



## John Douglas Williamson

April 14, 1932 - March 21, 2020

John “Johnny and John D.” Douglas Williamson, of Danville, VA, died peacefully, at home sitting in his favorite recliner, snuggled under his blanket, on Saturday, March 21, 2020.

John was born on April 14, 1932, in Halifax County, VA, a son of the late Jethro Amos Williamson and Laura Dalton Williamson. He was a graduate of Turbeville High School. He served in the United States Army during the Korean War and was awarded the United Nations Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, National Defense Service Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, and Good Conduct Medal. After returning home from war, he was employed by Southern Railway (later known as Norfolk-Southern) until his retirement. He was active in the United Transportation Union. He was of the Methodist Faith.

To put it simply, as a Daddy and Granddaddy, he was the best. Johnny enjoyed life. He enjoyed working on cars (definitely a Ford man), spending time at Hyco Lake, and most of all, family gatherings, large and small. He, like his siblings, was a storyteller and family gatherings were full of childhood adventures from growing up on a farm, working on the railroad, and life in general. He was kind and gentle, quick to lend a hand and share a laugh. He made friends wherever he went and treasured their friendship.

He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Terrie W. Chaplin and Richard Chaplin, of Ringgold, VA; his granddaughter and her husband, Amanda K. Chaplin and Thomas Burkhart, of Bellefonte, Pennsylvania; his grandson, Jarrod D. Chaplin, of Richmond, VA; his longtime friend and companion, Ann Cofflin, of Forest, VA; his sisters, Edith Meeler and Doris Ann Zimmerman, of Alton, VA, and Joyce Lewis, of Danville, VA; his brother, Robert Williamson and wife Marie, of Alton, VA; and his sister-in-law, Irene Williamson, of Alton, VA. He also leaves behind many nieces and nephews and extended family members to share his memory.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his brother, Harold Williamson; and his brothers-in-law, Thomas Zimmerman and Fletcher Meeler.

The family would like to thank Jennifer Bates for the care she provided over the last year.

The family is aware that there are many people who would like to attend his funeral, however, due to the constraints of public gatherings during the COVID-19 outbreak, there will be a private graveside service at Calvary United Methodist Church, in Alton, VA. For the time being, the family encourages you to leave your memories and condolences online at [www.wrenn-yeatts.com](http://www.wrenn-yeatts.com) A memorial service may be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations be made to the Calvary UMC Cemetery fund, 2194 Calvary Rd., Alton, VA, 24520, or to the Fisher House Foundation, 12300 Twinbrook Pkwy, Suite 410, Rockville, MD, 20852.

Wrenn-Yeatts North Main Chapel is respectfully serving the Williamson family.



# Tribute Wall

TT

“ To Big Terrie from little Terry,  
I am sad to hear this news about your wonderful father. I only have the best memories of him from my young childhood living next door to you all. Even after many years, when I unexpectedly showed up at his door while I was in Danville visiting, he had a huge smile and hug for me. I can only image the conversations he and Dad are having in heaven now. My love you to you during this difficult time.

*Little Terry -Terry King Thompson*

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**terry thompson** - March 26, 2020 at 11:54 AM

DD

“ Terrie, I am sad to hear about your dad's passing and your loss. My prayers and thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time. Such a nice obituary, he did have a full life. I know you will cherish the memories forever. Debbie Davidson

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**Debbie Davidson** - March 26, 2020 at 08:47 AM

LC

“ I'll always have fond memories of him visiting me at my job and saying "Hey, sweetie!" He was such a kind man and loved to tell stories about his time with the railroad. My thoughts and prayers go out to his daughter Terrie and the family.

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**LaChelle Clark** - March 25, 2020 at 12:16 PM

AW

“ I will miss seeing him, he reminded me so much of my Papa. Always joyful and kind. He was such a joy to see out and about, I will always remember how he could always put a smile on my face, as well as anybody he met.

Thoughts and prayers go out to Terrie and the rest of his family during this time.

Angela Wallace and family.



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**Angela Wallace** - March 25, 2020 at 10:27 AM

LB

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, Terrie. May your daddy rest in eternal peace.

Lynde Barkhouser

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**Lynde Barkhouser** - March 24, 2020 at 04:31 PM

CA

“ Terrie,

So sorry to hear about your dad. My first thought, was how blessed you were to have him in your life for so very long. Prayers for your family at this time.

Cheryl H. Ashworth

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**Cheryl Ashworth** - March 24, 2020 at 01:52 PM

PD

“ I was saddened to hear of Johnny's passing. He was a fun-loving, compassionate guy. One memory, years ago, before cell phones, will stay with me always. My daddy was in the Danville Hospital in a coma from a severe stroke. One morning on Highway 58 on my way to the hospital, the car just cut off. I veered off the shoulder, which was near the street where Johnny lived. I walked to his house, and by chance, he wasn't at work! I asked could I use his phone to call Leonard. He talked to Leonard (who was at our home in Verona), and told him not to worry about anything. I gave him my roadside assistance card, and he took me to the hospital. He had the car towed, repaired, and parked in the hospital parking lot so I would have it when I left. It meant so much. I will NEVER forget his kindness. Love to his family, brother and sisters. He will be sorely missed by all his family and friends. Just thinking of him makes me smile! He made the world a much happier place. Barbara Gene Collie

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**Pamela Davis** - March 24, 2020 at 11:35 AM

DA

“ My uncle Johnny was always an important part of my life. I have so many wonderful memories of him - like never having to stop at a stoplight, teaching me to swim, being my eyes as he taught me to water ski, teaching me to "cook with Crisco" and "shake it off"! He was a father and mother bundled into one and a wonderful uncle and brother. My Daddy and Uncle Thomas loved him so much (they were like the three musketeers or stooges:)! After Daddy passed away, I could continue to see him through Johnny and loved kissing the top of his head as I had kissed daddy's. I will miss him, his love of life, sense of humor, shiny bald head, and twinkling blue eyes. I loved him very much.



