



## John W. Starnes

May 11, 1939 - September 18, 2018

John W. Starnes passed away Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at the age of 79. Born in Albertville, he was the son of Gene and Lucille Starnes, a direct descendent of John Gunter and the Cherokee heritage. He finished high school at Albertville where he was a member of the band and played basketball, but his passion was baseball. He played first base for the high school, as well as a men's league during the offseason, but an early diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis prevented him from pursuing that passion in college. He would later coach Little League baseball. Because of his height, he was called "Big John". After high school, he attended Marion Military School and Snead College before finishing with a business degree and a law degree from the University of Alabama. He was a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity and the Phil Alpha Delta Law Fraternity. He finished law school in 1965 and practiced law in Marshall County until his appointment by Governor Wallace as district attorney where he served from 1973 until 1987. He was the youngest elected to serve in the legislature, representing Cullman and Marshall Counties from 1966 to 1970. He was a member of the Marshall County and American Bar Assn and the state and national District Attorneys Assns. He was currently the Supernumerary District Attorney for the 27th Judicial Circuit.

He served as state chairman of the Standard and Goals Committee under the Omnibus Crime Act and Region I (15 counties) chairman of the Alabama Law Enforcement Planning Agency. He served on the State Supervisory Board of

the State Executive Committee of ALEPA and on the State Juvenile Advisory Board of ALEPA. He was on a committee to review reported child abuse cases in this county, and he has been affiliated with HOPE PLACE, a home for abused spouses and children.

He was instrumental with creating the Lake Guntersville State Park, Talladega Speedway, Huntsville Space and Rocket Center, Lurleen B. Wallace Drive, and with the Lake Guntersville Boat Races( sponsored by the Guntersville Jaycees) when the world record for jet powered boats was broken on Guntersville Lake .

John married Dottie Little (Mosley) in college and had two daughters, Melissa Brazelton-Reeves and Lucy Starnes (deceased). He also had two grandchildren, D.J. Brazelton and Lilli Grace Reeves.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to:

Guntersville First United Methodist Church  
539 Gunter Avenue  
Guntersville, AL 35976

The John W. Starnes Scholarship Fund  
C/O Citizens Bank & Trust  
711 Gunter Ave.  
Guntersville, AL 35976

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 21. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

Guntersville First United Methodist Worship Center

## Service

SEP 21. 12:00 PM.

Guntersville First United Methodist Worship Center

# Tribute Wall

JC

“ I just wanted to say that John Starnes was a beautiful person and singing he had the voice of God and he allowed everyone in the church to feel it on Sunday night when I was leaving my church service and to go home would put on the car to listen to it in fact we had a person in our church who sang just like him God bless you John Correia @gmail.com

John Correia - March 29 at 12:07 AM

KG

“ I just came across on YouTube, FBC, Jax, FL. First time I saw John Starnes at one of the productions in 1998. He is/was an awesome singer. Sharing the GOD'S WORD through his singing. I listen to the YouTube videos every morning.

Katherine Graham - February 27 at 02:51 PM

MS

“ John had an amazing voice. I still find him and listen to him.  
God bless the family. I didn't know he passed.



Marion Sutliff - August 17, 2025 at 01:37 AM

BA

“ We did not know that John Starnes had died We loved his ministry of music

Bonnie and Bill Anderson - June 15, 2025 at 12:56 PM

FT

“ John, we miss your angelic voice! RIP, brother John.



Frank Titus - March 19, 2025 at 01:50 PM

HF

“ John Starnes still touching hearts today February 23 2025..on an old Jimmy Swaggart Camp meeting.

Harley Ferris - February 23, 2025 at 12:56 PM

BA

Yes he is

Bonnie and Bill Anderson - June 15, 2025 at 12:57 PM

JS

I agree. I love his voice on The Classic Crusades of Jimmy Swaggart Ministries!!!

Judy Schrimsher - August 13, 2025 at 11:27 PM

MS

I bought one of his CDs over twenty years with all of the songs listed. I still listen to that CD today. His voice was incredible and I didn't know he had passed. I am so blessed to still have that CD. Prayers for the family. Marsha Seymore

Marsha Seymore - August 28, 2025 at 11:51 AM

FT

“Gone but not forgotten. RIP Johnny.



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**frank Titus** - February 12, 2025 at 01:42 PM

PP

“Patricia Parker lit a candle in memory of John Starnes



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**Patricia Parker** - November 05, 2023 at 05:58 AM

TE

“I will hold a place of him in my heart his music always bless my spirit and I look forward to the day of meeting him in our new home with Jesus.



