

# "Big John"

Ev'ry mornin' at the mine you could see him arrive  
He stood six foot six and weighed 245  
Kinda broad at the shoulder and narrow at the hip  
And everybody knew, ya didn't give no lip to Big John

Big Bad John (Big John)

Nobody seemed to know where John called home  
He just drifted into town and stayed all alone  
He didn't say much, he kinda quiet and shy  
And if you spoke at all, he just said, "Hi" to Big John

Somebody said he came from New Orleans  
Where he got in a fight over a Cajun Queen  
And a crashin' blow from a huge right hand  
Sent a Louisiana fellow to the Promised Land, Big John

Big Bad John (Big John)

Then came the day at the bottom of the mine  
When a timber cracked and men started cryin'  
Miners were prayin' and hearts beat fast  
And everybody thought that they'd breathed their last, 'cept John

Through the dust and the smoke of this man-made hell  
Walked a giant of a man that the miners knew well  
Grabbed a saggin' timber, gave out with a groan  
And like a giant Oak tree, he just stood there alone, Big John

Big Bad John (Big John)

And with all of his strength he gave a mighty shove  
Then a miner yelled out, "There's a light up above"  
And 20 men scrambled from a would-be grave  
Now there's only one left down there to save, Big John

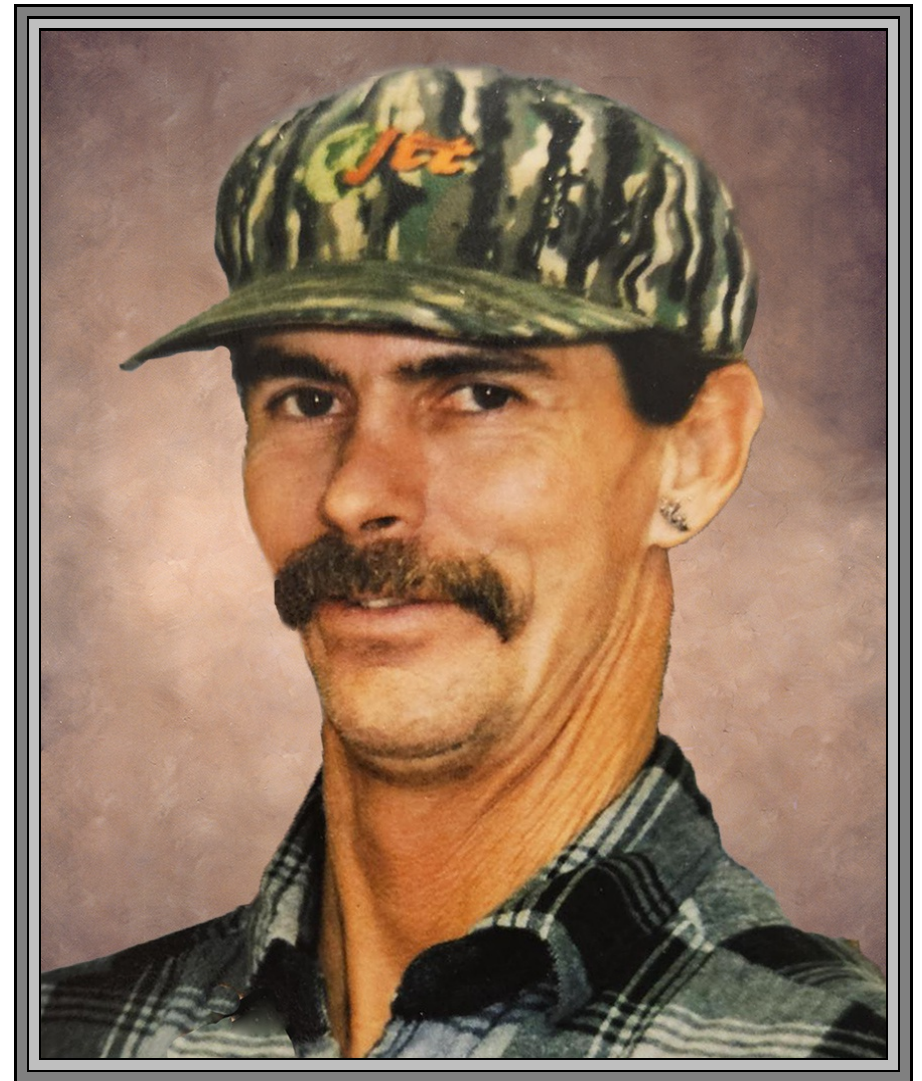
With jacks and timbers they started back down  
Then came that rumble way down in the ground  
And then smoke and gas belched out of that mine  
Everybody knew it was the end of the line for Big John

