



John R Rowland

October 27, 1950 - July 28, 2025

John R. Rowland, lovingly known to many as “Bat,” was born in Indianapolis, Indiana on

October 27, 1950, to the late Mattie E. Rowland and Charlie Rowland.

He received his early education at IPS School No. 5 and graduated from Arsenal

Technical High School. At a young age, John professed an early hope in Christ and

carried that faith throughout his life.

John was the epitome of hard work and integrity. He began his work career at the

Christamore House and later joined IUPUI, where he worked diligently until retirement.

Even after retiring—due to a few health challenges and his deteriorating vision—John

refused to be sidelined. His passion for independence led him to BOSMA Industries, an

organization focused on empowering visually challenged individuals. True to his belief

that "if you don't work, you don't eat," John remained employed with BOSMA until the

day of his passing.

Despite being visually impaired, John never let that limit his life. He lived

independently,
courageously, and on his own terms. He was a constant figure helping to raise
his
grandchildren. While he doted on the girls and made sure they knew how a
MAN is
supposed to treat them, he RAISED his two grandsons and played a vital role
in the
upstanding, successful, well-rounded young men they are today. He loved his
grandchildren, and you would often find him “bragging” on all of their
accomplishments.
He NEVER missed a graduation or important event for them. Grandpa was
always there.
He took care of them, and they took care of him.
Known for his impeccable sense of style, John could often be seen dressed to
the “nines,”
showcasing the finest in upscale men’s fashion. Stacy Adams shoes were his
signature,
and gym shoes were a rare sight. Even in casual moments, John was a
gentleman of class
and distinction. The grandkids would joke and ask, “Can Grandpa feel colors
because he
is always matching and how can he do that if he can’t see?” Even the stitching
in his
clothing would match his shoe or sock color and he never left the house
without a hat and
handkerchief!
He leaves to cherish his loving memory his daughters Sharon Rowland and
Sharree
Rowland; his sister Erma Jean Rowland of North Carolina; brothers Charlie
Rowland Jr.
and Odell Rowland; grandchildren Kylah Edwards, Kennedy Edwards,

McKenzie

Hampton, Kamryn Edwards (Columbus, OH), Bryce Hampton, Raymond Edwards III, nieces Deanna Rowland and Kina Watkins of North Carolina; nephew Charles Rowland

III; and special friend, Katherine Unsel. He is also survived by a host of beloved

extended family and cherished friends.

John will be deeply missed by all who knew him. His legacy of hard work, independence,

style, and love for family and community will never be forgotten.

Cemetery Details

Floral Park Cemetery

3659 Cossell Road
Indianapolis, IN 46222

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 11. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Friendship MBC
1301 N. Goodlet
Indianapolis, IN 46222

Service

AUG 11. 12:00 PM (ET)

Friendship MBC
1301 N. Goodlet
Indianapolis, IN 46222

Tribute Wall

JR

“ Sharree

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort who comforts us in all tribulation that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Ms Richardson

J Richardson - August 05, 2025 at 03:29 PM