



John Fletcher Birchette III

May 24, 1945 - August 21, 2017

“The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom do I fear? The Lord is my life’s refuge”

John Fletcher Birchette III, 72, Johnson City, Tennessee, slipped peacefully from his earthly vessel into the arms of his Heavenly Father at his residence following a valiant struggle with a lengthy illness on the morning of Monday, August 21, 2017 as his beloved wife and son kept vigil by his side.

He was born May 24, 1945 in Baltimore, Maryland to the late Rev. John F. Birchette Jr. and Bessie Hurt Birchette and moved with his parents to Johnson City where he entered second grade at Dunbar Elementary School and his father became the pastor of Thankful Baptist Church.

Fletcher, as he was affectionately known, was a proud alumnus of Langston High School class of 1962. He continued his education at two institutions of higher learning, his father’s alma mater, Morehouse College, Atlanta Georgia and his mother’s alma mater, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee.

He embraced his patriotic call to duty by serving in the Army National Guard. On August 28, 1965 he married Sarah Ann Avery whom he devotedly shared a union of almost 52 years.

Fletcher was an employee of Veterans Administration, Mountain Home, Tennessee from which he retired after thirty plus years where he was known

as a “gentle giant with a firm handshake, kind heart, and reassuring bright smile”.

He served as President and Funeral Director of Birchette Mortuary Incorporated, Johnson City, Tennessee for over thirty years where he honored his late father’s motto “we are a service to the community; therefore, we will always do unto others as we would have them do unto us” as central to the business. He was a trusted confidant and always provided assistance whether it was spiritual, financial, sustenance or other which eased many people’s burdens.

Fletcher was a long time member of Thankful Baptist Church where he served the congregation as a Deacon and was a member of the Men’s Choir and he was lovingly referred to as the “hummer”. He was also a member of the Thankful Baptist Brotherhood. He embraced his faith and demonstrated his servitude through humility toward those whom he met and it was his compassion that led those who knew him to describe him as being “a friend to all.” One of his favorite passages of scripture was Psalm 27:5 “For in the day of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me, he shall set me upon a rock”. It gave him courage and fortitude to not only face challenges in his life, but offer it as encouragement to others who faced obstacles whether it was health issues, bereavement, wavering faith, or decisions. He was especially concerned with youth choosing positive paths to education and gainful employment as well their needs being met. Always a gentleman he extended his concern to the elderly to ensure that they were cared for with dignity even it meant he was the source of the funds which was always done anonymously.

It was his integrity and commitment to serve others that enabled him to willingly belong to organizations and clubs, serve on numerous civic committees, and Boards of Directors to include Johnson City Power Board,

Johnson City Senior Citizens Center, Langston Heritage Group, Washington County-Johnson City NAACP, and Pro-To Club, Inc. He did not like accolades and always preferred to not be in the limelight; however, on October 21, 2006, the City of Johnson City recognized him by naming a day in his honor.

In later years until Fletcher's health ceased to allow him the freedom to do so, he enjoyed weekly lunches and annual dinners with his "May birthday buddies" which included John Russaw, James Whiteside, Ralph Davis, and William Coleman. His friends from the funeral home industry were many, but Preston McKee of Morris Baker Funeral Home, Johnson City, and Richard A. Clarke of R.A. Clarke Funeral Home, Bristol, Virginia were considered "special".

Fletcher is survived by his wife, Sarah Ann Birchette (of the home); his son, John F. Birchette IV Johnson City, TN ; 3 nieces, Michelle Duncan(Chris), April Deck(Chris), and Shaunice Vaughan; 3 nephews, Mose White, Johnson City, TN., and Brian Smith(Joanne) Charlotte, NC., and William Bundy, Houston, TX.; 5 great- nieces, Nya Lee Deck, Faith Michelle Deck, Mary Katherine Deck, Lawton, OK; Skylar White and Allana French, Johnson City, TN; 8 great-nephews, Caleb Keith Duncan, Noah Christopher Duncan, Lucas Charles Duncan, Ayden White, Landon White, JaMichael Vaughan, Johnson City, TN., James Deck, Michael Joseph Deck, Lawton, OK; 1 sister-in-law, Estelle Vaughan; 1 brother-in-law, Michael Vaughan, Topeka, KS; cousins, Muriel Birchette, Atlanta, GA; Mark Birchette, Brooklyn, NY; G. Craig Birchette, Dallas, TX; Samuel Pierce, Boston, MA; Chase Birchette, Windsor, CT; Gail Goines, James Scott, Eugene Russaw(Christie), Kendall Goines, and Scotty Goines (Erin), James Scott Jr. and Anna Scott Johnson City, TN; Special "Brothers", Rev. Vincent M. Dial and Angelo B. Newman; Extended Family and Friends too numerous to mention and the staff of Birchette Mortuary, Incorporated who know that "To live in the hearts of those we leave

behind is not to die”.

