



John L. Daniels

August 24, 1948 - March 27, 2026

THE LASTING LEGACY

John Leo "Big John" Daniels, 77, of Chester, PA, passed away peacefully on March 21, 2026, surrounded by loved ones. Born August 24, 1948, to the late George and Elnora Daniels, he was preceded in death by his wife, Rev. Julia Daniels, brothers, and sisters.

John lived a life of service and dedication. He attended Chester Upland schools and served in the U.S. Army from 1967 to 1971, including during the Vietnam War, earning honors such as, but not limited to, the Bronze Medal and Purple Heart. After his military service, he worked 13 years as an undercover investigator with Pinkerton and 18 years with the Delaware County Sheriff's Department, retiring as Sheriff. He was widely respected for his integrity, leadership, faith, and kind spirit.

Known throughout Chester for his business "Ribs in the Ruff," Big John was also a devoted member of Calvary Baptist Church and its male chorus, as well as a proud Philadelphia Eagles fan.

He was a pillar in his community, he helped co found the annual "Kids Day on the Waterfront," with his fishing buddies, Curtis Johnson, Xavier Blakley, Dr. Lou Strand, Carl Johnson, Fred Johnson, Doug Scott, which celebrated 15

years of serving local children and was recognized by the City of Chester in 2023, thanks to all of the volunteers, sponsors, and parents of Chester, PA.

He was a devoted friend to Helen L. Myers (caretaker/ companion), sharing daily devotionals, travel, and time with family and friends. Known for his generosity, he will be deeply missed.

He is survived by his brother George Daniels III; stepchildren Michelle and Jay Brunson; special cousin Virginia English; grandchildren James, Domonique, and Derrick; and many nieces and nephews, including Derrick (Sonya and Sydney) Shepherd. His legacy of service and love will live on in all who knew him, and he will truly be missed.

Cemetery Details

PRIVATE

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 22. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Calvary Baptist Church
1616 W. 2nd Street
Chester, PA 19013

Service

APR 22. 11:00 AM (ET)

Calvary Baptist Church
1616 W. 2nd Street
Chester, PA 19013

Tribute Wall

DN

“ JD, I am so very very saddened to hear of your passing....I know that you are now in the presence of The Lord!!! My condolences to your family as they are in my prayers!!! Rest easy my friend!!!

Diane Nowell - April 03 at 03:29 PM

MH

So sorry to hear about your passing rest in peace my friend 🙏
Mable Harris

Mabel Harris - April 08 at 11:23 AM

SP

“ Our sincere condolences to the Daniels Family. Memories shall always be with you. John will be in our hearts forever. Sandi Peterson and the Dill Family

Sandi Peterson - April 02 at 05:25 PM