



## Mr. Johnny B. "John" Bembry, Jr.

August 24, 1947 - November 19, 2020

UTICA - Mr. Johnny B. "John" Bembry, Jr., age 73, went to heaven on Thursday, November 19, 2020 when he passed away unexpectedly at MVHS at St. Elizabeth Medical Center.

Born in Hawkinsville, Georgia on August 24, 1947, Johnny was the son of the late Johnny B., Sr. and Mattie (Worley) Bembry. He concluded his secondary education when he attended T.R. Proctor High School. On October 23, 1971 he married his sweetheart Berthell "Bert" Williams. He pursued her gently since their youth, and during their 49 years together, they laughed and loved and enjoyed each other. Theirs was a blessed marriage, ...Amen.

John was employed at the Central Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired as a Warehouse Supervisor at the Bleecker Street location. His positive attitude and productive work ethic were exemplary and he took on the responsibilities of his position with pride and precision. At CABVI, some of his fellow workers affectionately knew him as "Dad", and today, his co-workers are heavy-hearted that he has passed. John had the virtue of patience and his wisdom was beyond his years. He had faith in his heart and kindness in his deeds, ...and the Lord provided. He was the best Dad ever, and he strived to teach his children to be independent. He was a jack-of-all-trades and educated himself to be able to accomplish any repairs or improvements to his house. Family vacations were so memorable, especially the trips to the theme parks where he braved the scariest rides with his kids and grandkids. He was always "Mr. Mom" because of his wife's work schedule, and he did everything

so well and with love. He was even credited for overseeing a party for one of his daughter's Cabbage Patch dolls, because we all know that they too had a birth certificate. He was a self-taught musician playing the keyboard and guitar in his "man cave". He especially appreciated the music of James Brown and Michael Jackson, and sometimes his wife seemed to think he was playing the same song over and over. Johnny was a rock for everyone, and he touched their lives through the things he did and the love he had for them. He enjoyed dining out for ribs and Utica greens. Barbecuing was his thing, but only if Bert relayed to him all the things he needed as he called them out to her. He made flaky fried fish and tender, tasty fried chicken, and he did it with love which meant that the coating and the seasonings would stay on! Ever the optimist, Johnny was always one to advise that "things were going to be alright". Johnny is survived by his wife, Bert; his children and their loves, Myron and Doris Henry, John Christopher Bembry and fiancé Honor Rizzo, John Dorian Bembry, Shannon Marie Bembry, and Rebekka Lynn Bembry and her cat, Thunder; grandchildren, Tanesha, Hassan, Justin, and Jordan; Aleana, Mikael, and Lela Grace; several great-grandchildren; siblings, Mary and Joshua Woodson, Juanita Watson, Marcel and Jennifer Bembry, Daniel Bembry, and Judi Bembry; a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins; and in-laws, James Engram, Pearl Thomas, and Qunnion and Christine McClean. He was predeceased by siblings, Rose Wynder (Roosevelt), Ozell Bembry, Johnnie Mae Bembry, and Almedia Bembry, and sister-in-law, Nellie Boykins (OD). He was also predeceased by his mother-in-law, Pinkie Engram, with whom he shared a loving relationship.

The family is grateful to the doctors and staff at MVHS at St. Elizabeth Medical Center for their compassion and understanding at a traumatic time. The empathy they provided made a difference. Thanks to his work family, especially Julie Byrne, from HR. They all showed such love and respect for his family. Johnny's legacy will live on through his organ donations. Visitation will be held Wednesday morning from 10:00 - 11:30 at the Eannace

Funeral Home, Inc., 932 South St., corner of Hammond Ave. Due to current restrictions, we will be operating at a reduced occupancy. We ask for your patience as we try to accommodate those coming to support the Bemby family. Johnny's Home Going service and Celebration of Life will commence on Wednesday morning at 11:30 at the funeral home immediately upon conclusion of visitation. Face masks are required and social distancing and contact tracing will be implemented. A Zoom link active between 11:00am-12:00pm will be available upon request of the Bemby Family. Donations in John's memory may be made to the Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CABVI) online at <https://www.cabvi.org>. Envelopes will also be available at the funeral home. Interment will follow graveside in Forest Hill Cemetery.

During this time of social distancing that we are all experiencing, please take a moment to connect with Johnny's family through the "Memories" section of his obituary. Our prayers go out to all as a sign of our continued support.

"I am not getting older. I am getting better."

Cold Sweat by James Brown (1967)  
[youtube.com/watch?v=B615TiDdjUc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B615TiDdjUc)

# Cemetery Details

## Forest Hill Cemetery

2201 Oneida Street  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 735-2701

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **25**. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.  
932 South Street  
corner of Hammond Ave.  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 724-6714  
eannacefh@roadrunner.com

## Home Going Service

NOV **25**. 11:30 AM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.  
932 South Street  
corner of Hammond Ave.  
Utica, NY 13501  
(315) 724-6714  
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# Tribute Wall

EM

“ Dear family, I did not know Mr. Bembry. I came to his tribute page while looking for another loved one. I was touched reading his obituary and all of the loving messages. I am sorry for your loss. He was indeed a great man. Elissa

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**Elissa Mayo** - February 23, 2022 at 07:59 PM

JE

“ My condolences to his loved ones. I knew him and his wife for many years, and they were truly made for each other a beautiful couple, he was kind and soft spoken I never heard him raise his voice RIP  
Jonny B

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**joyce enoch** - December 17, 2020 at 02:09 AM

KE

“ It was a pleasure and honor to work with Johnny B. He was a kind and generous man who had an infectious smile and laugh that brought so much joy to the CABVI family. He will be greatly missed, but his beautiful spirit will live on in the lives he touched. My deepest condolences to Johnny's family and friends. Thoughts and prayers are with you all.

