

*A Celebration of Life*



*John Emmett*  
**RICE**

February 24, 1943 – February 25, 2026

John Emmett Rice, age 83, of Cuthbert, Georgia, was born on February 24, 1943, and passed away on February 25, 2026, at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, surrounded by family. Born to the late Thomas Allen Rice and Ester Inez Bundy-Rice, John grew up in a close-knit family that shaped the hardworking, loyal, and loving man he became.

John was a devoted husband to Wanda Rice and a strong, steady presence in the lives of all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two siblings, Thomas Henry Rice (wife, Alice Rice) and Rachel Ray; and daughters Tina Brown and Betty Terry. He is survived by his siblings Verna Opal Rice-Farless (husband, Bobby Farless) and Martin Allen Rice (wife, Faye Rice).

John was a loving father to John Timothy Emmett Rice; Thomas Allen Rice II; Johnny Matthew Rice; Kitty Caldwell (Mark Caldwell); Debbie May (Troy May); CJ Cotton; Lona Cotton; and Sammy Cotton (Veronica Cotton).

John's family was his greatest joy. He especially cherished his grandson, Brantley Brooks, who lived with him and brought him tremendous happiness. He is also survived by 15 additional grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren, all of whom he loved dearly.

John spent most of his life working as a mechanic, known for his skill, honesty, and willingness to help anyone in need. His work and kindness made him well known and respected throughout the community. In his later years, he became affectionately known as "the Watermelon Man," a familiar and beloved figure around town.

He loved spending time with his family and will be remembered for his generosity, steady presence, and the deep love he carried for those around him.



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