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**Teresa** - October 08, 2023 at 12:47 PM

DC

*He was an awesome talented man...Heaven gained a wonderful person.*

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**Darris Elaine Case** - October 11, 2023 at 01:57 PM

LH

*I first listened to John when I was a new believer in 1984 when he sang with Jimmy Swaggart. His voice and the songs and hymns he sang were so very anointed and the music soothed my soul deeply. Can hardly wait to be in heaven where John and Janet will bless us with their wonderful singing!*

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**Leticia Hinojosa** - October 26, 2023 at 11:13 AM



*I'm just finding this sad news. Always loved his singing.*

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**Bobbie Stong** - November 08, 2023 at 08:34 AM



*Rest on in His bosom, Brother! You had the voice of an angel. I guess you are already part of that heavenly choir. Hallelujah!*

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**Steph Uwakweh** - November 11, 2023 at 07:58 PM

JS

*" LOVED YOUR MUSIC, TRULY ANNOITED BY GOD. YOUR MUSIC HAS BLESSED SO MANY!!!! YOU MADE A HUGE IMPACT ON CHRISTIANITY. THOUGH YOU ARE NO LONGER WITH US IN BODY. YOU WILL ENDURE IN OUR HEARTS FOR ETERNITY!! JESUS KNOWS THE TRUE AND FAITHFUL. HE NEEDED YOU WITH HIM, ITS NOT OVER, HEAVEN IS THE NEW BEGINNINGS. WE SHALL ALL RE UNITED IN THE GLORY OF GOD!!! THANKS FOR BEING A INSPIRATION IN MY LIFE. !!!!!*

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**John r. Stone** - December 12, 2023 at 12:09 PM

CJ

*The first thing I noticed after the singing. The eyes are the mirror to the soul. Well his eyes were blazing there was Jesus shining through him. He was so anointed. I have just found out.*

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**Carol james** - December 23, 2023 at 08:59 AM

SJ

*I have forever been blessed when John Starnes sings. I've never heard anyone sing that had an anointing like John had. His facial expression, his eyes shone like the Shaking Glory of God. Thank God John is still alive through his music. I've just heard John sing The Light House( 4-20-24) Praise God*

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**Sam Jones** - April 20, 2024 at 08:03 PM

HO

*I just discovered this beautiful man with the most heavenly anointed voice this year and I have been so blessed by my discovery . I am 87 and living in assisted living . There's hardly a day goes by that I don't listen to him singing. Someone above mentioned his eyes as being the eyes of Christ, I had thought similar thoughts but if not the eyes of Christ the kindest of eyes on earth. His good soul shines out of his eyes and oh what a beautiful soul stirring voice, Thank you Father in Heaven for giving us John Starnes.*

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**Hollins** - October 19, 2024 at 10:39 PM

CC

*i still listen to his songs on you tube and still cry no one has touched my soul through singing like him can not wait to meet him in heaven*

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**Celestia Contreras** - August 16, 2025 at 11:50 AM

VC

“ Virginia Clifton sent a virtual gift in memory of John Starnes



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**Virginia Clifton** - September 19, 2023 at 09:55 AM

VM

*I listen to him signing Jerusalem all the time. I saw him in person at a Jimmy Swaggert prayer meeting and saw the glo on his face as he sang. God blessed him with a beautiful voice and Mr. Starnes blessed us when he sang. 🙏*

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**virginia matthews** - April 04, 2024 at 10:53 AM

CR

“ To the family you will never know how much I miss his his singing.

*I find that if I have trouble sleeping , reading doesn't seem to help I know that if I can put John's music on and indeed it calms me down.*

*I did get to see him and what a voice he was blessed with thank you Lord for that wonderful voice that we all got to hear one time or another.*

*Now as I get ready I am turning his songs on to listen to the one beautiful voice that someday we will hear once again.*

*May god bless each of you and remember he was loved*

*By many, if they failed to knot here him they have no idea what the missed a golden voice.*



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**Connie Rafferty** - August 17, 2023 at 12:20 AM

RC

“ Ron And Donna Callahan lit a candle in memory of John W. Starnes



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**Ron and Donna Callahan** - March 30, 2022 at 04:38 PM

HJ

“ I really miss Johns singing.He is greatly missed by all.

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**helen johnson** - January 26, 2022 at 12:13 PM

VM

*Yes indeed John starnes left a legacy He was blessed with a fabulous voice! In which Im listening to now ! One day we're going to live forever! God bless his precious Family!*

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**Virginia mercer** - July 10, 2024 at 09:42 AM

AD

“ Hi I live in Brazil. I listened to John Starnes songs throughout my childhood. A few years ago I sent him an email saying how much his songs were and are still important to me, and that they have a special place in my heart. to my happiness I received your answer. how kind of him. I wanted to meet him. My condolences to your family.

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**Adiel** - September 25, 2021 at 02:07 AM

PG

“ I first heard John back in the 80's. I just learned he Passed away. What a talent. I actually played a cassette tape of his in my fathers room when my dad was in hospice. I'm sure his music gave my dad comfort during the time of his passing. I had the privilege of sharing that with John when I met him at one of his concerts. I'm sure John's in the front row of the heavenly choir.

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**paul Giordano** - July 27, 2021 at 07:10 PM

JF

“ I had the privilege of meeting John a couple of times back in the late 80's when my father Pastored at Reynolds Street Church of God and at there house in Buffalo IL. He was such a nice man. Love to hear him sing even today. He had a great testimony as well...what a fabulous man...Always on my mind.

