



John Thomas Pannell

October 16, 1941 - March 23, 2026

John Thomas Pannell, of Huntington, West Virginia, passed away on March 23, 2026, at the age of 84.

John was born on October 16, 1941, in Logan County, West Virginia, to the late Newton Pannell and Louise Maxwell. He graduated from Douglas High School in Huntington where he excelled in both football and baseball. He later began a 22-year career at INCO Alloys.

In his spare time, John developed a passion for sewing and became skilled at making clothing for himself and others. His entrepreneurial spirit led him to open two nightclubs in Huntington, A Touch of Class and Bottom's Up, where he welcomed friends and patrons from across the community.

Later in life, John became well known throughout the Tri-State area for his famous "Johnny Dogs." What began as a small venture selling hot dogs from the trunk of his car or the basket of his bicycle grew into a beloved local business. He eventually opened a storefront hot dog shop and operated a hot dog cart, which he enjoyed riding around town while serving customers and friends.

John was a dedicated member of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, where he faithfully served on the usher board. He later continued his spiritual journey

at Full Gospel Assembly.

John is preceded in death by his parents, siblings Mae Frances Johnson, Charles Pannell, and Kathryn Cochran Odinkenmelu.

He is survived by his four children, Robin Sheffield (Raleigh, NC), Maurice (Kim) Nowlin (Columbus, OH), Andy (Denise) Nowlin (Columbus, OH), and Dorothy Pannell (Huntington), 10 grandchildren, two great-grand children, brothers Russell Cochran (Huntington), Melvin (Corine) Cochran (Upper Marlboro, MD), Rodney Cochran (Huntington), a very special nephew, Michael Johnson (Huntington), a host of nieces and nephews, and special friends Ivory & Rosie Turner and Richard Sheffield.

John will be remembered for his creativity, determination, humor and the joy he brought to those who knew him.

A Home Going service will be 12:00 P.M., Saturday, April 11, 2026 at Full Gospel Assembly, Huntington, WV with Bishop Samuel Moore officiating. Visitation will be 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M., Saturday, April 11, 2026 at Full Gospel Assembly, Huntington, WV. Online condolences may be expressed to the family at www.ferrell-chambersfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 11. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Full Gospel Assembly
2101 10th Avenue
Huntington, WV 25703

Home Going

APR 11. 12:00 PM (ET)

Full Gospel Assembly
2101 10th Avenue
Huntington, WV 25703

Tribute Wall

M(

“ My condolences to the family and friends of Pannell. I remember working for Pannell in both Touch of Class and Bottoms Up. Wow, what memories. If there was a dollar to be made, Pannell made it 😭😭 take your rest, sir, sleep in peace. Thanks for the memories.

Marsha Cecil (Crawford) - April 12 at 01:02 AM

FM

“ To, the Family. May Gods love comfort and sustain you. Panell was always good for a great conversation. He will be missed. Blessings always. Felicia and Alex Montgomery.



Felicia Montgomery - April 08 at 11:44 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of John Thomas Pannell.



April 03 at 12:06 PM

JC

“ Prayers of Comfort, Strength and Sympathy from the Cheeks, Palmer, Westmoreland and Page Family.

Janice L Cheeks - April 01 at 12:37 PM

RE

Parnell was my siblings childhood friend and my Doulton Avenue neighbor. We had some fun times. Sending prayers to the family.

Regina Ezell - April 11 at 04:18 PM