

## **Jim Ed Brown & The Browns**

### **"Good Brother John"**

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(J. Lea)

(Good brother John)

On the express bus to the Boot Camp  
John came down the isle  
All I could see in the inky black night  
Was a warm but weary smile.

He said friend could I sit here by you  
I cussed him as he sat down  
Because everything anybody told me  
Made me hate this stranger John.

John my brother, John my friend  
I cussed him once and I cussed him again  
John stood by me to the very end  
Good brother John.

Two GI's on an airplane  
Headed for a distant place  
John was honest and friendly till  
I cussed him and spit in his face.

Well, I thought I'd be a dead man  
Before John turned loose of me  
He said you're nothin' but a tomfool whiteman  
But I swear I'm gonna make you see.

John my brother, John my friend  
He never borrowed more than he could land  
John stood by me to the very end  
Good brother John.

Two months later in the battle  
In the place that I couldn't even name  
John laid beside me with a rifle  
And I hated him just the same.

Then the earth flew up beneath me  
In a second my eyes were gone

Then a hand fell on my shoulder  
And a voice said it's me John.

(Good brother John, good brother John)

I said get away boy who needs you  
He said frind you're comin' with me  
Now that somebody's made you blind  
Maybe you can learn to see.

Then he picked me up on his shoulders  
And lifted me off of the ground  
But when he stood up straight as a pine tree  
Somebody shot him down.

John my brother, John my friend  
Gave up his soul to the jumble wind  
John stood by me to the very end  
Good brother John.

Now, I make my way in the darkness  
But one thing I clearly see  
God's good world is full of fine men  
And they don't all look like me.

That lesson cost John his poor life  
While I came stumbling back  
Lord, if I'd've been blind from the very first  
I'd never known John was black.

John my brother, John my friend  
I cussed him once and I cussed him again  
John stood by me to the very end  
Good brother John.

John my brother, John my friend  
He never borrowed more than he could land  
John stood by me to the very end  
Good brother John.

Good brother John, good brother John  
Good brother John...

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