



## John Tatum Bethea

August 29, 1953 - August 7, 2018

John Tatum Bethea, 64, of Summerville, husband of Loren W. Bethea, passed away on Tuesday, August 7, 2018 at Summerville Medical Center.

Family and friends are invited to attend his visitation on Saturday, August 11, 2018 from 5 o'clock until hour of service at James A. Dyal Funeral Home. Funeral Service will begin at 7 o'clock. Burial will be at a later date in his hometown of McColl, SC.

Flowers will be accepted or memorials may be made to Dorchester Paws, 136 4 Paws Lane, Summerville, SC 29483.

John was born on August 29, 1953 in Bennettsville, SC, son of Carolyn Bethea of McColl, SC and the late Charles J. Bethea. He received his Bachelors of History from Clemson University in 1975. He was a huge Clemson Football fan. He loved fishing and going to the mountains. He had a passion for cooking and studying Genealogy but most of all his family.

Survivors including his wife Loren of 24 years are: four children: John "Tate" Tatum Bethea, Jr. of Mt. Pleasant, James McAlpine Bethea of Mt. Pleasant, Carolyn "Carrie" Welborn Bethea (Tyler Gilliam) of Charleston and Zachary Tristram Bethea of Summerville; one sister: Elizabeth Taylor (Jimmy) of Columbia; one brother: Charles Bethea (Francis) of Marion, SC; and dearly

loved nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by one sister: Carolyn Hubbard.

A memorial message may be written to the family by visiting our website at [www.jamesadyal.com](http://www.jamesadyal.com).

ARRANGEMENTS BY JAMES A. DYAL FUNERAL HOME, 303 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUMMERVILLE, SC 29483 (843)873-4040.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 11. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

James A. Dyal Funeral Home  
303 S. Main Street  
Summerville, SC 29483  
(843) 873-4040  
<https://www.jamesadyal.com>

## Service

AUG 11. 7:00 PM (ET)

James A. Dyal Funeral Home Chapel  
303 S. Main Street  
Summerville, SC 29483

## Graveside Service

AUG 18. 2:00 PM.

Bethea-Tatum Cemetery

# Tribute Wall



“ James A Dyal Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John Tatum Bethea



James A Dyal Funeral Home - August 10, 2018 at 04:04 PM

JB

*I have so many happy memories that include John! Some of the very best include eating at a table full of fabulous food that he had cooked for friends & family!! The best food ever! He loved to see people he loved enjoying his special dishes. You could not go to his house without having a wonderful meal!*

*And watching a Clemson football game with him was hilarious, John would have his little dog “Nugget” in his lap enjoying the game with his “daddy”. He had very special bonds with his pets...He was just an overall great guy, & I loved having him as my son-in-law.*

*I know he is in his Lord’s hands now, & is turning him into a Clemson Tiger fan! Thank you, John, for loving my daughter & being such a good husband, father, & son in law❤️ You will always be in my heart & prayers & I will always love you.*

*God bless you, my friend. Judy*

Judy Oltmann Bennett - August 10, 2018 at 07:28 PM

BK

*John was a great person.I used to have loads of fun with John when I was younger at his grandmother's house every July 4th parties.My sister Katherine and I always waited for John near the small pond with the hold fish and he would arrive and we would take off playing. I love being his facebook friend. It was fun to read what John had on his mind. Love it. I will miss John very much. Cousin Barbara*

Barbara Tatum King - August 10, 2018 at 07:42 PM

MZ

*Wow how beautiful Lori!  
My heart aches for all of you!!*

**Maggie Zayas-Bazan** - August 12, 2018 at 02:49 PM

CC

*Loren, you don't know me, but my grandparents were George and Lida McNeill from McColl, SC. My parents also grew up there, and my momma babysat the Bethea kids 60+ years ago.*

*The way I met John was in the 2nd? grade at McColl Elementary School...my first day there I wore a dress with crinoline slip and John thought I was pretty (it was the dress!!). I was sweet on him and he would walk me to my grandparents' home many times. I cherish that memory! I look forward to seeing him again in the presence of our Lord! God bless you...grieving is hard. I know, I have a husband with the Lord myself. I'll remember you and your family in my prayers.*

