle Lambert - January 11, 2018 at 09:45 AM

DS

“ Darryl and Carolyn Stanley from Charlotte, NC



Darryl and Carolyn Stanley - January 11, 2018 at 09:40 AM

GF

“ Gwendolyn Smith And Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis



Gwendolyn Smith and Family - January 11, 2018 at 09:31 AM

HB

“ Hal & Janet Buchanan lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis



Hal & Janet Buchanan - January 11, 2018 at 09:25 AM

TF

“ The Daniel Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis



The Daniel Family - January 11, 2018 at 09:24 AM

DF

“ Dallas Boards And Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis



Dallas Boards and family - January 11, 2018 at 07:18 AM

MV

“ *Mignon Vincent lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis*



Mignon Vincent - January 11, 2018 at 06:56 AM

MV

My condolences to the Lewis Family

Mignon Vincent - January 11, 2018 at 07:01 AM

PF

“ *PATTERSON FAMILY lit a candle in memory of Mr. John ("JT") Lee Lewis*



PATTERSON FAMILY - January 11, 2018 at 06:38 AM