



Leslie Adrian Johnston

August 20, 1944 - May 13, 2025

Leslie "Les" Johnston, age 80, passed away on May 13, 2025, in Tulsa, Oklahoma with his wife Jo Ann by his side. He was born on August 20, 1944, in Altus, Oklahoma, to John Leslie and Ila Mae (Cummings) Johnston.

Les graduated from Checotah High School in 1962 and went on to attend Connors State College, where he made a name for himself as a talented athlete. He was named to the All-Conference Basketball Team in 1964 and was also a standout on the track team, qualifying for the National JUCO Track Meet as a high jumper.

After completing his studies at Connors, Les continued his education at Oklahoma State University, graduating in 1966 with a Bachelor of Science degree. His passion for learning and education led him to earn a Master's degree in Education from Northeastern State University and a degree in Administration from the University of Tulsa.

Les proudly served in the U.S. Army Reserve for six years.

He dedicated his life to education and coaching, teaching and coaching basketball in several Oklahoma communities including Savanna, Stidham, Henryetta, Dewar, and Beggs. He spent the final 26 years of his distinguished career at Beggs High School, serving 17 years as Principal and the last 9 years as Superintendent. In 1998, his leadership and dedication were recognized when he was named one of the Top 10 Superintendents in Oklahoma by the Association of School Administration.

Beyond his career in education, Les was deeply involved in his community. He

was a proud member of the Okmulgee Masonic Lodge and the Okmulgee Lions Club. He also served on the boards of the Green Country Technology Center Vo-Tech and the Okmulgee City Justice Authority. He was also a charter member and a Deacon at Crossroads Baptist Church. In recognition of his athletic achievements, he was recently inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame at Connors State College.

Aside from his academic career, Les enjoyed fishing, golfing, spending time with his cattle and was a carpenter by trade.

Les is preceded in death by both his parents, John Leslie and Ila Mae.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Jo Ann, his sons Jeff and wife Lauri Johnston, and Lance and fiancée Christine Martin, grandchildren, Alivia and husband Tyler Navarro, Issac and wife Hattie Johnston, Luke Johnston, and Brooklynn and husband Dax Hampton, one great grandchild, Callahan Hampton, a brother, Kenny Johnston, sisters, Helen Allison and Carla House, and a host of other family members and loved one.

Les will be remembered for his unwavering commitment to students, his love of athletics, and the positive impact he made in every school and community he served.

Visitation for Les will be on Sunday, May 18, 2025, from 4:00PM - 6:00PM at the McClendon-Winters Funeral Home in Beggs. Funeral services will be held on Monday, May 19, 2025, at 10:00AM, at the Crossroads Baptist Church with Reverend Ben Taylor officiating. Casketbearers will be Nick Ditolla, Merrill Masters, Jerry Cadion, Mike Norman, Larry Harvey, and Ron Aday.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to the Crossroads Baptist Church in honor of Les.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the McClendon-Winters Funeral Home of Beggs, Oklahoma. Memories, condolences, photos and videos may be shared with the family on Les' Tribute Page of our website. www.mcclendon-w

inters.com

Cemetery Details

Beggs Cemetery

West Hwy 16
Beggs, OK

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 18. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

McClendon-Winters Funeral Home - Beggs
205 West Main
PO Box 750 (for mail)
Beggs, OK 74421
(918) 267-4444
info@mcclendon-winters.com
<https://www.mcclendon-winters.com>

Funeral Service

MAY 19. 10:00 AM (CT)

Crossroads Baptist Church
Beggs, OK

Tribute Wall



“ *McClendon-Winters Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Leslie Adrian Johnston*



McClendon-Winters Funeral Home - May 15, 2025 at 04:26 PM

VM

What a beautiful, beautiful tribute. He was and always will be Mr. Johnston to me. He was a fun HS principal and always good to us as students! Even if we were late some days he might just not give us a tardy that day. I've known him for over 50 years and as we would run in to each other at the store or a school activity he was always one to speak to you and be kind and friendly. Prayers to JoAnn and the boys and all of the family, with my sincere condolences.

Vickie Murry - May 15, 2025 at 07:40 PM

ET

Such a beautiful tribute. Les Johnston was always a fair and honest man never had but kind words to speak. Prayers for his wife JoAnn and loving family.

Emma Treat - May 15, 2025 at 08:25 PM

CD

A wonderful tribute and gracious family. Bless your hearts.