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**Jerald W Frost** - June 08, 2021 at 12:57 PM

CM

I loved Johns singing. I used to go to church on Sunday and hurry home so I could see and hear John and Janet Pascal on tv. What a Blessing to hear this man of God raise his wonderful voice for the Lord. I just found out that he has passed. He is in Heaven singing day and night.

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**Connie Morris** - March 21, 2022 at 07:02 PM

LS

“ I first listened to the songs of John Starnes in the 70's and he had an incredible voice and impact on my life.

Lynette Streak - March 07, 2019 at 09:30 AM

MV

“ Johnny and I were class officers of the Senior class of Albertville High. In Guntersville for a family reunion. So sorry for your family loss. I will miss seeing him at class reunions. He was a lovely, personable, caring and left his mark on those who knew him. May God bless all the family during this time of loss. Martha Gillilan Vinson, Aiken, SC.

Martha Vinson - November 17, 2018 at 11:51 AM

SB

This is not the singer John Starnes hes alive in Tenn

Shirley Blanchard - March 05, 2020 at 06:28 PM

KN

“ My dear family of John Starnes I am so sorry 😞 for your loss of John Starnes ❤️. I did not know that he was past a way 😞❤️. I was just listening to his music and voice, and I loved his voice so much ❤️😊. And I was on the internet to find out some things about him, and I was so sad to hear that he was not longer between os 😞❤️. But I now know that he is in Heaven with Jesus he loved so much 😊. I miss him so very much, and my God bless you dear wife and your family and give you strength over your loss of your dear John Starnes 😞❤️🙏. Love from Fareo Island Kristin Nordendal 🇫🇮😊



Kristin Nordendal - October 07, 2018 at 06:29 AM



*I also did not know of his passing until today. I am so sorry for your great loss.  
I have been blessed so much by his beautiful gifted voice.  
Love from Wilma Loeder Wright*

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**Wilma Lowder Wright** - May 30, 2021 at 10:13 PM



*“ I first met John in 1977 when I had all of two years experience as a lawyer. He took me upstairs in the Albertville Courthouse to talk settlement of a criminal case. He immediately treated me with respect and made me feel as if the two of us had been friends for twenty years. He was my good friend from then on. He was a good man and lawyer. Another large tree has fallen.*

*Eddy Cunningham  
Lawyer  
Gadsden*

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**edward cunningham** - September 21, 2018 at 12:09 PM



*Amen!*

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**Nanetta Jones Graves** - September 22, 2018 at 05:49 AM



*Great Man just as you said  
Mr. Eddy Cunningham.*

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**Nanetta Jones Graves** - September 24, 2018 at 03:03 PM

RM

“ Served with John as a DA. He was always a pleasant and personable. Enjoyed his company and friendship. God bless. Bob Morrow



Robert Morrow - September 21, 2018 at 09:46 AM

SH

“ John will always have a special place in my heart. He talked me into playing Little League football and baseball in Guntersville when I was nine years old. He was a larger than life personality, and always had a smile and a story. He will be missed. Comfort and blessings to Melissa, Dottie and family.

scott huber - September 20, 2018 at 04:39 PM

LA

“ Life Time Friend: Syble Allen lit a candle in memory of John W. Starnes



life time friend: Syble Allen - September 19, 2018 at 10:51 PM

RS

“ Melissa and children,  
We are so sad to learn about your Daddy and Grandaddy. Our love and prayers are with you at this time.

Randy and Becky Starnes

Randy and Becky Starnes - September 19, 2018 at 08:58 PM

BS

*Long time friend that Loved Life. John was a BLESSING to many.  
Prayers for the FAMILY.  
Brenda & Darryl Sweat*

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**Brenda Sweat** - September 21, 2018 at 09:39 AM

FM

*Always enjoyed seeing John and his comments about his and my time  
in the legislature. My prayers are with the family in their loss*

*Frank and Pat McDaniel*

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**Frank McDaniel** - September 21, 2018 at 06:24 PM

CM

*So sorry. I didn't realize this wasn't the singer. Sorry.*

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**Connie Morris** - March 21, 2022 at 07:04 PM

SB

*I listen to his music today in 2024 on YouTube I have it on most of the  
time when I want to praise the Lord I can put his music on and I can feel  
God's spirit and my soul you can see him on YouTube he's a godsend*

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**sally Batenhorst** - August 01, 2024 at 03:21 PM

JR

*I didn't realize that John Starnes,,,had passed away,,,I love is voice so  
much...he sang in Lima,Peru,,,jan. 10,1986....."Down From His Glory"  
which is my favorite song....I told my daughter,,,that I wanted that sung  
at my funeral.....(unless the Rapture comes first of course no one  
knows that day except the Father in Heaven... when He say s "  
Son go get my children. James Rhoads*

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**james rhoads** - March 22, 2025 at 09:50 AM