



Robert "Bob" Basil Johnson

July 4, 1930 - July 19, 2021

Robert 'Bob' Basil Johnson, 91, of Fayetteville, AR, girl dad, ardent Aggie and all-around jokester died unexpectedly on Monday, July 19, 2021. Bob will be fondly remembered as a loving husband, protective father, doting grandfather, loyal brother, and friend to all.

Bob was the middle of three sons born to Mabel Leona and Ernest Rudolph Johnson. He was born on July 4, 1930 in Elgin, IL. He was always proud to share the same birthday as the USA. When he was less than one year old, the family moved to Ft. Worth, Texas where he grew up in the Meadowbrook [East] section and graduated from Polytechnic High School, Ft. Worth, TX, in 1948. Bob attended Texas A & M University where he majored in Agronomy and graduated with the class of 1952.

He met the love of his life, Fay Marie Stafford, in the fall of 1952 when he was driving between College Station and Houston. Bob had pulled over to help a friend with car trouble and noticed Fay Marie in the passenger seat. They later married on May 16, 1954 at the First United Methodist Church, Springdale, AR and recently celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary on May 16, 2021.

After marrying they settled in Dallas, TX where Bob worked for Ralston Purina. He continued to work for Ralston Purina after relocating to Springdale, AR in July 1956. As his family was growing, he decided to pursue his life's passion and started a landscape and irrigation business that would serve the NW Arkansas area for the next 33 years. After 'retiring' he became a consultant for Wal-Mart Headquarters supporting their Garden Center irrigation development until 2006.

Bob was generous with his time and talents when it came to helping others. Whether he was having a cup of coffee with Alice Walton while working on her irrigation system or telling tall tales with his comrades at Keeling Company, he was always the same genuine person. When Bob wasn't working or supporting his children's or grandchildren's activities, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, and playing golf.

There were no pretenses when it came to his wardrobe either as he was the ultimate jeans and t-shirt guy. He could often be heard asking Fay Marie before an event if he had to wear a tie. There was a time, before super centers, when Bob was known to brag about shopping for his t-shirts at the same store, Dillons, where he bought groceries. He called it one-stop shopping.

Bob is preceded in death by his parents and older brother, Ernest Rudolph Johnson, Jr. of Ft. Worth, TX. His memory will be cherished and kept alive by his wife and best friend, Fay Marie, of the home; brother Ronald (Gayle) Johnson of Ft. Worth, TX; daughters Lorrie Cross of Springdale, AR, Diane Christie of Prairie Village, KS and Robin (Tom) Joseph of Springdale, AR; grandchildren Sunny Hassell and Summer Cross of Fayetteville, AR, Natalie (Jay Paul) Ramos of Oklahoma City, OK, Johnson David 'J.D.' (Sabaria) Christie of Overland Park, KS, Mary Grace (Drew) DeLozier of Houston, TX, Reid (Maggie) Joseph of Tyler, TX and Bethany (Zach) Wheeler of Burleson, TX; five great-grandchildren including Ezra Hassell, Savannah Grace and Charlotte Jane Christie, Thomas Reid and George Robert Joseph with #6 arriving in November 2021.

The memorial service will be held at the First United Methodist Chapel, Springdale, AR on Saturday, August 28, 2021 at 10:00 am. His family will be present to welcome loved ones. People wishing to honor Bob's commitment to family and community can send donations to the First United Methodist Church, 206 W. Johnson Ave., Springdale, AR 72764, or a charity of their choice.

A private family interment will be held at Bluff Cemetery in Springdale, AR.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the medical team at Northwest Medical Center, Springdale, AR who worked gallantly to save his life.

Online condolences may be left at www.siscofuneral.com

Gig 'Em Aggies

Cemetery

Bluff Cemetery

795 N. Shiloh Street
Springdale, AR, 72764

Events

AUG

Memorial Service

10:00AM

28

First United Methodist Church

206 W. Johnson Ave., Springdale, AR, US, 72764

Comments



“ Uncle Bobby-my favorite uncle! Not only did he put up with me but he always showed interest in and spent time with me.