Cathie Davidson - May 20, 2025 at 10:17 PM

OW

“ May God be with you Joann & family during this time of great loss 🙏🙏 Les will leave a lasting legacy to so many under his guidance through the years 🙏



Orvil Marillyn Wood - May 17, 2025 at 10:23 PM

DT

“ David Taylor lit a candle in memory of Leslie Adrian Johnston



David Taylor - May 17, 2025 at 02:03 PM

JC

“ Jeffrey L Culbert lit a candle in memory of Leslie Adrian Johnston



Jeffrey L Culbert - May 16, 2025 at 06:49 PM

LC

“ Linda Crook lit a candle in memory of Leslie Adrian Johnston



Linda Crook - May 16, 2025 at 04:22 PM

AE

“ *Arlene Efurd lit a candle in memory of Leslie Adrian Johnston*



Arlene Efurd - May 16, 2025 at 11:42 AM

BS

“ *Jo i will miss our game of hugs .he was a friend not only to me but to all my kids. God give you Peace.*

Betty smith - May 15, 2025 at 08:34 PM

LL

“ *Mr. Johnston was my high school principal and attended Beggs First Baptist when I was growing up so I had the honor of knowing him on a personal level as well as a school administrator. He exuded kindness and was always ready with a smile.*

I've been gone from Beggs for many years and am so thankful to have seen him a few times recently, we recounted a few stories and shared a few laughs but most of all I think we walked away with an appreciation for the roles we had played in each others lives..... me as a student who not only respected and supported him as an administrator but also truly liked him. And him as administrator who not only led by example but somehow made you want to do and be the best you could.

He has indeed left his mark on Beggs, one might even call it a legacy.

Lora Chambers Grim aka Lori - May 15, 2025 at 08:33 PM

ZC

“ *Zandra Christy lit a candle in memory of Leslie Adrian Johnston*



Zandra Christy - May 15, 2025 at 07:30 PM

BS

“ *Fond memories of Mr. Les Johnston at good old Beggs High School. A good man, a fair man, he also had a sense of humor. He was there for all of us, students and teachers. I had a lot of respect for him and Beggs has certainly lost a great man. Brenda Smith*

Brenda Smith - May 15, 2025 at 07:06 PM

MH

“ *Please accept my deepest condolences on the passing of Mr. Johnston. It was truly an honor to have known him, both as the dedicated principal of our high school and later as a supportive superintendent. His commitment to the students and the school community was evident in everything he did. He had a remarkable ability to connect with students and foster a positive learning environment for everyone. His leadership and presence will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. My heart goes out to his family during this difficult time. May you find strength and comfort in the memories you shared.*

Michelle Holmes - May 15, 2025 at 05:42 PM

DM

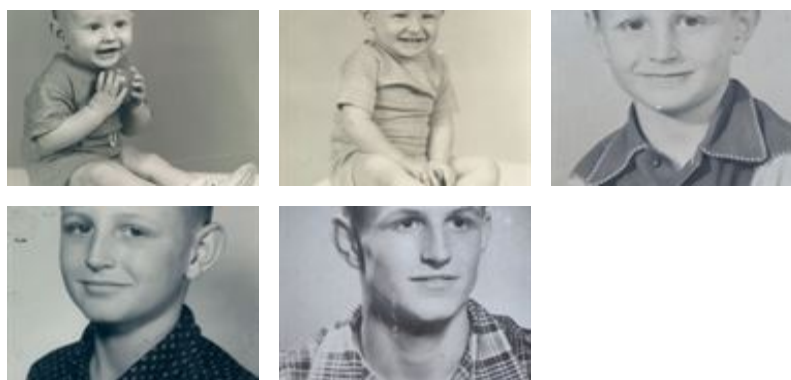
“ *David Miller lit a candle in memory of Leslie Adrian Johnston*



David Miller - May 15, 2025 at 05:32 PM



“ *61 files added to the album Life Tributes*



McClendon-Winters Funeral Home - May 15, 2025 at 04:23 PM

CT

Prayers for your family

Carolyn taylor - May 15, 2025 at 04:40 PM

KC

“ *Sending my condolences to the entire family.
Les will truly be missed.*



Kathryn Colbert - May 15, 2025 at 04:10 PM

LC

“ *Condolences to JoAnn and family. May God wrap his loving arms around you during this time and in the future.*

Linda Crook - May 15, 2025 at 04:07 PM