



## John W Goolsby Sr.

September 23, 1938 - May 7, 2026

John Wesley Goolsby, Sr., age 87, of Shelby, Alabama, entered into his heavenly home on May 7, 2026, at his home surrounded by his family.

He was born on September 23, 1938, in Columbiana, Alabama, to William Wesley (Bill) Goolsby and Zemma Atchison Goolsby.

He attended Thompson High School and graduated in 1956. He dedicated much of his life to serving both his community and his faith. He worked as a surveyor for Shelby County and was also employed by Alabama Power, where he built lasting friendships and earned the respect of his colleagues. In addition to his professional career, he faithfully served his community as the first Fire Chief of Shelby Volunteer Fire Department, demonstrating courage, leadership, and a deep commitment to helping others.

A devoted man of faith, he was a deacon for 49 years and a member of First Baptist Church of Shelby until his death. He enjoyed singing with his church family and taking care of the church grounds. His church family was a central part of his life, and he served with humility and steadfast dedication.

In his free time, he found great joy in hunting, gardening, and woodworking. Whether building furniture or crafting special projects for family and friends, his work reflected both his skill and his generous heart.

He is survived by his two children, John Wesley Goolsby, Jr. (Leta) and Kelly Goolsby Armstrong (Mark), as well as his granddaughter, Jana Kelbie Armstrong Baker (Chase), great-grandson, Jon-Calvin Baker, his sister, Janet Glenn, and his special friend Betty Mitchell. He was preceded in death by his parents, Bill and Zemma Goolsby, his wife, Sylvia Pate (Patesie) Goolsby, and his brother, Robert (Bobby) Goolsby.

He will be remembered for his devotion to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, his family, his church, and community. He very often shared his faith with those who came to visit him in his later years.

His funeral will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at First Baptist Church of Shelby, Alabama. Visitation will begin at 10am followed by the funeral service at 11am.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Shelby Volunteer Fire Department.

# Cemetery Details

## Shelby Garden of Rest

Heritage Road  
Shelby, AL 35143

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Shelby  
Heritage Road  
Shelby, AL

## Funeral Service

MAY 12. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Shelby  
Heritage Road  
Shelby, AL

# Tribute Wall

DA

“ Daniel lit a candle in memory of John Goolsby



Daniel - May 18 at 08:45 AM

BM

“ He was a great man, loved him he is where he longed to be!

Brenda Moore - May 11 at 01:37 PM

BD

“ Bobby and Cheri Davis purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John W Goolsby Sr..



Bobby and Cheri Davis - May 10 at 12:37 PM

TC

“ Kelly and Wesley.. I am so sorry to hear about your dad. He was such a wonderful person. When I would come to your house he was so good to me. I know he is in Heaven and y'all will see him soon. Praying for the family.

Tammy Cox - May 09 at 11:29 AM

DA

“ Daniel lit a candle in memory of John Goolsby



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**Daniel** - May 08 at 06:49 PM