Big Bad John (Big John)

Now they never reopened that worthless pit  
They just placed a marble stand in front of it  
These few words are written on that stand  
"At the bottom of this mine lies a big, big man, Big John"

Big Bad John (Big John) (Big John) Big Bad John

Compassionate Service ~ Delta 1st Ward Relief Society



In Loving Memory Of

"Big John"

Vance Abbott

August 20, 1961 ~ February 26, 2026



**NICKLE**  
**MORTUARY**

DELTA, UTAH

*Funeral Services for*  
**Vance L “Big John” Abbott**

***Date of Birth***

August 20, 1961  
Monticello, San Juan County, Utah

***Son of***

Kerry Brooks & Bonnie Jean Shumway Abbott

***Husband of***

Beverly Neal  
Married July of 1981  
later divorced

Cynthia Freeman  
Married October of 1994  
later divorced

***Father of***

Tyler Morgan Abbott

***Stepfather of***

Sam, Liz, Katie, Amy

***14 Grandchildren***

***4 Great Grandchildren***

***Date of Death***

February 26, 2026  
Pleasant Grove, Utah County, Utah

**PROGRAM**

March 7, 2026 ~ 11:00 AM  
Delta 1st Ward LDS Chapel ~ Delta, Utah

Prelude & Postlude Music . . . . . Mindy Hepler (Cousin)  
Conducting . . . . . Bishop Ed Lyman  
Invocation . . . . . Bill Abbott (Uncle)  
Eulogy . . . . . Gina Mikkola (Sister)  
“After I Pass Away” . . . . . recorded by Mikhail Bennette  
Speakers . . . . . Katie Poulsen & Amy Baker (Stepdaughters)  
Remarks . . . . . Bishop Ed Lyman  
“Big Bad John” . . . . . recorded by Jimmy Dean  
Benediction . . . . . Jennifer Tolbert (Cousin)



Vance L. Abbott aka “Big John”, age 64, passed away on February 26, 2026, in Pleasant Grove, Utah. Vance was born on August 20, 1961 in Monticello, Utah, to Kerry Brooks and Bonnie Jean Shumway Abbott. He was raised in Delta, Utah, where he knew nearly everyone in town—and was related to many of them. Delta was home in every sense of the word.

On July 18, 1981, Vance married Beverly Neal, and together they welcomed one son, Tyler Morgan Abbott. The marriage later ended in divorce. In October 1994, Vance married Cynthia Freeman. Through that union, he gained four additional children: Sam, Liz, Katie, and Amy—who he loved as his own.

Vance’s greatest joy in life was his family. He loved his children deeply, and cherished his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He also had a deep love for dogs (who were always very well-trained), hunting, rock-hounding, fishing, gardening, and cooking. He valued the outdoors and believed in respecting the land, its resources, and the animals it provided.

More than anything, Vance loved teaching. He taught not only his own children, but many others throughout the community. He volunteered with at-risk youth through Project Hope, where he shared his time, guidance, and steady example. He passed down lessons about responsibility, hard work, and respect for the Earth and its resources. Through his work with the Laborers Union, Local 295, he also mentored many young men, helping them secure employment and find direction in their lives.