The family would like to thank caregiving angels Chasity Scalf and Shamra Killin for the superior love and care they provided him until the last hours of his life. Mountain States Hospice, Gentiva Physical Therapy, Dr. Kevin Sweet and Dr. Nathaniel Whaley.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 1:00 pm on Saturday August 26, 2017 at Thankful Baptist Church in Jonson City. The family will receive friends from 11:30 am-1:00 pm prior to the service at the church. Interment will follow at Washington County Memory Gardens in Johnson City.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG 26. 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Thankful Baptist Church
1501 E Watauga Ave
Johnson City, TN 37601
(423) 926-5241

Interment

AUG 26. 3:00 PM - 3:20 PM (ET)

Washington County Memory Gardens
113 Memory Gardens Rd.
Johnson City, TN 37615

Visitation

AUG 26. 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Thankful Baptist Church
1501 E Watauga Ave
Johnson City, TN 37601
(423) 926-5241

Tribute Wall



“ *John Fletcher Birchette III*

January 29, 2023 at 10:28 PM



“ *Nzinga(Vanessa)AmaLinton lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III*



Nzinga(Vanessa)AmaLinton - December 29, 2017 at 09:42 AM



“ *Roxie Bailey lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III*



Roxie Bailey - October 30, 2017 at 07:59 PM



“ *My Condolences to Mrs Birchette and son John. Janice Hamilton*

Janice Hamilton - October 16, 2017 at 09:56 PM

DS

“ That one voice of reason when I desperately needed guidance. You will be missed my friend and may you Rest In Peace prayers to your family and friends. I will personally be always thankful for guidance off that dark road I was heading. Sincerely.

Dr. Charles E Stuart

(As you always referred to me as "Charlie")



Dr Charles E Stuart - September 01, 2017 at 12:20 AM

GC

“ When we were young boys I came to Johnson city to visit my grandmother Nanny Culberson. Fletcher showed me great friendship thru sports and tying junebugs to the front porch.

Gregory Culberson - August 30, 2017 at 03:08 PM

 Sue
Nichols

“ I would like to offer my condolences to the Mrs. Sarah Birchette and son & family. I was sadden to hear of your loved one passing. My first husband, Jerry W. Owens was a very good friend from elementary school through High School. When Jerry passed away, Mr. Birchette was such a blessing to me and my family. He handled everything with a special attention for his friend, and my husband. He will be missed by many! God Bless and comfort you for we know he is in a better place.

Mrs. E. Sue (Owens) Nichols



Sue Nichols - August 28, 2017 at 06:03 PM

CB

“ *The thing I remember most about my Cousin Fletcher was that he personified "family." Family meant the world to him, and he would do the world for his family. He had our back, through thick and thin, and was always calm, calming and comforting, with a warm smile, quick wit and helping hand.*

Fletcher got it honestly, from his father, Rev. Birchette, so he obviously came from fine stock, which shows in John IV as well, so it runs in the family. Although Fletcher didn't preach, he practiced--practiced being the best son, husband, father, relative, friend and man he could be, and by all accounts, he did it well.

A Big Man, with even a Bigger Heart, Fletcher will be dearly missed by all who loved him and that he touched in life.

Sure will miss you, Cuz, but rest in well-deserved peace!!

Sincerely with love,

Craig Birchette

Craig Birchette - August 28, 2017 at 11:36 AM

RC

I remember my grandmother living on Boone St. not far from the Birchette's house. They were all kind and loving to me and my little sister. I used to ride my trike by their house because it had a longer sidewalk. Much love and respect for Fletcher Birchette. RIP.