My family often did summer vacations in Springdale, much of the time at the Johnson residence-- much to their joy! I have fond memories of his nightly popcorn and sodas, he'd even share if I behaved. I did not know much about sports but he was always kind to explain. I specifically recall watching several summer Olympic game series with Uncle Bobby so as I watched Tokyo this summer, many good memories came back.

He always had cool (at least to pre-teen and then teen boy) work equipment and stuff laying around over at the old house like a pellet gun and machete. He'd let me shoot the pellet gun if I was careful and promised to take out any stray cats. I remember spending the night one time and sleeping in the den. I thought I heard the machete move during the middle of the night, surely the result of an overactive imagination. This was the same night he brought and served up a fresh watermelon while giving me some sage advice-"Kelly don't eat too much or you'll wet the couch". This and the machete incident did not do much for my sleep!

I talked him into taking me to work with him one day. He called me his "swamper" I think it was a favorable term. He let me use his CB radio and lay some sod and get really muddy-great fun!

My brother and I always showed up with new jokes. This was the 70's so none were politically correct, he'd just tolerate us and shake his head. Aunt Fay would politely "cringe" but Lorrie, Diane (especially Diane) and Robin would laugh, so we were encouraged.

I was a college Freshman the fall of 1981 in Fayetteville, did not have a clue about anything especially how to get decent Razorback tickets. He and Aunt Faye got me a spot on the 45 yd line to witness the Hogs thump the then #1 ranked Longhorns 42-11 with Lou Holtz orchestrating the victory. This is a wonderful lifetime event memory made possible by the Johnson's for which I will always be grateful!

There are many more. I am thankful for the time and kindness of this man. His memory will last forever for me. Thanks Uncle Bobby, I love you.

Kelly Truitt

Kelly Truitt - August 24, 2021 at 09:57 PM



“ Betty Brandon lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Basil Johnson



Betty Brandon - July 27, 2021 at 10:00 PM



“ I remember being at the Johnson's home on many, many occasions over the years as Robin and I grew up together. Mr. Johnson was always smiling and usually sitting in the den eating popcorn in the evenings while watching TV. Robin and I played 'store' in the kitchen right outside that den. One night he came into the kitchen (maybe after more popcorn?), and Robin and I were being dramatic. His reaction to us was, "Posey, Posey, Posey!" He would also help us eat our favorite breakfast, fried Pillsbury biscuit dough quartered with sugar, cinnamon, and powdered sugar. What a great man with a great family. He will be missed greatly. Faye Marie, Lori, Diane, and Robin, my thoughts and prayers are with you now and always.

Betty Ann Brandon

Betty Brandon - July 27, 2021 at 09:58 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Basil Johnson.



July 26, 2021 at 05:49 PM



“ Always a smile! Always a real gentleman! His legacy is a beautiful family who benefitted greatly because he was the standard bearer! Gary Griffin

Gary G Griffin - July 26, 2021 at 11:09 AM



“ In 1952, I was working with Fay Marie Stafford at Humble Oil & Refining Company in Houston. She had gone home with me to Bryan, TX for the weekend when we met Bobby Johnson on the road in College Station. He immediately arranged a date with her and then married her two years later. I was in their wedding in Springdale, AR in 1954 and Fay Marie was in my wedding in 1955 in Bryan, TX. Life-long friends! May God bless all of Bob's family as they miss him.

Irene Simmons - July 24, 2021 at 05:18 PM



“ Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Basil Johnson.



July 24, 2021 at 02:45 PM



“ 1968 was a long time ago , but it was my first year to teach- I was assigned 6th grade at Elmdale Elementary (one of my favorite groups of students !) now I'm sadly sending condolences to Diane in the passing of her beloved father (and also to Lorie and Robin) it was long ago but I know their mom and dad must have been 2 of the most active /involved Elmdale parents ever ! Just sending my love in his memory

cathy deweese - July 24, 2021 at 11:17 AM