



## John Edward Neal

December 23, 1950 - July 27, 2020

John Edward Neal began his life journey on December 23, 1950 and transitioned to Heaven on July 27, 2020. John lived his dash between those dates with a friendliness that meant he met no stranger, exhibiting unconditional love to family and friends and leaving imprints of goodness on the lives and hearts of all who were privileged to have their lives intersect with his life's journey.

John became "Sugarman" to Rosemary and together they forged an example to others as their love was the basis for a marriage that endured some of life's toughest trials and greatest accomplishments. John enjoyed being "daddy" to three beautiful daughters, Toni Neal who preceded him in death, Haley (Daryl) Reid and Erin Neal. Through his career with Lance, John earned the name "Cookie Man," which many continued to call him well after his retirement.

John was a faithful servant of God who used his talent for singing to minister to others. With an avid love for Southern Gospel music, John often introduced others to the messages of God's love, grace and mercy through songs written and sung by others. Due to his love for antiques and items no longer manufactured, after his retirement, John enjoyed checking out items at estate sales and that usually included some dickering with the seller to get the best price possible. He possessed the talent to wheel and deal in a way that left everyone wondering how he did it so well. Yet in all his dealings, John was honest and fair which resulted in others having a respect for him that was extraordinary. John valued family and enjoyed spending time with his siblings, Billy (Jewell) who preceded him in death, Bobby Neal (Sandra) and Elaine (Wayne) Higdon and his many nieces and nephews as well as aunts, uncles and cousins. He was also preceded in death by his parents, Freeman and Bernice Neal. Although John was the baby of the family, he was an anchor whose love served as the glue that encouraged everyone to stick together regardless of the circumstances.

John was a friend to many and through his relationship with them made them feel as though they were more than friends but his family. He was a part of the McDonald Coffee Club even though he did not drink coffee because that was where his friends gathered. John was a member of Old Union Baptist Church where he served in numerous positions through the years.

A Graveside Service of remembrance will be held on Friday, July 31, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the cemetery of Old Union Baptist Church with Rev. Allen Yarbrough officiating. The family will receive friends at the residence after the service.

If so desired, memorials may be made to Attic Treasures, PO Box 147, Harlem, Georgia 30814.

Serving as Pallbearers will be David Boiter, Dave Thompson, Ron Green, Jimmy Wilcher, Trey Mackey and Dwayne Higdon. Honorary Pallbearers will be members of the McDonald's Coffee Club.

Due to the current COVID-19 regulations, our staff is committed to taking care of our guests and families that we serve. We ask all guests and family members attending the graveside service to practice social distancing and if medically able, wear a mask.

# Cemetery

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**Old Union Baptist Church Cemetery**

Harlem, GA, 30814

# Events

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**JUL 31 Funeral Services 09:00AM**

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Old Union Baptist Church Cemetery  
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# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**Starling Funeral Home** - July 30 at 12:04 PM



“ Beautiful Memories

**Joann Dixon** - July 30 at 06:28 PM



“ Lots of fond memories and friendship (Coffee Club)

Bob and Janet Adams

**leslie** - July 31 at 09:07 AM

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“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John Edward Neal.



July 30 at 04:45 PM

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“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of John Edward Neal.



July 30 at 03:29 PM

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



July 30 at 12:38 PM

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“ Elaine, my dear friend. My heart is sad to read of John Edward's death. I know your heart pains. I also know you are blessed with knowledge of salvation and a sweet day of reunion with your "baby" brother. May this thought comfort your heart. My best to your Wayne and to Bobby and his family. Please pass my condolences to John Edward's wife and family.



Sharon Howard - July 30 at 12:16 PM

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“ 128 files added to the album LifeTributes



Starling Funeral Home - July 30 at 11:29 AM

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“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Edward Neal.



July 30 at 09:42 AM



“ John Edward-Even though we weren't as close after school,I still thought of you often and enjoyed talking to you about old times every time we bumped into each other. I will miss them,Rest in Peace my FRIEND and tell Ricky hello for me!!

**seth mason** - July 29 at 08:11 PM

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“ Elaine Milford lit a candle in memory of John Edward Neal



**Elaine Milford** - July 29 at 08:03 PM

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“ Charles And Mary Reeves lit a candle in memory of John Edward Neal



**Charles and Mary Reeves** - July 29 at 06:16 PM

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“ Ann Shelton Roscow lit a candle in memory of John Edward Neal



**Ann Shelton Roscow** - July 29 at 06:12 PM

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“ Rosie, Haley, Erin, and to the rest of John's Family-- I want to express my sincere sympathy for your loss at this time. When I had the privilege of being the Music Director at Old Union Baptist Church from 2001 until 2003, I want to express how much I loved that position. Rosie and John and the rest of the Choir Members were always so good to me. I enjoyed having Rosie as the Church Pianist. and we always had the most fun at our Choir Rehearsals every week. Almost three years ago. I had a massive meningioma tumor removed from my brain. The only positive aspects about the surgery was I am still living, can do light yard work, and housework. I live in the Harris Ridge Subdivision and all of my poor neighbors are subjected to my loud singing as I walk in the subdivision and do yard work. The side effect of having the brain tumor removed is I was left with a condition of permanent vertigo, which I take medicine four times every day. I am no longer able to drive a car because even with the medicine I get extremely dizzy riding in cars. The only positive aspect of the surgery is that it did not affect my memory or singing at all. I love all the members at Old Union and one day when we will all get to Heaven, and what a day of singing and rejoicing that will be. Love in Christ, Elaine Lewis Harper

Elaine Lewis Harper - July 29 at 02:56 PM

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“ Louise Odom and Bill and Debbie Odom purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John Edward Neal.



Louise Odom and Bill and Debbie Odom - July 29 at 01:35 PM

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“ David and Angela Key and the A & D family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John Edward Neal.



David and Angela Key and the A & D family - July 29 at 10:45 AM

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“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of John Edward Neal.



July 29 at 10:38 AM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Edward Neal.



July 28 at 09:11 PM

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“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of John Edward Neal.



July 28 at 08:21 PM

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“ Rosemary was our real estate agent when Kim and I were lakehouse hunting. John would come along sometimes and this was how we got to really know him. We are so grateful we got to spend this time with these two wonderful people. Our hearts go out to the family. We love you and pray for you.

**Charles & Kim Crawford** - July 28 at 08:12 PM

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“ Rosie my heart breaks for you and your family. I love you and know you are in my thoughts and prayers. May God bless you and yours in the days ahead. Maria Lambert

**Maria Lambert** - July 28 at 07:31 PM



“ Rosemary my heart breaks for you and the family. It wasn't long ago that the love of my life went to be with Jesus and now there will be an Old Union reunion going on. John always had his special way with people and always seem to make them smile when they needed it most. I know that he will be looking down upon you and making sure you all are OK. I love you and if there's anything I can do please don't hesitate to call. May God carry you thru the next few months and years comforting you all when memories come around Sending prayers and hugs. Marie

**Marie Andrews** - July 28 at 07:52 PM

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“ John loved with his whole heart! He used his gift to witness to others...he's using that gift now as he sings in the heavenly choir! You'll be missed, but your kindness will never be forgotten.

Rosemary, Haley & Erin, I am sorry I can't be there in person, but I'm sending many positive prayers to our Father and I offer my deepest condolences. I know you'll do him justice by loving the way he showed and more importantly, sharing the message with your gifts.



**Nichole Andrews** - July 28 at 07:22 PM

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“ Becky Merkel lit a candle in memory of John Edward Neal



**Becky Merkel** - July 28 at 05:48 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Johns passing R I P John you will always be in our hearts and Family in my prayers

**Becky Merkel** - July 28 at 05:51 PM



“ John is now in "Beulah Land" and we will all miss him singing this beautiful song. Always remember the good times and that you are all in our thoughts and prayers. Esther & Almon

**Esther & Almon Poss** - July 28 at 08:48 PM



“ Rosemary, I can just imagine the reunion in Heaven, when John arrived. He will always be watching over you and your daughters. Precious memories will lift your spirits, and joy will flood your soul. I am very sure he is singing in the heavenly choir. My love and prayers, dear friend!

**Justine Moseley** - July 29 at 08:25 AM



“ My heart was so saddened when I heard of Johns passing. He always felt like another brother to me. When he use to visit Mom our spirits were always lifted and his good sense of humor gave us laughter. When Mom was attending church and John sang Beulah Land with Rosie playing the piano it totally made her day! I send my love and prayers to all the Family.

Linda Lewis

**Linda Lewis** - July 30 at 08:41 PM



“ Rosie , I know the pain you are feeling now but it's so good to known he's having the time of his life now and Gods grace carries us through times like these. My prayers are with you . Jean Brown Waldrep

**Jean Waldrep** - July 31 at 08:10 PM