Ralph Eugene Chubb - August 28, 2017 at 02:00 PM

JB

“ *Joseph Hardin, Jr And Diane Bradley lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III*



Joseph Hardin, Jr and Diane Bradley - August 28, 2017 at 03:31 AM

LW

“ *LaKissha Williams lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III*



LaKissha Williams - August 27, 2017 at 05:20 PM

JF

“ *I worked with John at the VA for many years and he was such a delight all the time. He was full of wisdom and shared it with all of us. He always had a smile and words to lift you up. I count it a pleasure to call him my friend!!! God bless all of the family and prayers for your comfort.*

Judy Fowler - August 27, 2017 at 04:14 PM

FB

“ *The Bell and Widby Family would like to extend our expression of condolences and appreciation for Mr. Birchette through our time of loss and sorrow of my son Marvin Bell Jr. and my mother Sally Widby. Mr. Birchette went above and beyond comforting us to doing all he could to help me and my brother through our losses. He was truly an unselfish generous man. A great loss to our community.*

Deepest Sympathy,

*Sincerely,
Fayette Widby Bell*

Fayette Bell - August 27, 2017 at 01:55 PM

DO

“ *I was sad to hear the news of your loss of Mr. Fletcher, what a great person. He always had the smile and words of comfort that were needed at the right time. Heaven is rejoicing as another angel has gone home.*

Dawn (Moncrief) Orie

Dawn (Moncrief) Orie - August 27, 2017 at 09:41 AM

AM

{ just received the news about Fletcher and it really saddened me ,God has his own time for who he wants and when.The Birtchette family has always meant the world to my family. I am praying for his family and loved ones. God does not make mistakes

With much love and prayers, Arliss Mack and family(Baltimore Md).

Arliss Goines Mack - August 28, 2017 at 01:54 PM

SR

“ To the family of Fletcher I send my deepest heartfelt sympathy at the news of your loss. He was a great friend to many and most of all a leader in the community. Please find comfort in the great memories.

Stephanie (Moncrief) Rogers

Stephanie (Moncrief) Rogers - August 27, 2017 at 09:36 AM

RS

“ Rev. Christine Scurry lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III



Rev. Christine Scurry - August 26, 2017 at 12:24 PM

CS

“ Fletcher Birchette was a gentleman and a great civic leader who will be missed. I was honored to know him while he was a member of the senior services advisory council. My condolences to his entire family. Respectfully,
Charlie Stahl



Charlie Stahl - August 26, 2017 at 11:52 AM



“ As a former employee at our local VA hospital when Fletch was employed there, he went beyond the call of duty in taking care of our Veterans especially when he was over at the domiciliary as an Assistant Chief under Dan Kyte. He was very professional when taking care of my in-laws: Marion and Charles Brady in their passing. I am so sorry for your lost and I know he will be truly missed. Terry and Jeannie (Bowling) Byrd.

Terry Byrd - August 26, 2017 at 09:45 AM



“ Moricina Fain lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III



Moricina Fain - August 26, 2017 at 08:21 AM



We'll miss you brother. We love you Sarah and John. We'll continue to keep you in our thoughts and prayers. Love always, Gary and Moricina Fain

Moricina Fain - August 26, 2017 at 08:39 AM



“ Nancy Posey lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III



Nancy Posey - August 26, 2017 at 07:39 AM

JF

“ John Story Family lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III



John Story Family - August 26, 2017 at 07:34 AM

MM

“ Mr. Fletcher was a wonderful person. He will be missed. Mrs. Sarah Ann and John you all are in my prayers.



Marie Rhyans McCullough

Marie Rhyans McCullough - August 25, 2017 at 08:19 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of John Fletcher Birchette III.



August 25, 2017 at 07:22 PM

PC

“ Our community has lost a great and honorable man of God. You were such an inspiration and a blessing to many. You will be missed,...Rest in the arms of Jesus, praying for the family ~ from the Rollins, Carson, and Gilmore families



Pamela Carson-Rollins - August 25, 2017 at 04:49 PM

BW

Our prayers and thoughts go out to family from Barbara and Jarvis Wynn, Lithonia, GA.

Barbara Wynn - August 25, 2017 at 10:27 PM

SB

“ *Sarah Bell-Young lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III*



Sarah Bell-Young - August 25, 2017 at 01:02 PM

WG

“ *William Bunby and Rosemary Gray purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Fletcher Birchette III.*



William Bunby and Rosemary Gray - August 24, 2017 at 09:48 PM

 Sheryl Lampkin

“ *Sheryl Lampkin lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III*



Sheryl Lampkin - August 24, 2017 at 08:31 PM

SI

“ *My friend you will truly be missed .I always enjoyed our talks . My friend you have served us with Exceptional Excellence Thank you! take your rest till we meet again*

Susie Inman - August 24, 2017 at 06:15 PM

DS

“ *DC And Shelia Smith lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III*



DC and Shelia Smith - August 24, 2017 at 05:53 PM

DC

“ *Prayers and comfort to the Birchette family. Annie Hall, Patsy Goines, Dora Carson*



dora carson - August 24, 2017 at 05:17 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John Fletcher Birchette III.*



August 24, 2017 at 03:31 PM

RG

“ Roland & Debbie Williams & Family, Stone Mtn, GA purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John Fletcher Birchette III.



Roland & Debbie Williams & Family, Stone Mtn, GA - August 24, 2017 at 02:40 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Fletcher Birchette III.



August 24, 2017 at 02:22 PM

PS

“ The Thomas family sends our condolences to the Birchett family in their time of grief. Fletcher was always good to us when his services was needed, he will be greatly missed.



Much love to the family

Paula Thomas Story - August 24, 2017 at 02:08 PM

ZG

“ Zippora Garcia lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III



zippora garcia - August 24, 2017 at 12:47 PM

ZG

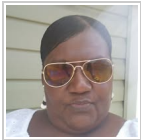
Praying for God 's Peace and. Comfort to the. Birchette family from the Garcia / Murphy family

zippora garcia - August 24, 2017 at 12:52 PM

MD

Mr Birthchette has been there for soooo many families. In our time of need, he was there to comfort. He will be greatly missed. He did so much for others. Prayers

Margo Drakeford - August 24, 2017 at 04:50 PM



“ **JOAN BRADLEY AND FAMILY**

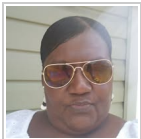


Sondra Bradley - August 24, 2017 at 12:25 PM

WC

There are know words that can say how much Mr. F. Birchette will be missed. A man with a Big Heart that cared for all. RIH My Brother.

William Cunningham - August 24, 2017 at 04:53 PM



“ **Sondra Bradley lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III**



Sondra Bradley - August 24, 2017 at 12:23 PM



“ *Gwendolyn Smith lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III*



Gwendolyn Smith - August 24, 2017 at 11:11 AM



Our hearts are heavy with the loss of Fletcher Birchette III. Prayers for his wife, son, extended family and friends.

Gwendolyn Smith - August 24, 2017 at 11:13 AM



“ *Ann Pritchard lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III*



Ann Pritchard - August 24, 2017 at 08:46 AM



So sorry for your loss. Sending hugs and prayers to the family. Fletcher may be gone from this Earth but he will never be forgotten!

M. Ann (Machen) Pritchard

Ann Pritchard - August 24, 2017 at 08:52 AM

GF

“ While are hearts are sad here on earth, Rev. and Mrs. Birchette rejoice and welcome their son to his "heavenly home" for now he is healed. My sincere condolences to Sarah, John and members of the mortuary staff.

Geneva Fain
NC

Geneva Fain - August 24, 2017 at 08:23 AM

AA

“ Amy Arnold lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III



Amy Arnold - August 24, 2017 at 04:43 AM

CA

“ Cissy Anderson lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III



Cissy Anderson - August 23, 2017 at 11:35 PM

JK

“ James & Delphine Knaff purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of John Fletcher Birchette III.



James & Delphine Knaff - August 23, 2017 at 04:16 PM

FR

“ from Charles and Ezell Richardson purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John Fletcher Birchette III.



from Charles and Ezell Richardson - August 23, 2017 at 03:42 PM

DK

“ Fletch was the type of person to light up a room when he would enter. With his bubbly and funny personality he would always make me laugh. He will truly be missed. May God Bless each of you during this time. Praying for you to find some peace in days to come.

Delphine Knaff - August 23, 2017 at 03:11 PM

SW

“ Sherieka L Whitney lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III



Sherieka L Whitney - August 23, 2017 at 12:37 PM

VN

“ I'm so heartbroken. Fletcher was so good to me in the loss of my children...he was such a comfort...Rest In Peace my friend....God is waiting on you.