*Cathy-Ruth Collins,  
daughter of Nancy McNeill Collins and the late William (Bill) R. Collins.*

**Cathy-Ruth Collins** - September 04, 2018 at 01:34 PM



“ *John Tatum Bethea*

September 29, 2022 at 10:11 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Tatum Bethea.*



August 16, 2018 at 10:10 AM

LF

“ *Lisa Blue Freeman lit a candle in memory of John Tatum Bethea*



Lisa blue Freeman - August 11, 2018 at 10:24 PM

LF

*So sorry for your loss., Mr Bethea was one of the best teachers I ever had in school! We recently connected thru an old school pic on Facebook. My deepest sympathies to the family and friends....May God comfort you all*

Lisa blue Freeman - August 11, 2018 at 10:30 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of John Tatum Bethea.*



August 10, 2018 at 03:07 PM

NC

“ *Loren ~ I havent seen y'all in some time but it certainly doesnt diminish our friendship and my feelings at this sad time. We had many good memories together back in the day that i will always cherish. I didnt realize John was so ill. I send my deepest condolences to you and the children. I unfortunately will not be able to make the service Saturday but will be there in spirit. May Johns memory be eternal. Nicky Clekis*

Nicholas Clekis - August 10, 2018 at 01:15 PM



*“ You are deeply missed John. I enjoyed your friendship and the great conversations we had, especially our fishing trips. May the God of all comfort be with your family during this difficult time.*

**Christopher McCormick** - August 10, 2018 at 09:25 AM



*“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Tatum Bethea.*



August 10, 2018 at 08:47 AM



*“ R. Walker Laney lit a candle in memory of John Tatum Bethea*



**R. Walker Laney** - August 10, 2018 at 07:27 AM



*“ Lori and Zach I am so very sorry for your loss, I know you are both heart broken, my love and prayers are with you , R.I.P. John Angie Guffin Rabon*

**angie guffin rabon** - August 10, 2018 at 01:20 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Tatum Bethea.*



August 10, 2018 at 12:01 AM



“ *Ron Russell lit a candle in memory of John Tatum Bethea*



**Ron Russell** - August 09, 2018 at 10:57 PM



“ *One of my most endearing memories of John is him reaching out to this poor kid from the wrong side of the tracks and inviting him to his home to play. This didn't happen to me too often. I mean, here's a kid whose idea of playing consisted of stomping on beer cans and walking down the middle of the road. And suddenly, I was transposed to this "high society" kid's home, who had many toys, including, what I found out later to be a go-cart! This kid was in higher cotton than that at Hugh McColl's farm! But, even greater than all of these things was the fact that John treated me as an equal; never looking down on me. He didn't have a pretentious bone in his body. I miss him so much already.*

**Ron Russell** - August 09, 2018 at 10:54 PM



*Thanks for sharing what a wonderful picture of the person he was!!*

**Maggie Zayas-Bazan** - August 10, 2018 at 12:40 AM

MZ

*My friend LORI found true love in this man and she has never been happier!! I mourn with her and his children, he will be sorely missed!!*

**Maggie Zayas-Bazan** - August 10, 2018 at 12:43 AM



“ *Rose Romanesque Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Tatum Bethea.*



August 09, 2018 at 10:08 PM

TC

“ *Tenia & John Cattles lit a candle in memory of John Tatum Bethea*



**Tenia & John Cattles** - August 09, 2018 at 08:52 PM

CB

“ *Cynthia Brown Bedenbaugh lit a candle in memory of John Tatum Bethea*



**Cynthia Brown Bedenbaugh** - August 09, 2018 at 08:38 PM

SB

“ *Sheree Patrick Burris And Robert Burr lit a candle in memory of John Tatum Bethea*



---

**Sheree Patrick Burris and Robert Burr** - August 09, 2018 at 08:15 PM

PW

“ *Stewart and I are so sorry for your loss. Sending prayers for peace and comfort.*

---

**Paige Wilkins** - August 09, 2018 at 08:15 PM

JL

“ *Janice Locklear lit a candle in memory of John Tatum Bethea*



---

**Janice Locklear** - August 09, 2018 at 05:34 PM



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



---

August 09, 2018 at 01:39 PM

DB

“ For years, John would always drive me to the fireworks store to buy bottle rockets when we went to Aunt Libs 4th of July picnic. I will miss him.