*Katie Eddy - CABVI*

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**Katie Eddy** - November 25, 2020 at 12:02 PM

KP

“ *My deepest sympathy and condolences to the Bembry family. I had the privilege to work with John at CABVI, and he was one of the kindest people I have ever known. He will be sorely missed. May the peace of God that passes all understanding comfort you in your time of loss.*

*~Kirsten Parker*

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**Kirsten P** - November 25, 2020 at 11:51 AM



“ *Rosa Morales lit a candle in memory of Mr. Johnny B. "John" Bembry, Jr.*



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**Rosa Morales** - November 25, 2020 at 10:01 AM



“ *To the entire bembry family we send our condolences and deepest sympathy in the loss of johnny B. Daniel hang in there and be strong my brother. With love and blessings Donald "duck" harris and Rosana Morales Reed* ❤️

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**Rosa Morales** - November 25, 2020 at 10:00 AM

SS

*“ I was blessed with knowing Johnny B from working with him over the past several years. His big heart and infectious laugh were the first things to stand out. A genuine man that touched everyone he met in a positive way and you wanted to be around him. My prayers go out to the family, loved ones and all feeling sorrow. Stand in the light you belong in and find peace JB. Until we meet again friend -Sommer Simonds*



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**Sommer Simonds** - November 25, 2020 at 08:30 AM

WW

*“ Condolences to the family and friends of Johnny B, a very kind man and a true loss for all.*



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**wanda wooddn** - November 24, 2020 at 11:34 PM

SN

*“ Johnnie B, I sit here with a heavy heart writing this. Over the years we shared a lot of laughs at work and some serious conversations. You are one of the good ones that the man above put on this earth. WE are all going to miss that smile and laugh. Your friend for eternity Steve Niermeyer.*

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**Steve Niermeyer** - November 24, 2020 at 04:26 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Johnny B. "John" Bemby, Jr..



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November 24, 2020 at 02:38 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Johnny B. "John" Bemby, Jr..



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November 24, 2020 at 01:09 PM



“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Johnny B. "John" Bemby, Jr..



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November 24, 2020 at 09:01 AM

EW

“ *The Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired lost part of its soul with Johnny Bemby's passing last Thursday. He meant so much to so many that words cannot adequately express our sorrow. Soon, though, we will celebrate his life and tell Johnny stories that make us smile. We will remember his infectious laugh, his kindness to others, and how he mentored countless employees to be the best versions of themselves. His legacy is secure at CABVI.*

*Ed Welsh, CABVI*

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**Ed Welsh** - November 24, 2020 at 07:58 AM

AW

“ *Angela Walker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Johnny B. "John" Bemby, Jr.*



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**Angela Walker** - November 23, 2020 at 04:17 PM

SC

“ *I'm so so so very sorry for the passing of your Husband, Father, Grandpa, Friend and Jack of all Trades. I lived next door to The Bemby Family for 18 years and always loved my conversations with John. Especially when he would be washing his car; he would stop and we would talk. His daughter was my best friend growing up and their family and mine shared so many memories. John will be missed <3*

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**Stephanie Calabro** - November 23, 2020 at 01:24 PM

DH

“ He was the best father in law in the whole world, sweet kind humble an all around great guy who will be dearly missed 💔

Doris Henry - November 23, 2020 at 10:54 AM

TE

“ The CABVI Boards and All Employees purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. Johnny B. "John" Bemby, Jr..



The CABVI Boards and All Employees - November 23, 2020 at 09:52 AM

CB

“ I had the pleasure of working with Johnnie for 17 years at CABVI and can truly say that he was one of a kind. After hearing the sad news on Friday many of us sat together remembering John with laughter and tears and we all remembered our friend as a person who was always kind, always had a smile and never had a harsh word for anyone. What a nice way to be thought of. You will be missed, my friend and remember "the future is so bright you've got to wear shades!"

Christine Barnes - November 22, 2020 at 06:46 PM

JB

“ He was MY Daddy/BROTHER  
He will always be in my HEART

Judi Bemby - November 22, 2020 at 03:05 PM

LT

“ So sorry for your lost. I'm praying 🙏 for the family. I remember him he was really a gentleman.

Leola Turner/Jones - November 22, 2020 at 12:56 PM

RJ

“ My Condolences to the Family of Mr. Johnny Bembry. I'm sorry for your loss. May God be with your family during this difficult period 🙏.

Always In His Grace,  
Rev. Cornelia Jackson-Brown ♡



Rev. Cornelia Jackson-Brown - November 22, 2020 at 07:41 AM

GJ

Condolences to the family. Praying for my long time friends I will not say the lost of Johnny B Berthel for he isn't loss we know we're he is HEAVEN with our Lord and savior.

Gwendolyn Jones - November 22, 2020 at 04:54 PM

GS

“ John it was an honor to work and know over the years  
At CABVI Central Industries  
From Geraldine Schisler

GERALDINE Schisler - November 21, 2020 at 10:04 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Johnny B. "John" Bembry, Jr..



November 21, 2020 at 09:35 PM

RJ

“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to the family. I'm so sorry for your loss. He was a great man with a kind heart and soul who will be greatly missed. Fond memories of his big warm smile, laugh and kindness will stay with me forever. Peace and Love, Roxann Jennings*



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**Roxanne Jennings** - November 21, 2020 at 08:11 PM