Veral Neal - August 23, 2017 at 12:35 PM

PR

“ Words cannot express the sorrow I feel. I was privileged to call Fletcher my big brother and will never forget the times we shared riding around with Rev.Birchette and my dad Deacon Carl Rhea. Every Saturday me candy and John along with Daddy and Reverend Birchette went to every store in Johnson City meat store bread store bakery. You will forever be in my heart.RIP Fletcher Pate



Patria Rhea - August 23, 2017 at 11:18 AM

JL

“ Jackie Leeper lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III



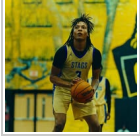
Jackie Leeper - August 23, 2017 at 10:56 AM

TM

“ Teresa McAdams lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III



Teresa McAdams - August 23, 2017 at 09:47 AM



“ *Selicca Livingston lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III*



Selicca Livingston - August 23, 2017 at 09:42 AM

AB

“ *Adia Babb-King lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III*



Adia Babb-King - August 23, 2017 at 08:44 AM



“ *A true example of God's LOVE!*



Pamela Renea - August 23, 2017 at 06:37 AM

LB

“ *No one can ever adequately thank you for all you've done. You stood by us all at some of the hardest times in our lives. Thank you for caring Fletcher. Rest with your heavenly father now. The work you've done speaks for you. Prayers are lifted for Ms. Sara, John and the Birchette family.*



Lisa Parks Butler - August 22, 2017 at 10:34 PM

PH

“ May God comfort you and your family during this time. Such a wonderful person to have known. He will Be greatly missed by the community and all Who knew him.

Pamela Hughes - August 22, 2017 at 10:10 PM

CS

“ Constance Stephens lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III



Constance Stephens - August 22, 2017 at 09:56 PM

PS

“ Pastor Arthur H. Coleman Sr lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III



Pastor Arthur H. Coleman Sr - August 22, 2017 at 08:55 PM



“ Mazie Love lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III



Mazie Love - August 22, 2017 at 08:42 PM



“ Mazie Love lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III



Mazie Love - August 22, 2017 at 08:40 PM



“ RIP to a wonderful man. Gone but never forgotten



Keisha Douthitt - August 22, 2017 at 07:24 PM



“ Elaine Brady lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III



Elaine Brady - August 22, 2017 at 07:23 PM



“ Melvin Drumgoole lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III



Melvin Drumgoole - August 22, 2017 at 05:12 PM

TD

“ *A good man. Will be missed. By every one r.i.p.*

Troy. Dale - August 22, 2017 at 05:06 PM

SS

“ *Sandra Stephens lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III*



Sandra Stephens - August 22, 2017 at 04:53 PM

AT

“ *Angela Turner lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III*



Angela Turner - August 22, 2017 at 03:50 PM

SR

“ *Sherry C Roberts lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III*



Sherry C Roberts - August 22, 2017 at 03:14 PM

CH

“ My dad doesn't have a Facebook account but he wanted to say some words....

"Jesus said, I will never leave you nor forsake you"

My Brother Fletcher,

For 40yrs we were together! He was by my side problems or not Day and Night! Rest In Peace my brother. John and I will try our best to do as you have done "caring for people".

Your brother Robert Hale Sr.

carl hale - August 22, 2017 at 03:11 PM

VI

*God will not put more on us then we can bare.
Fletcher will always be a part of my heart. He was a great friend and brother. John I will be there for you. Sara Ann you and John are in my prayers.
Little sister, Viola*

Viola - August 22, 2017 at 04:01 PM

CH

“ Sorry for your loss! A friend of my dad is a awesome friend to me!
Rip

carl hale - August 22, 2017 at 03:00 PM

RD

“ To Mrs. Birchette, John and family: We have lost a good servant in the funeral profession. It was always a pleasure to laugh and talk with Fletcher. We will remember him as a loving, caring and professional in funeral service. May God bless you and keep you. Robert and Alma Davis, Marquis and Alma Dotson and the entire staff at Foothills Funeral Home, Maryville.

Robert M. Davis - August 22, 2017 at 02:47 PM

RR

“ Rev. & Mrs. William J. Reid lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III



Rev. & Mrs. William J. Reid - August 22, 2017 at 02:26 PM

PR

On behalf of the New Hope Baptist Church Family, Bristol, VA; my wife Sylvia and myself, while our hearts are saddened by the passing of our brother Fletcher, we are truly grateful that God, in His infinite wisdom, allowed our paths to cross. My life was made richer by his wisdom, patience and commitment to his God, family and community. We shared many laughs especially about college football-me being an Alabama fan. May the family be blessed and comforted in the Lord.
Pastor William J. Reid

Pastor William J. Reid - August 22, 2017 at 02:40 PM

EH

“ Thank you ! For all the many memories you and your family shared in my familyLots of Love there. .Thank God from The whole area you helped! Micheal and Elaine Hall

Elaine Hall - August 22, 2017 at 01:39 PM

FA

“ *Frances Norris Alexander lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III*



