



Ward Cleveland Johnson

October 13, 1925 - August 4, 2012

Ward Cleveland “Johnny” Johnson died in Tulsa on Saturday, August 4, 2012 at 86 years of age. Johnny was born on October 13, 1925 in Swiss, North Carolina to Molt and Elzie (Tomberlin) Johnson. He was a Veteran of the United States Navy. What was referred to as “Operation High Jump” he was part of the South Pole expedition with Admiral Byrd. He also served on the USS Currituck, which was a Sea Plane tender. On September 2, 1950 he married Beverly Ann Bennett. Johnny was a lifetime member of the Tulsa and Okmulgee Elks Lodge. He was a former member of the First Christian Church in Okmulgee. In his later years he enjoyed gardening, riding his tractor at the ranch and he loved watching “Westerns”.

His parents, his wife Beverly, a son John William Johnson and two brothers: Junior Johnson and Bobby Johnson, and brother-in-law Bill Bennett, Jr. preceded him in death.

Johnny is survived by daughter Donna Burris, five grandchildren: Kendell Pollard and wife Tanya, Monty Pollard and wife Shiela, Mica Johnson, Jeremiah Johnson and Nicole Johnson, seven great grandchildren: Whitney McLain, Cameron Pollard, Zackary Pollard, Kekoa Pollard, Chloe Pollard, Keaton Sterling and Emery Smith, two great great grandchildren: Jaxon Gallamore and Isabella McLain, three brothers: Ted Johnson, Ray Johnson and Gay Johnson and wife Peggy, sister-in-law Dixie Bennett, many nieces, nephews, great and great-great nieces and nephews and a host of other relatives.

The family will have a private memorial service celebrating Johnny's life at a later date. They have requested memorial contributions be made to either the American Diabetes Association 6600 S. Yale Ave., Suite 1310, Tulsa, OK 74136-3346 or the Alzheimer's Association 6465 S. Yale Ave., Suite 312, Tulsa, OK 74136-7804.

Tribute Wall



“ *Ward Cleveland Johnson*

December 20, 2022 at 11:29 AM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with Johnny's family during this time. Johnny truly was a happy soul.*

Dustin Dennis

Dustin Dennis - August 09, 2012 at 06:41 PM



“ *Dear Donna and family
I am going to miss my Uncle Johnny, he was such a GREAT guy
His infectious laughing like a little boy, his great hugs with plenty of
"sugar". I have seen him around his grandkids, nieces, nephews,
kids, wife & in-laws. Family meant so much to him. He loved life so
much and worked so hard. He was truly a wonderful man, friend to
all who met him. So devoted to his family. They don't make them
like Uncle Johnny anymore. Holidays were so great, and Uncle
Johnny always made sure all the kids won at Bingo on Christmas
night at Grandpa & Grandma Bennett's house.
My prayers and thoughts are with all who was fortunate to know
Uncle Johnny.*

Deborah J Bennett Dennis

Grateful neice of Uncle Johnny

Deborah J. