



## John Brown Duffie

October 4, 1945 - April 19, 2018

Mr. John Brown “Stretch” Duffie, age 72 of Douglas passed away suddenly at his residence on Thursday afternoon, April 19, 2018. Mr. Duffie, a native of Greenwood, SC, was born October 4, 1945 to the late Jack Theodore Duffie and the late Mary Elizabeth Brown Duffie Thornton.

Mr. Duffie began his colorful sports career in baseball, football and basketball at Avondale High School in Atlanta, GA and then later at Brewton-Parker Junior College from which he graduated. He ultimately signed a bonus contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers as a pitcher where he played in that organization from 1966 to 1969. At that time he was the tallest player in professional baseball. After he moved to Douglas he worked with the City of Douglas in the maintenance department where he retired as the maintenance supervisor. He was also a member of St. Illa Baptist Church.

Survivors include:

His wife: Tonya Moore Duffie of Douglas, GA

1 Daughter: Brandy Michelle Novak of Coventry, Connecticut

2 Grandchildren: Katrina Novak of Coventry, Connecticut

Brandon Novak and his wife Jackie of US Marine Corp, Washington, DC

1 Brother: James Duffie and his wife Mary of Atlanta, GA

Step-Father: William J. Thornton of Rabun Gap, GA

3 Nephews: Ron Duffie and his wife Dawn of Auburn, AL  
Ken Duffie and Philip Duffie and his wife Heather both of Atlanta, GA

1 Niece: Marsi Beall of Dallas, TX

1 Sister-in-law: Cynthia Lyons and her husband Mike of Augusta, GA and their  
2 children

Angela McClure and her husband Jonathan of Atlanta, GA

Pamela Freeman and her husband Jason of Cabot, Arkansas

Several Nieces, Nephews, Cousins and a host of Friends

The memorial service will be held Friday morning, April 27, 2018 at 11:00 AM  
at St. Illa Baptist Church with Rev. Walter James officiating

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Illa Baptist Church 5638  
Highway 158 West Douglas, GA 31535 or to ABLE FOUNDATION at [www.purwaterww.org](http://www.purwaterww.org)

Ricketson Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

# Tribute Wall



“ *John Brown Duffie*

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November 08, 2022 at 06:41 PM



“ *I "grew up" with Duffie in the 1970's in Decatur, Georgia. He and several of us ran in a "pack". I was shocked to hear of his passing. He was indeed a gentle giant. RIP Duffie.*

*Judy Lipscomb  
Albuquerque, NM*

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**Judy Lipscomb** - October 04, 2018 at 01:24 PM



“ *In June of 1967, I was returning from artillery training at Ft. Sill and picked up a Baseball Almanac 1967 at the airport. Couldn't believe I saw Johns name there with the Dodgers. When I saw him at our 10th class reunion it was great because he had lived the dream we all shared at Avondale when playing. He brought his 'card' to the 20th reunion to show me. I was taking our son to card shows during that time but never found Johns there. I know he'll be missed by all who knew him at AHS.*

*Bill Stegall*

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**Bill Stegall** - May 10, 2018 at 12:45 PM

JD

“ *We shall all miss this respected and gentle giant of a man with a Heart to match. God Bless, Big John.....*



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**JAN DOWNING** - April 27, 2018 at 08:11 AM

WJ

“ *He was a joy to pastor (Hebrews 13:17).*

*Agape,  
Walter James*

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**Walter James** - April 27, 2018 at 01:06 AM

SD

“ *Shirley Dill lit a candle in memory of John Brown Duffie*



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**Shirley Dill** - April 25, 2018 at 09:22 AM

LH

“ *Lonnie Huff lit a candle in memory of John Brown Duffie*




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**lonnie Huff** - April 24, 2018 at 06:30 AM

LH

“ I grew up with John, as a youngster we we the BB Gun toting kids of midway heights i guess.I am glad we shared those youthful days hunting big game back in the day with my simple Red Ryder and John,now I remember he had a really bad boy pump BB Gun and it was a beauty.we were chased out of many backyards on our way to the woods behind richard rd.on the way to the days big hunt's,that usually ended with us using all our BB's and no Trophiy's,But Big John you are where you will receive many Great thing's for you're being such a Great and Loving man to many as we all grew up and you were a Legend in Sports at Avondale High School and went on to college and was signed with the La Dodgers and when in your later years you and your Lovely wife shared some Blessed time's and memories I am sure together.I along with many and I mean many other's have a Blank Spot in our Heart's at this time,and your Beautiful Family will always as we do miss you and know one day we will all once again be together with family,Friend's and God to know That Blessed assurance of Love God Give's to all.Until then may God Bless all the Family and Friends and I can only say through Tear's today that I Love you Man for being there as a Friend when I ever asked for your help.Lonnie&Sandra Huff. amen.

Lonnie Huff - April 24, 2018 at 06:26 AM

  
Barbara  
Howard

“ Barbara Howard lit a candle in memory of  
John Brown Duffie



Barbara Howard - April 22, 2018 at 01:46 PM



“ *Martha Cabaniss lit a candle in memory of John Brown Duffie*



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**Martha Cabaniss** - April 22, 2018 at 07:00 AM



“ *Caroline Powell lit a candle in memory of John Brown Duffie*



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**Caroline Powell** - April 22, 2018 at 03:44 AM



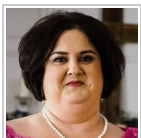
“ *Big John was the kindest, most humble man I've ever had the honor of knowing. I am so proud to call him friend. He will be missed by all.*

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**Martha Cabaniss** - April 21, 2018 at 10:45 PM



“ *When we worked together at the City of Douglas, I was truly honored to get to know John. He had a kind word for everyone.*

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**Dorie Bacon** - April 21, 2018 at 10:16 PM



“ *John was the sweetest, most humble person. He will be missed.*  
*Carol Purvis*

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**Carol Purvis** - April 21, 2018 at 02:57 PM