Frances Norris Alexander - August 22, 2017 at 01:24 PM

FA

“ *So many sweet memories of Fletcher. Always a great heart, smile, and hardy laugh. I will never forget his kindness to everyone. My love and blessing to you both.*

Frances Norris Alexander - August 22, 2017 at 01:20 PM

 Prince Woolwine

“ *Words cannot express our deepest sympathy for Sarah Ann and John Birchette. Fletcher carried the torch of his father and his legacy for many years. He was a loving and caring man for his family and the Johnson City Community. I remember the kindness and support Fletcher showed my family just as his father did before him. You never forget someone like Fletcher. He will be in our hearts forever. He passed this kindness and dedication down to his son, John. His memory lives on through his lineage. Fletcher is no longer with us in the physical, but his spirit lives on. Fletcher has moved on to greater things and he will be missed.*

Prince and Sandra Woolwine, Garland, Texas.

Prince Woolwine - August 22, 2017 at 01:17 PM

MT

“ Was a childhood friend we lived down the street from each other I remember he had a bike and his mother made him let me try and ride the bike I ran it in the bushes and scratched it up he was mad at me for about a week and then we were friends again we were best friends going to miss you my friend sleep in peace

Minister Sandra Cole Turner - August 22, 2017 at 12:22 PM

JC

“ James And Brenda Akins Charles lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III



James And Brenda Akins Charles - August 22, 2017 at 11:32 AM

PM

“ Condolences to the Birchette Family. You all will always hold a special place in my heart.

With Love,
Preston

Preston Murphy - August 22, 2017 at 11:18 AM

SB

“ Can never forget all the help and kindness Fletcher has show to our family over the years... Even tho I do not live there anymore I always knew if I needed him he would help. Prayers to the family from the Stevens family..



Sandra Stevens Bell - August 22, 2017 at 10:17 AM

LB

“ *John and Sarah Ann,
When Lisa and I shared a recent day with you and Fletcher this
came to mind. I wanted to share this with you today. One of my
favorite poems.*

We love you dearly!!!

Lydia and Lee

To Those I Love

*If I should ever leave you whom I love
To go along the Silent Way, grieve not,
Nor speak of me with tears, but laugh and talk
Of me as if I were beside you there.
(I'd come-- I'd come, could I but find a way!
But would not tears and grief be barriers?)
And when you hear a song or see a bird
I loved, please do not let the thought of me
Be sad... for I am loving you just as
I always have... You were so good to me!
There are so many things I wanted still
To do-- so many things to say to you...
Remember that I did not fear... It was
Just leaving you that was so hard to face...
We cannot see beyond... But this I know:
I loved you so-- 'twas heaven here with you!*

To Those I Love.

LYDIA BRIDWELL - August 22, 2017 at 10:15 AM

SB

“ *My deepest condolences to the family. Will keep all in my prayers.* ”



Shelia Bagwell - August 22, 2017 at 10:14 AM

VR

“ *Vanessa Robinson lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III* ”



Vanessa Robinson - August 22, 2017 at 09:57 AM

DM

“ *Debra McCrary lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III* ”



Debra McCrary - August 22, 2017 at 08:30 AM

CT

“ *Connie Thompson lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III* ”



Connie Thompson - August 22, 2017 at 08:11 AM

PT

“ *Pauletta Y Thomas lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III*



Pauletta Y Thomas - August 22, 2017 at 07:27 AM

DM

“ *Darrell& Janice Murphy lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III*



Darrell& Janice Murphy - August 22, 2017 at 07:13 AM

 Mary Rollins

“ *Mary Rollins sent a virtual gift in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III*



Mary Rollins - August 22, 2017 at 07:06 AM

 Mary Rollins

Prayers for the family from The Rollins family. Rest in Heaven.

Mary Rollins - August 22, 2017 at 07:08 AM

JT

“ James T. Taylor lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III



James T. Taylor - August 22, 2017 at 06:53 AM

LB

“ Lynn & Rayetta Bachman lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III



Lynn & Rayetta Bachman - August 22, 2017 at 06:25 AM

SH

“ My sincere condolences to the Birchette family. Mr. Birchette was truly a compassionate and caring man. I will never forget the guidance provided to me as I prepared for my mother's homegoing in 2000. At the age of 36, and literally making decisions alone, he guided me with such kindness, compassion, and integrity as decisions were made in preparing my mother before sending her back home (4 1/2 hours away... only a couple day before Christmas). Now at the age of 53, I have walked through the process with family and friends and can truly say, no one has done it better than Mr. Fletcher Birchette. He has served his community well. God is pleased. He will forever be remembered. Rest In Heaven. I pray his legacy and service to the community will continue. Respectfully Submitted, Susan Talley-Hamilton. On behalf of Donnie, Susan, DD and Jamieson Hamilton

