



## John "Johnny" L. Cole

January 21, 1941 - January 2, 2024

John "Johnny" Langston Cole, of Afton Road, Danville, VA passed away on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at Sovah Health in Danville after a decline in health for the last several years.

Johnny was born in Danville, VA on January 21, 1941 a son of the late Jessie Gilbert Cole and Florence Gunnell Cole. He spent all of his life in the Danville area where he graduated from Whitmell Farm Life School in 1959.

During his youth, he worked on his family's tobacco farm, where he gained a respect for the land and hard work. The night he graduated high school, Johnny went to work at Dan River Mills. Then he worked in a factory for Stallion Tobacco Company in Lynchburg and completed an accounting course at VPI Extension, now called Danville Community College.

He began his career as a tobacco buyer for Dibrell Brothers Tobacco Company in 1960. Then he worked at Carolina Leaf, Austin, Monk-Austin, and DIMON, finishing his career at Alliance One International as a contractor after 53 years of experience in the industry. Johnny was co-founder and co-owner of Blairs Bright Leaf, a successful warehouse that he ran for ten years.

He was an outspoken supporter of farmers and their vital role in the American economy, even opposing uranium mining in the area owing to the potential

harm to crops.

Johnny was a Mason in the Carter Lodge 323. He also attended Grace Design Church.

On June 9, 1973, he married Shelia Adkins Cole, who survives, of the residence.

In addition to his wife, Johnny is survived by his son, John L. Cole, II of Danville, VA; his daughter, Julia Wellman and her husband, Jeff of Richmond, VA; his sister, Faye Haymore and her husband H.F. Haymore of Danville, VA; niece, Tara Polhamus and her husband, Will; nephew, Todd Haymore and his wife, Margaret; and four great nieces and one great nephew.

The family wishes to thank special caretakers Bonnie Wilson and Dawn Scarce and the staff of Roman Eagle Rehab and Care Center.

A funeral service will be conducted on Friday, January 5, 2024 at 2:00 P.M. at the Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel with the Reverend Mike Hearp and the Honorable H.F. Haymore officiating. Interment will follow the service in Highland Burial Park.

The family will receive friends prior to the service from 1:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers the family suggest that memorial donations be made to Mount Hermon Fire and Rescue at 4268 Franklin Turnpike Danville, VA 24540.

Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel is respectfully serving the Cole family.



# Cemetery Details

## Highland Burial Park

3049 North Main Street  
Danville, VA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JAN 5.** 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel  
5858 Riverside Drive  
Danville, VA 24541  
(434) 793-5511  
info@wrenn-yeatts.com  
<https://www.wrenn-yeatts.com>

## Funeral Service

**JAN 5.** 2:00 PM (ET)

Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel  
5858 Riverside Drive  
Danville, VA 24541  
(434) 793-5511  
info@wrenn-yeatts.com  
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# Tribute Wall

KT

“ We are so sorry to learn of Johnny's passing. He was such a nice neighbor. He would stop by our house often, when he was able, and we enjoyed his visits so much. He always had an interesting and funny story to share. Our prayers are with all the family.

Kenneth and Darlene Travis - January 06, 2024 at 12:23 PM

JD

“ Shelia And All The Family: We are so sorry to hear of Johnny passing. He was a good friend of ours and we and all that had the pleasure of knowing him will miss him. Our Prayers are with all of the Family.  
MAY GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU AT THIS TRYING TIME.  
Joe and Martha Doss



Joe Doss - January 04, 2024 at 11:19 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of John "Johnny" L. Cole.



January 04, 2024 at 07:18 PM

LJ

“ We are so sorry to hear of Johnny's passing. Prayers to the family.

Leon & Patsy Jones - January 04, 2024 at 04:41 PM

TO

“ Talbert & Bright-Richmond Office purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of John "Johnny" L. Cole.



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**Talbert & Bright-Richmond Office** - January 04, 2024 at 09:38 AM

TB

“ Cole Family,  
So sorry to hear of the passing of Johnny. He was a good friend and advisor. He has guided me throughout my life as a farmer. He knew tobacco but he also knew how to be a friend. I will miss seeing him but he is walking that great auction floor in Heaven today. Praying for the family. may God continue to give you comfort.  
God Bless  
Tom and Penny Blair

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**Tom Blair** - January 04, 2024 at 06:29 AM

CW

John i was saddened to hear the passing of your Dad you were always there for him may he rest in peace God Bless Carin Wise 🙏🙏

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**carin wise** - January 04, 2024 at 04:27 PM

SB

So sorry to hear about Johnny passing, always thought a lot of him. Prayers for you Shelia and your family, God bless

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**Sue Reynolds Bowling** - January 04, 2024 at 08:13 PM

NJ

I was so sorry the hear John passing I will miss him coming to CVS he would call me sunshine and I always call him Candy Man. Praying for the family

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**Nancy Jennings** - January 05, 2024 at 06:46 PM

DJ

*So sorry to learn of Johnny passing , he was a kind and caring person with a heart of gold . He will be missed by those of us who knew him . Go rest high on that mountain my longtime time friend . Prayers and comfort for all the family .*

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**Dorothy Jones** - January 06, 2024 at 03:48 PM