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**Diane Albert** - March 23, 2020 at 10:32 PM

RB

“ Terrie, I send our sympathies to you from Wilkins & Co Realtors.  
Robert Bridgforth.

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**Robert Bridgforth** - March 23, 2020 at 03:52 PM

PP

“ Sending my Condolence to Family sweet man



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**Pam Powell** - March 23, 2020 at 02:34 PM

PE

“ He was loved so very much by so many, and will be missed daily. He taught me to swim and I went on my first boat ride with Johnny. "Johnny your memory is my keepsake with which I'll never part. God has you in his keeping I have you in my HEART.....  
Hugs and Kisses from Penny Darroch, Billy Thompson, and Linda and Jerry Reynolds..



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**Penny** - March 23, 2020 at 02:20 PM

MW

“ I would like to express my condolences to Johnny's family. I knew him only a short time, during which his smile, his humor, his stories and his goodwill were traits worth cherishing. He will forever be remembered as a fine gentleman. Matt Wilson

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**Matt Wilson** - March 23, 2020 at 11:55 AM

 Susan Hatcher

“ Susan Hatcher lit a candle in memory of John Douglas Williamson



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**Susan Hatcher** - March 23, 2020 at 09:33 AM

IS

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with all the family. Johnny will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. He was a great guy who always had a smile to give and he always made you smile!! He was a long time friend of my father-in-law Ira Sherrill who Johnny called "Spider". They enjoyed many meals together at Mary's Diner talking about their work at the Railroad. Johnny could really tell some great stories about those days & more. We are praying for all the family. May God give you peace and comfort. Hugs, love & prayers! Ira (Spider), John, Teresa Sherrill & family.



Ira, John & Teresa Sherrill - March 23, 2020 at 08:47 AM

JG

“ Johnny will be missed by all that knew Him. A true friend prays for His Family and Friends. We have been knowing Johnny for many years in the Glenwood Area He always had a big smile for all He talked too. Johnny always helped the widow women on Starling AVE Mr Whitley counted on Him a lot, A true friend.

John and Dianne Gilbert - March 22, 2020 at 10:05 PM

SM

“ I met Johnny when he visited his Doctor office where I worked. When I would pick up a chart and would see his name, I would be smiling before I even got to the waiting room to fetch him. He had that affect on everyone in the office! His joy was contagious. I'm thankful to have known this kind gentleman. Prayers for his family. 🙏



Suzanne Moore - March 22, 2020 at 05:35 PM

CR

“ He was a joy to know. A big smile and non stop laughing throughout stories and stories he could tell so colorfully. Most all any “old car” things I know, came from his house. A beautiful person who gave me beautiful memories. He taught me to water ski and some pretty good Monopoly strategies. I will always hold your memory in my heart. Thank you for all the smiles.

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**cindy roberts** - March 22, 2020 at 04:28 PM

DS

“ Terrie and family: My deepest sympathy to you all for your loss. I remember your Dad from our Glenwood days and he was a lot fun. Prayers for you all during this difficult time.

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**Debra Hudgins Slaughter** - March 22, 2020 at 04:26 PM

WW

“ Mr. Dundee. John you made many days pleasant working around Dundee and will remember by many. You were a good friend , at your house, my house or eat lunch at Danview with Bev and myself. Prayers for your daughter and grandchildren I knew they were your life.

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**wayne wilkerson** - March 22, 2020 at 03:44 PM

SC

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I used to work with Jarrod and know he cared a lot for his grandfather. Sounds like he was a very liked and respected man what a legacy to leave behind lots of friends and family that loved him very much. I am truly sorry for this family's loss!

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**Sharon Carruth** - March 22, 2020 at 03:30 PM

JS

“ RIP Johnny, going to be missed by many! A gentleman is with my Dad talking about all the times they had on the railroad and the times we all had in Glenwood!

James Snead - March 22, 2020 at 02:38 PM

LK

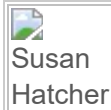
Oh my how I miss all the days hearing you and Charlie talking railroad . He loved your visits and I did too. Such laughter from both of you. I remember when we lived next door and both our Terry's were little. Always loved you both. She and your grandchildren were your life and my prayers are with them. I am sure you and Charlie picked right up with the railroad memories. You will be missed my longtime friend . God bless al your family.

linda king - March 22, 2020 at 09:40 PM

LK

You were a joy to know my friend and Charlie loved you like a brother . Oh how I would love to hear you both now catching up. Loved the memories when our Terry's were little and living next door . My how you loved your family. I don't think you ever met anyone you didn't like . Wonderful man

linda king - March 22, 2020 at 09:49 PM



I am so happy I met you. I loved to hear your stories and could talk to you for hours. The family you leave behind is very blessed to have had you. I will miss our talks. God bless you Ford man.

Susan Hatcher - March 23, 2020 at 09:33 AM

JC

I will miss my buddy, loved you like a daddy! i know that you have a brand new 40 coupe in heaven. you have left me with so many good memories of our times together. thanks johnny! your buddy Joe

Joe cox - March 24, 2020 at 07:44 AM



*I will never for get you nor will my family we loved our sweet friend*

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**lana cox** - March 30, 2020 at 01:34 PM