Susan Talley Hamilton - August 21, 2017 at 11:31 PM



“ Prayers & Condolences to the Birchette family

Tonita Derrickson - August 21, 2017 at 09:50 PM



“ My condolences goes out to the Birchette family. I'm sure everyone in Johnson City will agree that Birchette truly served the community well. The Malone Family is eternally grateful for the care we received from Fletcher. Well done thy good and faithful servant. God Bless you!!!



Cheryl Malone Yancey - August 21, 2017 at 09:45 PM



“ My heart goes out to the family during this time. Mr. Fletcher was an awesome man, he took care of everyone's family as if they were his own blood. I still remember the day he took care of my grandmother when she passed. He was a true blessing to the Johnson City community and surrounding areas. Mr. Fletcher will truly be missed. Love Devan Shade.

Devan Shade - August 21, 2017 at 09:35 PM



WHAT CAN YOU SAY ABOUT SOMEONE WHO WAS SUCH AN AMAZING PERSON TO EVERYONE.. MY SINCERE PRAYER TO THE FAMILY... DEBRA FIELDS-WILLIAMS AND AUSTIN FIELDS..

Debra FIELDS WILLIAMS - August 22, 2017 at 06:35 AM

RL

“ Words seem so inadequate to express our sympathy to this awesome family in memory of such a loving and caring man of God. Sarah Ann, John and the Birchette family, Fletcher was not only my friend but a confidant. Our community will never be the same without this giant of a man who defined the word caring. On behalf of the Lattany family and New Jerusalem Baptist Church, we express our love, and prayers to you as you celebrate his love, life and legacy.

God bless you is our sincere prayer, Rev. Lester D. & Mrs. Stephanie G. Lattany

Rev. Lester D. Lattany - August 21, 2017 at 09:00 PM

LD

“ Lana Haynes Daggs lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III



Lana Haynes Daggs - August 21, 2017 at 08:58 PM

CW

“ Clayton Wilson lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III



Clayton Wilson - August 21, 2017 at 08:42 PM

BR

“ *Bettye Akins Robinson lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III*



Bettye Akins Robinson - August 21, 2017 at 08:00 PM

BR

Fletcher will be greatly missed

Bettye Akins Robinson - August 21, 2017 at 08:00 PM

PR

“ *Paulette "Gigi" Robinson lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III*



Paulette "Gigi" Robinson - August 21, 2017 at 07:58 PM



“ *Paula Cavin lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III*



Paula Cavin - August 21, 2017 at 07:52 PM

PS

“ *Condolences and Prayers from The Shade Family. Lillian, Masale, Phil, Skeeter (Ralph) and Red (Jonathan). We all share in your grief and loss.*

Phillip Shade - August 21, 2017 at 07:48 PM

KC

“ *Keysha Charles lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III*



Keysha Charles - August 21, 2017 at 07:45 PM



“ *Chandra Bridwell lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III*



Chandra Bridwell - August 21, 2017 at 07:16 PM

PD

“ *Pauline Douglas lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III*



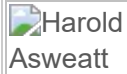
Pauline Douglas - August 21, 2017 at 06:25 PM

JL

“ *Julia. Anderson / Letcher lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III*



Julia. Anderson / Letcher - August 21, 2017 at 05:59 PM



“ *God bless you; Fletcher was such a blessing to us.* ”

Harold Asweatt - August 21, 2017 at 05:51 PM



“ *My condolences go out to the family. Truly a great man that will be missed dearly. Rest in heaven Mr. Birchette!* ”



Tiffany Ryans and family - August 21, 2017 at 05:44 PM



“ *Cheryl Dyer lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III* ”



Cheryl Dyer - August 21, 2017 at 05:38 PM



“ *Linda Conley lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III* ”



Linda Conley - August 21, 2017 at 05:27 PM

KL

“ *Kind and caring you will be missed* ”



Kay Love - August 21, 2017 at 05:26 PM

LM

“ *Libby Murphy lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III* ”



Libby Murphy - August 21, 2017 at 05:18 PM

LM

Our community has lost a Giant today. Mr. Birchett was such a loving, caring and giving Human Being. He was always ready to do whatever he could do to help anyone that was in need. Rest well Mr. Birchett

Libby Murphy - August 21, 2017 at 05:27 PM

MH

“ *Mariea Hamilton lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III* ”



Mariea Hamilton - August 21, 2017 at 04:57 PM

MC

“ Prayers for the family. He was always there for my family.



