



James Arlington Johnson

March 22, 1940 - December 5, 2024

James Arlington Johnson, 84, of West Point, VA, passed away on December 5, 2024, after a courageous battle with cancer. He was born on March 22, 1940, and affectionately known as "Hannah" and "Bunk." He was the eldest son of the late James and Florence Johnson.

A proud graduate of Saint Clare Walker School in Middlesex County, Virginia, James went on to earn a bachelor's degree in industrial arts from Norfolk State University. He also served his country with honor as a Green Beret during the Vietnam War, receiving numerous accolades before his honorable discharge.

James spent 36 years as an educator teaching Industrial Arts and Drivers Education at Denbigh High School and Menchville High School. He also served as the girls' basketball coach, where he became a mentor and inspiration to many students. After retiring in 2005, James found new purpose by partnering with his wife, Mary, to open their food truck business, Johnson's Kitchen. Known for his delicious crab cakes and dinner rolls, he continued to bring joy to those around him.

A member of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, James was deeply committed to his family. He was a devoted husband to Mary Spruell Johnson, loving father to Jan B. Johnson, Jodie B. Johnson, Lisa Johnson (Chris), and Lori Crewe

(Kerry), and a proud grandfather to three grandchildren, including his devoted granddaughter Kourtney Brown (Lamar), and great-granddaughter, Lauren Brown. He is also survived by his siblings, Barbara Pryor, Milton Johnson (Mariana), and Richard Johnson (Theresa); his brother-in-law, Charles Brooks; his godson, Richard "Ronnie" Whitehead (Crystal); his sister at heart Jeanette Thorpe; and a host of nieces, nephews, and many other cherished family members and friends. James was preceded in death by his sister, Carolyn Jean Brooks.

A life well-lived, James will be deeply missed by all who knew him. His legacy of service, love, and dedication to family and community will continue to inspire others.

A memorial service celebrating his life will be held 11AM, Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, 1224 Kirby St, West Point, VA 23181.

**Service for Mr. Johnson will be livestreamed on the Mt. Nebo Baptist Church Facebook page at the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/mtnebobaptistchurchwp>

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mt. Nebo Baptist Church
1224 Kirby Street
West Point, VA 23181

Tribute Wall

SW

“ *Mary, So sorry to hear about James. He was such a delight to work with on the PCDC board and his presence was missed. Take care, Sandra Willis*

Sandra M Willis - December 15, 2024 at 02:17 PM

AB

“ *Rest in perfect peace Coach Johnson! I will always remember the immense impact you had on my life at that time of my life. Until we see each other again in Heaven...*

Angelique Bailey - December 12, 2024 at 06:38 PM

LC

“ *Larry And Roxanna Clore lit a candle in memory of James Arlington Johnson*



Larry and Roxanna Clore - December 11, 2024 at 11:41 AM

TL

“ *He was a dear friend to our family for many years, and we feel blessed to have known him. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.*

The Lawsons – Lina, Leon Jr., and LaShell

The Lawsons - December 10, 2024 at 03:10 PM

LG

“*Mary: I am so sorry to read about the passing of your husband. May the Lord comfort you and your family. Condolences are being sent from Cynthia Graham Aaron, known to you as “Sister” formerly of Charles City. Hi, Lisa.*



Leo and Cynthia Graham-Aaron - December 10, 2024 at 02:45 PM

WL

“*My sincerest condolences to Jan, Jody, and Mary. Coach Johnson was like my second father almost all of my life. Playing for him was also a privilege and I learned so many life lessons from him. He was always a supporter of me on and off the court. He was a great man and father figure to many of us who played for him. He will be truly missed.*

Wanda Cary Lea - December 10, 2024 at 12:30 PM

MI

“*Jodie- On behalf of the whole Isen Family we are so sorry for your loss and offer you and your family our deepest condolences.*

Mike Isen - December 09, 2024 at 09:24 AM

JC

“*John 16:22. “Therefore, you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.” - My dearest condolences to the family during this time. - Jill C. (NAI Michael)*

Jill Caligiuri - December 09, 2024 at 09:08 AM


WW

“ Ms.Mary and family we want you to know that The Ebenezer Baptist Church offer our condolences to you and the family. In these times we pray for a measure of comfort for you as only God can give. The gentle giant has now gained his wings and another soldier of the Lord's army has reported for duty.We will always be here for you and your family whenever the need arises. God bless and keep you in His perfect care

Pastor Wayne..First lady Deloris and the Ebenezer Baptist Church

wayne weeden - December 09, 2024 at 04:42 AM

DJ

“ Affectionately known to me as Coach Johnson, Coach was a gentle giant. I played basketball for him at Denbigh High School from 1987-1991. He was a good coach, but an even awesome human being. After over 30 years since I graduated, he periodically checked on me. He will be surely missed. Rest in paradise Coach J


Danette James - December 08, 2024 at 10:09 PM

JW

“ My uncle, a kind and welcoming soul, was married to my Aunt Julia. Their home held a special place in my heart as it was where I learned to sew. During my early 20s, I visited often so Aunt Julia could teach me how to sew maternity clothes.

He was always a joy to be around—funny, engaging, and full of interesting things to say. His warm presence and positive outlook made him a wonderful role model during a pivotal time in my life, as I was just beginning to navigate life away from home. His kindness and influence will always be cherished.

Jeanni West

Jiahni West - December 08, 2024 at 08:25 PM

BS

“ James and I taught and coached together at Denbigh High School. He was a friend and one of the nicest people to know.

Bob Schmidt - December 08, 2024 at 11:28 AM

TW

“ Sorry For Your Loss



Thomas Widgeon - December 08, 2024 at 06:42 AM

CT

“ Jody and Jan,

I am so sorry for the passing of your father. I pray that God will comfort you at this time.

Cathy A. Thurston - December 07, 2024 at 06:41 PM

JJ

“ To Mary and Barbara and the entire family Giving my deepest Condolences and Prayers to you all May God bless

Joanne Johnson - December 06, 2024 at 08:09 PM

LS

“ Mary, I am certainly sad to hear about James' passing. He was a super neighbor and I will definitely miss him! I pray God's hands of comfort for you in the days to come.



Linda South - December 06, 2024 at 04:51 PM

WH

“ Sorry to hear this, been friends for years! RIP James

Wayne Healy - December 06, 2024 at 03:03 PM

DD

“ Debbie Dzula lit a candle in memory of James Arlington Johnson



Debbie Dzula - December 06, 2024 at 02:29 PM