



## Mr. John "Jay" Gadsden Sparkman III

January 13, 1941 - November 25, 2024

John "Jay" Gadsden Sparkman III, 83, of Plant City, born on January 13, 1941, entered into eternal rest on November 25, 2024. He was a member of First United Methodist Church of Plant City, loved his family dearly, and enjoyed traveling, fishing, camping, hunting, and lawn work. He is survived by wife of 54 years, Dianne Sparkman; children, Tracy Sparkman-Cox of Lakeland, Brian J. Sparkman (Heather) of Lakeland, Brad Sparkman of Plant City, and Vikki Capron (late Mark Capron) of Lakeland; grandchildren, Allan Cox (Misty), Preston Sparkman, Jordan Cox, Blake Sparkman (Danielle), Tyler Sparkman (Megan), Sydney Sparkman, Wesley Capron, Jac Capron, and Tobin Capron; great-grandchildren, Lina, Stella, Shiloh, and Brooks; sister, Judi Rutherford; and many other family, and friends. He was preceded in death by brother, Ronnie Sparkman. A memorial service will be held Saturday, December 7 at 2:00 P.M. at First United Methodist Church, 303 N Evers Street, Plant City. Memorial contributions may be made to First United Methodist Church at <https://fumc-pc.com/giving/>. Expressions of condolences at [www.HopewellFuneral.com](http://www.HopewellFuneral.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

DEC 7. 2:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church of Plant City  
303 North Evers Street  
Plant City, FL 33563  
<http://www.firstchurchplantcity.com>

# Tribute Wall

CT

“ Cathy T. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. John "Jay" Gadsden Sparkman III.

Cathy T. - December 14, 2024 at 10:06 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. John "Jay" Gadsden Sparkman III.



December 06, 2024 at 01:36 PM

BR

“ My Pop's oh how I miss you so much. You are an amazing man Mister. I go through parts of town and everyone has such good memories of you. This world feels very different without you. You are my real life hero. I'm wearing your Gator Jacket now. It's as close as I can get. I love you Pop's!! Rest easy, Rest easy!

Brad - December 06, 2024 at 12:29 AM

JP

“ Jay and I spent our junior and high school years together. We played on the same football teams and we shared times just having a good time in life. I always enjoyed the welcome that was his home. I enjoyed the peace at Jay's home and surely I timed events there when his Mother was just finishing up making a Great LUNCH! But:, Jay, Leon, Sidney, Jiggs, Et. Al also managed to do that with my Mother as well. After retiring from the USAF and returning home, I was able to reestablish our friendship with meetings at Wal-Mart where I worked. Later we enjoyed sharing Wednesdays at lunch at Johnson's BBQ with our other friends. I will miss Jay Sparkman as I miss my brothers Paul and Carl. Go now my friend and celebrate the Peace of Heaven. You earned this.

Jettie Padgett - December 05, 2024 at 11:32 PM

BF

“ Bodenmiller and Stephens family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. John "Jay" Gadsden Sparkman III.

Bodenmiller and Stephens family - December 05, 2024 at 06:55 PM

BF

“ Bodenmiller and Stephens family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Mr. John "Jay" Gadsden Sparkman III.



Bodenmiller and Stephens family - December 05, 2024 at 06:55 PM

VT

“ Vikki, Wesley, Jac, and Tobin purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. John "Jay" Gadsden Sparkman III.



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**Vikki, Wesley, Jac, and Tobin** - December 05, 2024 at 06:27 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. John "Jay" Gadsden Sparkman III.



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December 05, 2024 at 06:24 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mr. John "Jay" Gadsden Sparkman III.

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December 05, 2024 at 06:24 PM

RP

“ Rod & Andrea Proctor planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. John "Jay" Gadsden Sparkman III.

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**Rod & Andrea Proctor** - December 05, 2024 at 04:08 PM

RP

“ Rod & Andrea Proctor purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mr. John "Jay" Gadsden Sparkman III.



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**Rod & Andrea Proctor** - December 05, 2024 at 04:08 PM

BM

“ Betty Messick lit a candle in memory of Mr. John "Jay" Gadsden Sparkman III



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**Betty Messick** - December 04, 2024 at 02:56 AM



“ Love and prayers to a fine soul.



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**Nate Guterias** - December 03, 2024 at 03:17 PM

NZ

“ Sincere Condolences along with many thoughts and prayers for Dianne and family. It was a joy knowing & chatting with Jay, what a great guy!!  
“Rest In Peace Jay”

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**Nancy & George Ziegler** - December 02, 2024 at 10:35 PM

LG

“ *May Jay Rest In Peace! I am so glad that I went and visit with him and Diane the last couple of weeks before he was called home to heaven. Jay a Wonderful Man. I will always remember him!* □ □



**Linda Grimm** - December 02, 2024 at 08:21 AM

JB

*Jay will be missed. Although we moved, we had visits with Jay while in Plant City. Love and condolences to Diane and family.*

**Jan and Joe Bodenmiller** - December 05, 2024 at 04:44 PM



*Jay and I were friends from 6 years old. Great friendship. Love and peace! Goerge and Angie Turner*

**Angie Turner** - December 08, 2024 at 11:40 AM