Monica Cannon - August 21, 2017 at 04:33 PM

SL

“ Sharron Livingston lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III



Sharron Livingston - August 21, 2017 at 04:00 PM

CR

“ Cheryl Rhea lit a candle in memory of John Fletcher Birchette III



Cheryl Rhea - August 21, 2017 at 03:27 PM

CR

Sarah and John and Birchette Staff,

Words can hardly convey how much the love, rich character, life and laughter Fletcher always brought to family and friends in our community, reaching even across the nation, will be missed. Our home is saddened and will miss him dearly.

Our prayers are for your comfort and peace throughout this season as you look to God for guidance. Love you family.

*Sincere Condolences,
Gert's Girls ~ Cheryl, Taleah and Carah*

Cheryl Rhea - August 21, 2017 at 03:48 PM

JF

“ *Without a doubt one of the greatest men I ever had the opportunity to call a friend! A true gentleman and a credit to the profession that he served. Godspeed my friend, Jack Frost/Abingdon, Virginia*

Jack Frost - August 21, 2017 at 02:33 PM

RB

“ *A gentle giant in Johnson City. Funny, kind and very giving he will be missed.*



Roddy Bird - August 21, 2017 at 01:35 PM

SW

“ *Prayers for family*

Sheila whitaker - August 21, 2017 at 01:01 PM

CF

“ Sorry for the lost of a dear friend. Praying for Sarah and John and family.



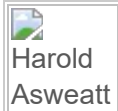
carolyn fain - August 21, 2017 at 12:44 PM

NP

“ MY PRAYS ARE WITH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS, MY HE RIP. LOVE TO ALL. I WILL NEVER FORGET FLETCHER. NANCY AKINS POSEY



Nancy Posey - August 21, 2017 at 11:54 AM



Harold Asweatt

Our prayers for the Birchette family. Fletcher made an indelible impact on my life.

Harold Asweatt - August 21, 2017 at 01:15 PM

CR

Sarah, John, Extended Family, and Staff of Birchette Mortuary, How saddened our hearts are today as we share in your grief with the passing of Fletcher. It is ironic that on the same day the sun was shaded with the solar eclipse, the bright light of our community dimmed. It has been said that the true measure of a man is the legacy that he leaves when it is reflected in how the world was better because of his presence. I am sure that there is no doubt that not only Johnson City, Washington County and the Tri-Cities region is going to reflect on how blessed we were by the time he was with us, but so many communities across the nation felt his kindness. Fletcher shared with me years ago that his late father, Rev. Birchette, always stressed that the funeral home was a service to the community and he not only embraced his father's philosophy, he built on that foundation and showed the love of Christ through word and deed. Although Fletcher was content to be in the background never seeking accolades and simply passing it forward, he was a role model for so many. His smile and laughter reflected his sense of humor and humility. He simply was a "class act." I am sure his parents smiled down on him many times, and today, as his earthly body gave up his spirit, they welcomed their son into eternity to be with our Lord and Savior. So as you shed your tears, I pray that the Comfort of God's Love warms your heart, and that precious memories bring you laughter and smiles in those "rough moments" of loneliness. Keep in mind that Death is like a comma or pause in a sentence, therefore, you will see him again because he has fought the good fight and kept the faith and the circle broken on this side of Eternity will be unbroken when you meet again. Oh the joys that he now is experiencing because he has no more pain, sorrow, or cares of this world but is basking in the radiance of God's Throne. You will be in our prayers continuously. We love you.

Cecil and Clara Faye Hart Rutledge - August 21, 2017 at 04:45 PM

KB

Sarah Ann, John, Birchette family, and Mortuary Staff.

There are no words to express how much Fletcher friendship has meant to our family. He was a dear friend, especially to my brother Leroy. I've heard tales of their many "adventures". He was a pillar of our community and his many deeds and contributions, although often not recognized by some, helped make our community stronger. He will be truly missed. Please know that you and your family are in our prayers.

Keith & Cynthia Brady and Family

Keith and Cynthia Brady - August 22, 2017 at 07:48 AM

HS

Our condolences to Sarah Ann, John, Family and Staff.

Herbert & Diane Stevenson

Herbert & Diane Stevenson - August 25, 2017 at 06:52 PM