

On a day that seems to be [forever connected intrinsically](#) with the [Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing of 1963](#), yet another link has formed, albeit a sad one.

The Birmingham News [breaking news blog](#) and various other news outlets ([including the AJC](#)) are reporting that [The Rev. John H. Cross Jr.](#), pastor of the church at the time of the 1963 explosion, passed away on Thursday in Atlanta, Georgia. He was 82.