



## John Aultin Bostic Jr.

January 24, 1937 - February 11, 2021

John Aultin Bostic, Jr.

Born 1/24/1937 in Wilmington, NC, he was the son of John Aultin Bostic & Acoree Batts Bostic. He Graduated from Rock Hill High School in Rock Hill, SC in 1955, and from Concord College in Athens, WV with a Bachelor of Science in Music Education in 1959. He was a member of Sigma Tau Gama fraternity, a member of the Blue Field Symphony Orchestra and a member of Concord Commanders Jazz Ensemble.

He began his teaching career at Sullivan Junior High School, prior to moving to York High School where he was Director of award-winning bands for 30 years, Director of choral music at Trinity United Methodist Church and Executive Director of the McCelvey Center of Performing Arts. As an outstanding music educator, he mentored thousands of students.

John was respected and admired not only by his students and fellow educators, but by the entire York community. To quote a former student, "He was a living legend – feared by most, admired by all. He was an "old school band director who yelled and cried, each at the appropriate moment. He instilled in (all) the importance of dedication, hard work, discipline and pride. He also taught us never to make excuses and that all of us could be successful despite any disadvantages life may have dealt us."

The huge number of lives he influenced are evidenced by the outpouring of love and memories shared on social media and in calls to his loving wife Shirley. All who were lucky enough to be his student will never forget band camps, practices, amazing half time shows, bus rides (some at 35 mph!), out of town competitions and Band Revue. They sold calendars and fish fry tickets and learned so many life lessons in the process. The numerous awards were great, but nothing could top the overall life education that was taught. One of his most memorable quotes was "Luck is where opportunity meets preparation." He pushed his students musically and personally to be the best. Affectionately called "Bolt" by his students, most have complimented him over the years

for the positive, lasting influence he had on their lives. For now, he can be heard directing the heavenly chorus for all to hear.

John is pre-deceased by his parents and his infant brother Charles Manning Bostic. He is survived by his wife Shirley Queen Bostic, his brother George Thomas Bostic (Martha), his children LuAnne Bostic Walden, John A. Bostic, III (Stephanie), and Debra Lynn Bostic; his stepchildren Laura Firkins VanZee (Brad), Cynthia Firkins Chitwood (Barry), and Kristen Firkins Smith (Luke), as well as 10 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Regency Southern Care Hospice Services (880 South Pleasantburg Drive, Suite 1A, Greenville, SC 29607) or York County Board of Disability and Special Needs (7900 Park Place Rd, York, SC 29745).

Graveside services will be announced later via social media.

# Tribute Wall

CG

“ *Cindy & Glenda lit a candle in memory of John Aultin Bostic Jr.*



**Cindy & Glenda** - February 24, 2021 at 01:21 PM

JE

“ *Mr. Bostic was a family friend before I was even born. I have a sweet picture of him holding me, as a little girl, with Debbie standing beside him. Our relationship changed when I got to middle school. Although he wouldn't be my band director for 3 more years, I knew he was keeping up with me and pushing me to be the best I could be. When I reached high school, I knew I better mind my p's and q's because he was making sure I was making good choices. I knew he had my best in mind. He had an amazing ability to know how far to push someone to reach their potential without discouraging them. As his students, we learned how working hard for something always paid off, whether through accolades, awards, or the satisfaction in knowing we had given all we could. From designing and building sets for Band Revue, to creating field shows (on graph paper....before computer-generated ones), to choosing music that appealed to the audiences, to being fully present with students, Mr. Bostic was a true gift. I have so many memories revolving around band but the most meaningful and impactful was when my daddy died. I was in 10th grade and I remember how he and Mr. Matt Brown came to the funeral home. The thought never crossed my mind that any of my teachers would come to the funeral home but they did. I remember Mr. Bostic hugging me as I bawled my eyes out. I don't remember anything that he may have said but I will always remember how much his presence meant. Mr. Bostic will always be a real life legend. He touched the lives of so many students, many of whom longed for a strong male role model in their lives. I am thankful that the Lord used Mr. Bostic to remind me of God's goodness and how to take time with every student I have the opportunity to know. I am praying for his family as they grieve the end of his life here. God bless each one of them in a meaningful way.*

*Jennifer Black Danford  
YCHS Class of 1990*

**Jennifer** - February 21, 2021 at 10:42 PM

KG

“As a close neighbor on the same street, we saw each other often. Walking his faithful canine companion, Karleigh, he'd pass our house nearly every night. And when our wives met weekly on the tennis court, John and I would alternate our “visitation stations.” When it was his turn to host, background melodies played through his deck speakers. Easy listening, especially provided by Boz Scaggs, was his favorite.

Golfing with John was extraordinary, as his short game was legendary. Always the humble competitor, you'd never hear him brag about his skills.

There were times that John and I would take 3-4 hour car rides, stopping for lunch in out-of-the-way towns in the midlands and upstate. He would do most of the talking as we drove through the countryside. It was then that I learned of his past accomplishments, pride in his children, and love of music.

A lasting memory of mine includes a visit he made to me in the hospital before an operation, years ago. He brought me a small text as a gift. Titled “Life's Little Instruction Book,” it lists many entertaining “do-good” anecdotes that could make the reader a better person. That little book is something I'll forever cherish.

All in all, John will be sorely missed by all who've had the pleasure knowing him.

Our close group of guys, we affectionately called “the 5 amigos,” is now one member less. At our next meeting, we'll raise a glass in his honor, bidding “Farewell old friend; may God bless you and keep you!”

Kelly Glover

Kelly Glover - February 17, 2021 at 12:59 PM

HC

“John was a highly valued friend to me and to a small group of buddies who, over the years, got together monthly for 'Boys Night Out', golf, and for annual 'Boys' weekend trips to Lake Greenwood. Making jokes and sharing laughs were plentiful with John and the guys. It won't be the same without John, but he'll always be remembered and will still be with us because of the remembering.



Horace Clinard - February 16, 2021 at 11:16 AM