



John Alden Wood

December 12, 1936 - January 20, 2026

It is with profound sadness that we announce the unexpected passing of John Alden Wood on Tuesday, January 20th, 2026, at the age of 89. A devoted husband, loving father, long-time golfer, jazz enthusiast, flugelhorn and trumpet player, dedicated Wordle aficionado, and reigning Dad Joke champion, John left an indelible mark on all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Born to Archie and Irene Wood in Escanaba, Michigan in 1936, John was a proud and genuine Yooper. He spent his formative years in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where he trained to be a Telegraph Operator for the St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie Railroad (commonly known as the Soo Line) and ran the Engadine Station. He then moved to the St. Joseph area in the mid-fifties, where he lovingly raised his family and began a new career as Bookkeeper for Musselman's Fruit Cannery; diligently working his way up to Plant Manager and Personnel Manager. Building on his human resources experience, John founded Wood Employment Agency in 1975. This venture grew to become Beacon Services and eventually multiplied out to Wood Personnel Services in Nashville, Tennessee and Wood Temporary Staffing in Benton Harbor, Michigan. In 1995, John retired to Leesburg, Florida, embracing his "silver and golden years" with characteristic zest. There, he indulged in his passions: perfecting his golf swing, adventuring around the world, throughout the US, across Florida, and perfecting the Disney World experience for his treasured

grandchildren. His culinary quests were legendary, always on the hunt for new eateries, the perfect donut, and ranking the world's best pasties – a unique delicacy perfected and cherished by the mining families of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

John's greatest joy was his family. He leaves behind Janet, his loving wife of 50 years; his 7 children: Robin (Brian Leja), Jim (Vicki Wood), Bill (Jennie Wood), Kip (Sue Ruff), Connie (Bob Beargie), Gayla (Craig Wiklund), and Doug (Jill Wood), 19 adored grandchildren, and 16 cherished great-grandchildren, all of whom will deeply miss his unwavering love, boundless warmth, and daily dose of Facebook memes, Dad Jokes, reflective political commentary, keen witticisms, and loving wisdom.

A memorial gathering for family and friends to celebrate John's remarkable life will be held at The Plantation in Leesburg, Florida, at Ashley Hall, Room 1, on Friday, January 23rd, 2026, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Light appetizers will be served.

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L O V E / Y O U / D A D in Morse Code

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

JAN **23**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

The Plantation At Leesburg - Ashley Hall
25201 US Hwy 27
Leesburg, FL 34748
(352) 326-1250

Room 1

Tribute Wall

KL

“ A few of the many meals we spent together, and Grandpa John no doubt spent the whole time throwing pieces of his straw wrapper at everyone while they weren't looking!



Kristen Leja - January 23 at 10:34 AM

GG

“ Gayla's Young Apples Girls purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of John Alden Wood.



Gayla's Young Apples Girls - January 23 at 05:42 AM

AP

“ Grandpa John wanted to try on my compression eye mask... while drinking a glass of iced matcha I made him! He was so fun like that! We always had so much fun visiting him and Grandma Janet on the plantation.



Audrey Presnell - January 22 at 09:08 PM



“ The MLOFLO Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of John Alden Wood.

The MLOFLO Team - January 22 at 03:05 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Alden Wood.



January 22 at 03:05 PM