



## Mr. John Wesley Brown Jr.

August 15, 1962 - December 21, 2017

Mr. John Wesley Brown, Jr. was born on August 15, 1962 in Walterboro, SC. He transitioned from this life on December 20, 2017 in North Charleston among his loving siblings.

He is preceded in death by his parents, John Wesley Brown, Sr. and Theresa Summers Brown.

John grew up in Walterboro, SC. He was member of St. Peter's AME Church where he participated in the Youth Choir, Sunday School Convention, and served as an Usher. He attended school in Colleton County, SC, graduating from Walterboro High School in 1979. John attended the University of South Carolina where he received a bachelor's degree in Music Education with a certificate in Voice. While at USC, John's melodious baritone allowed him to travel abroad as a member of the internationally renowned University of South Carolina Concert Choir and the Palmetto Master Singers under the direction of Dr. Arpad Darazs. He later completed his post graduate studies, earning a Master's degree in Divergent Learning from Columbia College. In addition to pledging the music fraternity, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, John was initiated into the Omicron Iota Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., on August 20, 1988.

Upon graduation from USC, John lived briefly at home in Walterboro where he

was a substitute teacher before relocating to Columbia and began working at the South Carolina Department of Social Services. John later changed careers, finding the perfect school to share his musical talent and began teaching children at Horrell Hill Elementary School in Richland School District One. He loved Horrell Hill! Recognized as a Master Teacher, he had a stellar twenty-four-year career during which he was twice named Teacher of the Year at Horrell Hill and served as Lead Elementary Music Teacher of the District. After this successful tenure, he retired in 2014. In addition to teaching music, he shared the gift of piano through “Mr. Brown’s Piano Lessons”, where he delighted in teaching fingers big and little, young and old how to play. He also deejayed at various nightclubs, parties and events around Columbia. “DJ John” was known for getting the party started, providing the ultimate dance experience for all. John loved all kinds of music. Our family home was constantly filled with beats and melodies coming from the garage or bedroom that he shared with his brother, David. At USC, we always knew it was the weekend when he placed his speaker in his dorm window and blasted his beloved Donna Summer in front of the Russell House.

John Wesley Brown, Jr. is survived by two brothers, Theodore M. Brown (Sandra) of Summerville, SC and David S. Brown (Denise) of Ladson, SC; three sisters, H. Loretta “Bebe” Brown of Columbia, SC; Karen B. Williams (Randall) of Ladson, SC and Susie T. Brown of Beaufort, SC.; three nephews, Mark D. Brown, John Randall Williams and David S. “DJ” Brown, Jr.; five nieces, Turner N. “Nicci” Brown, Loren R. Williams, Cecelia M. “CeCe” Brown, Dasia S. Brown and Dannielle S. Brown; one uncle, Frederick B. Summers (Karen) of Jamaica Plain, MA; two aunts, Gloria Morris of Walterboro, SC and Bessie McClennon of Augusta, GA; close cousins Marcella Maree “Doobie” Goodwin, LaVerne Capers, Mary Emma Middleton, Amy S. Melvin, Amile L. Summers, Ray Turner and a host of many other relatives and dear friends who miss him.

Not only will John be remembered as a talented, kind and gentle soul, he will also be remembered for his wry wit and how he could find humor in even the bleakest of situations.

John has always felt that his relationship with the Lord was special and intimate, and we know for sure that he is now in the presence of the Lord.

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

DEC 27. 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

A. A. Dicks Funeral Home Sullivan Chapel  
6400 North Main Street  
Columbia, SC 29203  
(803) 254-4673

## Visitation

DEC 27. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

A. A. Dicks Funeral Home Sullivan Chapel  
6400 North Main Street  
Columbia, SC 29203  
(803) 254-4673

## Funeral Service

DEC 28. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Turner Memorial AME Church  
1122 Monticello Street  
West Columbia, SC 29169

# Tribute Wall

DP

“ *DeSiree Price lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Wesley Brown Jr.*



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**DeSiree Price** - September 02, 2020 at 11:51 PM

DP

“ *He was my elementary school music teacher. I always loved his class. He would play the piano at the beginning of every class and ask us “How are we doing” and everyone would have to reply “Fine, Thank you.” I was in chorus with him too. Would love going on trips especially to the nursing homes to sing. I remember when we would watch Princess & The Frog with him. Along with The Nutcracker. I never had another teacher like him. I wish I could’ve told him how his teaching shaped my life. I hope he is resting in peace. It’s been years but I just recently found out. My heart is broken. God Bless Him.*

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**DeSiree Price** - September 02, 2020 at 11:49 PM

 Byron Anderson II

“ *He was my music teacher throughout elementary school. I remember every year he would tell us a Halloween story about a witch, it’s just a random story that made him fun not to mention the Golden Arm story God bless you Mr. Brown!!*

