

JOHN HOLLENDER

John William Hollender Jr., aged 88, passed away on January 16, 2026, in Atlanta, GA surrounded by his family. Born on November 16, 1937, in Chicago, Illinois to John William Hollender Sr. and Marie Kenbeek Hollender, he was the youngest of four. John was a cherished figure in both his family and community.

John was a graduate of Chicago Christian High School, class of 1955, and furthered his education at Illinois Tech and the University of Iowa, where he received his PhD in clinical psychology. The day after graduating from Illinois Tech with his Bachelor's degree, John and Nelda Kingma were married in the Third Christian Reformed Church of Roseland on June 6th, 1959. John then served in the US Navy for four years as a supply corps officer before becoming a lieutenant. His academic journey paved the way for a teaching career at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, where he was a Psychology Department faculty member for 14 years. Following his tenure at Emory, John opened a private practice, dedicating his work to helping people navigate the difficult times in their lives. During his retirement, John was a consultant for years at the Disability Adjudication Section of Georgia Social Services and developed long-lasting friendships. He was also the president of the Georgia Psychological Association.

John was instrumental in developing the neighborhood recreation center and pool in Drayton Woods, Tucker, where he also served as the first president. An avid participant in community vegetable gardens, multiple book clubs, poker groups, the church volleyball and softball teams, John also cherished time spent on the water. He and his family enjoyed many days boating on Lake Lanier, entertaining others at their condo on Hilton Head Island SC, and spending summer days at the beach in the ocean or in the pool with his grandkids.

John was a dedicated member and elder of the North Decatur Presbyterian Church for 59 years, further developing his relationship with God. Singing bass with the choir was a joy. For seven years he and Nelda made an annual trip to New Orleans to help restore family homes destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. He also was a founder of the Initiative for Affordable Housing and his one dollar bill purchased the first house from HUD (Housing and Urban Development). His commitment extended beyond local communities as he participated in mission trips to Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Cuba with Nelda. Beyond serving his global communities, he also loved traveling with his family. Throughout his life, John visited all 50 states and 36 countries with his family, the farthest being New Zealand. While teaching at Emory, John took his family with him on his sabbatical in New Zealand, where they spent 5 months living and working in Auckland, as well as touring the country.

John's grandchildren gave him so much happiness. He and Nelda enjoyed spending quality time with them, even taking each of them on a single "grandchild trip" of their choice anywhere in the world. This took them to Italy, the Netherlands, Grand Cayman Island, Hawaii, and Iceland. John, Nelda, and their grandchildren cherished this time immensely. He is survived by his loving wife and partner of 66 years, Nelda; sons, Michael (Ruby Karamali) and Kenneth (Elizabeth De Armond); and grandchildren, Jasmine, Charles, Kathleen (Katie), Meredith (Michael), and Drew (Abby). John was preceded in death by his parents, Marie Kenbeek Hollender and John William Hollender Sr., his brothers Jim and Frank Hollender and sister, Phyllis De Jong.

John led an interesting and fulfilling life, for which he was grateful. He was known for his wisdom, kindness, and compassion. He was a good man and very much loved.

WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

JOHN HOLLENDER

November 16, 1937 - January 16, 2026



January 30, 2026
2 pm

NORTH DECATUR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
611 Medlock Road
Decatur, Georgia

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 100)

One: Know that the Lord is God! It is God who made us and we belong to God.

All: We are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.

One: Enter these gates with thanksgiving, and these courts with praise!

All: For our God is good, whose steadfast love endures forever, and faithfulness is to all generations.

*HYMN 375

Shall We Gather at the River

GATHERING PRAYER

Eternal God, before you we acknowledge the uncertainty and fragility of our lives. We are given but a handful of days, a span that seems nothing in your sight. All flesh is grass; our beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades. But your Word is forever. In you we have our hope, for you are our God. Even in the valley of the shadow of death, you are with us.

Speak to us today a message about life and death. Help us to live as those who are prepared to die, so that when our days here are ended, we may die as people who go forth to live. Whether we live or die, we belong to you. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

HYMN 803

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
NDPC Community Choir

REMEMBRANCES

Ken Hollender
Jasmine Hollender

READINGS

Psalm 1

Adapted by Stephen Mitchell
Romans 12: 1-13

HOMILY

MUSIC

His Eye is on the Sparrow

Civilla D. Martin

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our [Divine Parent] in heaven, holy is your name. Your kin-dom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

COMMENDATION

*HYMN 721

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

** Please rise in body or spirit.*

The Hollender family invites you to gather in Fellowship Hall after the postlude for a reception.

PARTICIPANTS

Rev. David Lewicki, Pastor, North Decatur Presbyterian Church
Rev. Mary Anona Stoops, Pastor, North Decatur Presbyterian Church
Huu Mai, Music Director, Pastor, North Decatur Presbyterian Church