



## John Wood

May 1, 1935 - April 6, 2026

It is with hearts overflowing with love and gratitude that we announce the peaceful passing of a man who wore many names — John, Deli, Woody — each one a testament to the many lives JOHN WARDELL WOOD touched and the warmth he carried wherever he went. Born on May 1, 1935, John graced this world for 90 beautiful years before departing on April 6, 2026.

John was brought into this world as the eldest of nine children born to John Daniel and Ruth Tolson Wood, a distinction he wore with quiet pride his entire life. Raised in the countryside, young Woody found his greatest joy working side by side with his father on the farm — early mornings, rich soil, and the honest labor of the land shaping the hardworking and devoted man he would become. He received his education at Richmond County

High School, where the foundations of his character were further formed. After his school years, Wardell found his first great love in Ruth Thompson, whom he married and cherished. Together they were blessed with two beautiful children, Sheila and Johnny — his pride and joy, the first chapters of his enduring legacy of love.

At the age of 19, Woody made his way to the city - Baltimore, rolling up his sleeves and embracing every opportunity that came his way. From working as a security guard to mastering the trades of home improvement, he never

shied away from honest work. It was his dedication and steady hands that eventually landed him a long and distinguished career as a crane operator at Bethlehem Steel of Sparrows Point. For 42 remarkable years, he showed up with the same quiet determination, retiring with honor in 1996 — a legacy of reliability and craftsmanship that few could match.

Life and love smiled upon Deli again in 1975 when he crossed paths with the remarkable Tillie. What began as a meeting of souls blossomed into a deep and abiding love, and on September 5, 1981, the two were united in marriage. Through this beautiful union, John's heart grew even fuller, welcoming Archaletta and Yolanda as two additional pieces of his heart — a family that grew not just in number, but in boundless love.

The 30 years that followed retirement were perhaps the most golden of all. John embraced every moment with zest and gratitude — traveling alongside his beloved wife, joyfully attending family gatherings and reunions, making sentimental pilgrimages back to his home in the country, casting a line on quiet mornings of fishing, stalking the woods during hunting season, and perhaps most of all, simply kickin' back with family and friends.

He was a man who knew how to live, how to love, and how to make every room feel like home. Above all, John was the patriarch of his family — the steady anchor around whom all others found their footing. He led not with loud commands, but with a quiet strength that spoke louder than words ever could. Rooted in a strong and unwavering faith, he modeled for his children and grandchildren what it looks like to live with integrity, humility, and grace. His faith was not merely something he professed; it was something he lived, day in and day out, in the way he loved his family, served others, and faced life's every season.

John was preceded in death by his parents John and Ruth Wood, brother

Albert Percell Wood and daughter Yolanda Owens. John leaves to cherish his memory: his beloved wife, Tillie; his children, Sheila, Johnny and Arcaletta; his grandchildren, Volante, Brandon, Alycia; his great-grandchildren Delvasz, De'lea'yah, Jordan, Aliyah, Haley, Jubilee, Storm, Shaniyah, William and Joseph; his dear siblings, Allen, Howard (Vivian), Irene (Thomas), Leroy (Alice), Bill (Gloria), Pernell (Theresa), Mitch (Iris) and Larry (Ethel); and a wide and wonderful circle of family and friends whose lives are richer for having known him.

A good man. A loving husband. A proud father. A faithful friend.  
May he rest in the peace and love he so freely gave to others.

# Cemetery Details

## Arbutus Memorial Park Cemetery

1101 Sulphur Spring Road  
Baltimore, MD 21227

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

APR **20**. 3:30 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center, P.A. – Randallstown  
5616 Old Court Road  
Windsor Mill, MD 21244  
(410) 655-0110

## Wake

APR **21**. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center, P.A. – Randallstown  
5616 Old Court Road  
Windsor Mill, MD 21244  
(410) 655-0110

## Funeral Service

---

APR **21**. 10:30 AM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center, P.A. – Randallstown  
5616 Old Court Road  
Windsor Mill, MD 21244  
(410) 655-0110

# Tribute Wall



“ *March Funeral Homes created a Webcast in memory of John Wood*



---

**March Life Tribute Centers** - April 08 at 11:30 AM

NH

“ *My deepest condolences go out to my Aunt Tillie and Uncle Wardell's entire family. I live in Texas and could not make it to Baltimore for the services. It was a hard day for a lot of us. Uncle Wardell was a beautiful person, inside and out. He had a heart of gold and was a very distinguished gentleman. Rest in Peace Uncle Warnell. Love you forever*



---

**Nanette Hector** - April 21 at 12:26 PM

RJ

“ *Tillie & Family - Please know that I am thinking of you and praying that God will give you strength & comfort during this difficult time. I loved my cousin Wardell.*

*Renee Wood Jolley*



---

**Renee Jolley** - April 19 at 07:00 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of John Wood.*



---

April 19 at 06:53 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Wood.*



---

April 16 at 09:51 PM



“ *We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love, and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.*

---

**March Life Tribute Center** - April 08 at 11:34 AM