



John Emerson Terrell

March 15, 1939 - May 4, 2024

The family of John Emerson Terrell of Wauchula, Florida, is saddened to announce his passing on May 3, 2024 at the age of 85 years. John is preceded in death by his mother and father, Mildred Carlton and John Dewey Terrell. John is survived by his devoted wife of 65 years, Tito Terrell. He is survived by his loving family, son, John Dane Terrell and wife Charlotte Terrell; daughter Tracy Baxter and husband John Baxter; and daughter Claire Cornell and husband W.W. Cornell. He has seven grandchildren that he loved dearly, Wintz Terrell (Ali), the late Daniel Baxter (Alaina), Dana DuBose (Collin), Hannah Reeves (Parker), Warren Cornell, Will Cornell, and Caroline Cornell. He has three great grandchildren, River Terrell, Wyatt Baxter, and James Reeves.

John was born in Lake Alfred, Florida, on March 15, 1939 to Mildred Carlton and John Dewey Terrell. He moved to Wauchula in 1949. John was a lifelong member of First Baptist Church Wauchula. He graduated from Hardee Senior High School in 1957. He attended the University of Florida on scholarship to play football for the Gators. John met the love of his life at the University of Florida, and married Tito Terrell in 1959. They moved to Tampa, Florida, where John continued his education and graduated from University of Tampa with a bachelor's degree, and then attended and graduated from Ole Miss with a master's degree. University of Tampa recognized and awarded John the "Most Distinguished Alumni". John served in the Air Force Reserve and became a distinguished educator. He was passionate about education, so

much that he served as a coach, teacher, principal at Bowling Green Elementary, and the Hardee County District Superintendent (1976-1984). John envisioned, and saw to completion, the construction and building of Hardee Senior High School while superintendent. John was inducted into the Hardee Education Foundation Hall of Fame in 2017 and the Hardee Athletic Foundation Hall of Fame in 2018. He was the first person to be inducted into both halls of fame. John loved spending time with his family and friends. He enjoyed golfing and traveling extensively. He loved sports as a whole, whether it be playing or watching, John was always supporting others. John never met a stranger, as he was social with everyone. If he didn't know you, he would start with, "Where are you from?", and find a way to make a connection. The Memorial Service to celebrate the life of John Emerson Terrell will be held on Monday, May 6, 2024 at First Baptist Church Wauchula at 10:00 AM with a Graveside Service to follow. The family will receive friends prior to the service from 9:00 AM until 10:00 AM at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to First Baptist Church Wauchula or the Hardee Athletic Foundation, as these were two of John's passions: faith and sports.

Cemetery Details

Wauchula City Cemetery

1140 South 6th Avenue
Wauchula, FL 33873
(863) 773-3131
http://www.cityofwauchula.com/Pages/WauchulaFL_Cemetery/index

Previous Events

Viewing

MAY 6. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Wauchula
1570 W. Main Street
Wauchula, FL 33873

Funeral

MAY 6. 10:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Wauchula
1570 W. Main Street
Wauchula, FL 33873

Tribute Wall

JT

“ James Terrell lit a candle in memory of John Terrell



James Terrell - August 26, 2025 at 03:00 PM

JT

“ James Terrell sent a virtual gift in memory of John Terrell



James Terrell - August 26, 2025 at 02:59 PM

JT

“ R.I.P Cuz

James Terrell - August 26, 2025 at 02:59 PM

YE

“ We will never forget Mr. Terrell. He was always kind to us, a great Superintendent and always encouraging.

Yolanda Esquivel - May 11, 2024 at 09:52 AM

PG

“ I have known Johnny all my life and was a member of his high school graduating class of 1957. My husband and I were saddened to hear of his passing. To his family, we wish you well as each of you adjust to your life's continued journey. I'm sorry he had to leave seemingly so soon.

Patsy Whidden Green - May 10, 2024 at 06:09 PM

VS

“ He taught me drivers Ed in his burgundy Oldsmobile he was a sweet man Vonda svendsen

Vonda M Svendsen - May 07, 2024 at 10:33 AM

LH

“ Lillian Keene Hughes lit a candle in memory of John Terrell



Lillian Keene Hughes - May 06, 2024 at 07:02 PM

MW

“ Sending our condolences and love, Mike and Lynda Wilkinson

Mike and Lynda Wilkinson - May 06, 2024 at 11:11 AM

DP

“ Diane Pitts sent a virtual gift in memory of John Terrell



Diane Pitts - May 05, 2024 at 05:15 PM