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**Byron Anderson II** - May 14, 2018 at 04:31 PM

LE

“ *Leana lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Wesley Brown Jr.*



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**Leana** - December 29, 2017 at 11:03 PM

GK

“ *Gloria Kempson lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Wesley Brown Jr.*



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**Gloria Kempson** - December 29, 2017 at 08:34 AM



“ *John was a man who, whether it had been ten days or ten years since you'd last seen him, always let you know that he cared about you. I first met him in the late 80's and it was "love at first sound" for his music and him. I always think about him when I laugh because he told me several times that he loved my little laugh. The last time he texted me he told me he loved me. I am blessed to have called him my friend. May God bless you and give you peace in your hearts.*

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**Wanda Widener** - December 28, 2017 at 06:08 PM

AP

“ I worked as a fellow music teacher in Richland One with John for many years. His years as lead elementary music teacher made music meetings more enjoyable. His talent, kindness, love of children and love of music touched many during his life. John will always have a special place in my heart! Ann Perry

Ann Perry - December 27, 2017 at 10:52 PM

CG

“ Sincere condolences to the Brown Family from Nathaniel and Cynthia Gant.  
John will be missed by all.

Cynthia Gant - December 27, 2017 at 10:25 PM

CB

“ Tonight there is an emptiness in so many hearts here in Columbia. John was a beautiful soul and his music brought many of us joy. He had a humble and gentle way and we loved him. RIP my friend you will be with us In spirit each time the music plays.

Carol Haney/ Brooks - December 27, 2017 at 07:28 PM

LO

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Louis, Rose, Michael, Val, Rosette, Jr, Jennifer, Sonjia, Charles purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. John Wesley Brown Jr..

Louis, Rose, Michael, Val, Rosette, Jr, Jennifer, Sonjia, Charles -  
December 27, 2017 at 05:37 PM

VO

“ *May the gift of John Wesley Brown linger with the souls left here to celebrate his life. John unselfishly shared his gift of voice with many.*

*Dr. Valerie O'Kelley*

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**Valerie O'Kelley** - December 27, 2017 at 03:07 PM

LF

“ *Linda Epps And Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Wesley Brown Jr.*



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**Linda Epps and Family** - December 27, 2017 at 02:00 PM

LF

*My thoughts and Prayers go out to the Brown Family. You will be missed John Brown.*

*Linda Epps*

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**Linda Epps and Family** - December 27, 2017 at 02:02 PM

KA

“ *I took piano lessons with Mr. Brown for 6 years. He used to pick me up from school and we would jam to the crazy music I listened to in middle school on the way to my lesson. He was an amazing teacher, and I owe everything I know musically to him. He was always kind and patient with me and my family, and was always willing to help us in any way he could.*

*"To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded."*

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**Kevin A** - December 27, 2017 at 11:47 AM

DP

“ *John will truly be missed. He was such an awesome person and always kept the same pleasant demeanor in the years of my knowing him. Rest in peace my friend! Don Phillips*

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**Don Phillips** - December 27, 2017 at 10:35 AM

DH

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



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**Debbie Hallman** - December 26, 2017 at 06:42 PM

TM

*He who works with his hands is a laborer.  
He who works with his hands and his head is a craftsman.  
He who works with his hands and his head and his heart is an artist.  
Francis of Assisi*

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**Tammy Martin** - December 27, 2017 at 03:50 PM

EG

“ *To The Family of John Wesley Brown, Jr:*

*I take this opportunity to encourage your heart as you go through this season of grief and loss. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh. Blessed be the name of the Lord. John has fought a great fight. Now he has transitioned to gain his eternal reward.*

*God will give you added grace and strength to get through the days ahead.*

*Love,  
Elizabeth Glover  
Charleston, SC*

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**Elizabeth Glover** - December 26, 2017 at 02:33 PM

JE

“ *Mr. Brown was a fantastic music teacher! I will always remember how he would "take a bite" of a record during our classes approaching Halloween. I enjoyed chorus, and learning how to play the flute in his class. He made music fun and will be missed.*



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**Jennie** - December 26, 2017 at 11:57 AM

J.

“ *J. Kevin(Satch)Speaks sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. John Wesley Brown Jr.*



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**J. Kevin(Satch)Speaks** - December 26, 2017 at 11:13 AM

J.

“ To the family . May Gods blessing be with you during your time of bereavement . John and I were friend for at least 20 years and we both were employed by Richland school dist #1. John and I shared a passion for music , covering all genre . John brought happiness and rocking entertainment through his music to clubs and overall party scene . John pride himself on his cooking talent for making spaghetti and different pasta meals . I will miss my friend for now but I hope to see him in heaven some day . Have your sweet rest John , we love you . Peace J Kevin (Satch) Speaks

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**J. Kevin(Satch) Speaks** - December 26, 2017 at 10:38 AM