



Harold Duane Johnson

January 12, 1933 - December 4, 2025

Harold Duane Johnson, beloved husband, father, and “Poppy,” passed away peacefully on Thursday December 4th , 2025, at his home in Springdale, AR at the age of 92.

Harold was a native Arkansan, born January 12th, 1933, in Sonora, AR at his childhood

Home to William Theodore Johnson and Sybil Merle Barnes Johnson.

He was a graduate of Huntsville High School. In his early years, Harold operated and ran the labeling machine at Cain’s Canning Company off Hwy 71 in Springdale until he was drafted into the U.S. Army at the age of 20. Prior to leaving for service, Harold married the love of his life, Willa, on August 29, 1953. Just weeks later, in September 1953, he left for the Army, serving two years during the Korean War.

After coming home from the Army, Harold and Willa bought a brand-new home in Canoga Park, California, where they began building their life together with their first-

born son, Michael, who was only five months old at the time. While living in California, they later welcomed two more children, Jo and Ricky, completing their family.

Harold then started a remarkable career as a rocket engineer at Rocketdyne, where he worked for 18 years in fabrication and R&D. Harold and his team contributed to history by building Apollo motors and boosters for the moon missions.

In 1971, Harold, Willa, and their children relocated from California back to Springdale

Arkansas, where he continued his career at Danaher Tool Inc. until his retirement.

Outside of work, Harold found joy in attending antique car and truck swap meets with friends, sharing his love for classic vehicles.

Harold's greatest passion was his faith and family. He gave his heart to the Lord at the age of 23 after coming home from the armed service. He was devoted to studying and reading his Bible, dedicated to prayer, and a faithful member of Calvary Freewill Baptist Church for over 30 years. He cherished his church family and pastor deeply. Above all, Harold loved his family more than words could express. He was a beloved husband for 72 years, an amazing father to his three children, and the best Poppy to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one son, Michael Johnson, three siblings, William Dean Johnson, John C. "Jake" Johnson and Edith Louise Farmer.

Survivors include his wife, Willa Dean Johnson of the home; two children, Jo Lynn Johnson of Springdale and Rick Duane Johnson and wife Teresa of Springdale; four granddaughters, Rachel Gage and husband Tommy of Springdale, Amber Davison and husband Matt Miles City, Montana, Tammy Johnson of Springdale and Mikayla Williams and husband Laquan of Springdale; seven great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Funeral services will be Saturday, December 13, 2025 at 1pm at Calvary Freewill Baptist Church in Springdale with Pastor Clark Snow officiating. Burial will follow in Friendship Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 5-7pm on Friday at Sisco Funeral Chapel of Springdale.

"Harold was a faithful man of God, a dedicated husband to his wife Willa, the best father to his three children, and the best Poppy to his grands and great-grands. He will be dearly missed, but we know he is walking the streets of gold in Heaven."

Memorials may be made to Calvary Freewill Baptist Church, 1000 N. Gutensohn Road, Springdale, Arkansas 72762.

Online condolences may be left at www.siscofuneral.com

Cemetery Details

Friendship Cemetery

1980 E. Friendship Road
Springdale, AR 72764
<http://www.friendship-cemetery.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 12. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Sisco Funeral Chapel
705 W Meadow Ave
Springdale, AR 72764

Funeral Service

DEC 13. 1:00 PM (CT)

Calvary Freewill Baptist Church
1000 N Gutensohn Road
Springdale, AR 72762

Tribute Wall

JM

“ Joyce McCoy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harold Duane Johnson.

Joyce McCoy - December 10, 2025 at 01:50 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Harold Duane Johnson.



December 10, 2025 at 01:50 PM

GT

“ Harold was a wonderful man! Love him and Ms Willa sure have missed them since I left Springdale! I send my love and prayers to the family! RIP Harold until we meet again! Love Georgia Tucker

Georgia Tucker - December 09, 2025 at 11:12 AM

DJ

I visited my brother over the thanksgiving holiday and we talked about Uncle Harold and what a great guy he was. So much like my Dad and his brother Dean, all three cut from the same cloth of Grandpa. Johnson. Intelligent, reserved, introspective, never saw him mad always a pleasure to talk to. Living in Louisiana I didn't get to see him enough and he will be dearly missed. I can only imagine him and his brothers running through the woods back in the day. Out by the old two story farmhouse below Sonora, where i had some of the best memories of my life. Now they share an eternal home together in a warm, happy place. Willa, Ricky and Jo Lynn you are in my thoughts and prayers, God Bless you. Love, Doug Johnson

Doug Johnson - December 10, 2025 at 10:06 PM