*Cousin David*

David J Bethea - August 09, 2018 at 01:15 PM

MB

“ Haven't seen John or his family in years as have lived in Virginia since 1960. We had the same birthday. So sorry to hear of his passing. Will miss seeing his postings on FB about his family, political views, pets, etc. Also my youngest son in Charlottesville enjoyed his political post. Mary Tatum Burtnette

Mary Tatum Burtnette - August 09, 2018 at 08:22 AM

CD

“ Cindy N Kip Deaver lit a candle in memory of John Tatum Bethea



Cindy n Kip Deaver - August 09, 2018 at 07:38 AM

Robbie-Linda Tucker

“ Robbie-Linda Tucker lit a candle in memory of John Tatum Bethea



Robbie-Linda Tucker - August 09, 2018 at 07:34 AM

CB

“ I loved the hilarious stories that John told about picking tobacco and going fishing with great Uncle Bill. I don't think he ended up doing much picking or fishing!! John and I always hung out together as kids during family gatherings. i was so glad to have a buddy during those times. John, you will be remembered always and missed a lot.

Cynthia L Bethea - August 09, 2018 at 01:05 AM

SW

“ Am saddened to learn of John's passing and send my sincere condolences to all his family and friends. Some people in this world are larger than life with their passion and joy....and that describes John.



Sandy Whitley - August 08, 2018 at 11:29 PM

PS

“ Peggy And Jerry Springs lit a candle in memory of John Tatum Bethea



Peggy and Jerry Springs - August 08, 2018 at 11:11 PM

SS

“ Susan Porter Smith lit a candle in memory of John Tatum Bethea



Susan Porter Smith - August 08, 2018 at 10:04 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of John Tatum Bethea.*



---

August 08, 2018 at 09:14 PM



“ *Howard Du Bose purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of John Tatum Bethea.*



---

**Howard Du Bose** - August 08, 2018 at 08:14 PM



“ *Sadden to hear about Johns passing. He will be missed very much.*

---

**Terry Linton** - August 08, 2018 at 08:01 PM



“ *Gordon & Brenda Jones lit a candle in memory of John Tatum Bethea*



---

**Gordon & Brenda Jones** - August 08, 2018 at 06:41 PM



“ *Cousin John was quite a man. I remember all the times we spent together visiting McColl, both as kids, youth, and adults. He was younger than I, but still special. It is always sad when one of your family "cadre" passes on. I know his immediate family will miss him terribly, just as my sister Barbara & I will miss him. Just knowing he is no longer in this world is saddening and leaves a gap in our collective family cosmos. Sweet dreams, Joihn, Rest in Peace... we will miss you terribly.*

---

**Howard Du Bose** - August 08, 2018 at 06:26 PM

HM

“ *My heart is truly broken at the passing of my cousin, my friend and in some ways....a soulmate. I will never forget the passion and intensity that drove John. Whether it was for his family, his dogs. his "Tiger's" of someone that he didn't even know...if they were being "done wrong". He always had plenty to say, John could be loud but he had a very tender heart. I am sad beyond words for all of his family. and pray that our Lord will wrap you all in his arms and give you much needed peace. ..Son, father, brother, Dad, friend, cousin....he left all of us too soon but is walking those streets of gold!!*

*Helen Rivers McLawhorn  
Seagrove, N.C.*

---

**Helen R McLawhorn** - August 08, 2018 at 05:54 PM

BB

“ Sending my love,hugs and condolences to my Bethea family.. John is my first cousin and we are a year a part in age. I have wonderful memories of playing with him and all my Bethea cousins. We drove from Florida each summer to McColl and stayed at Aunt Buck and Uncle Chuck's house on Main St . Oh, The noise we made and the fun we had! You will be missed!  
My heart is with you all.  
RIP Cuz.

*Barbara DuBose Boerstler*

---

**Barbara Boerstler** - August 08, 2018 at 04:54 PM

BS

“ Sending heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathy to the family. I grew up in McColl down the street from the Bethea's. I am so very sorry for your loss. Thinking of you all, Beth McCormick Stone

---

**Beth McCormick Stone** - August 08, 2018 at 03:26 PM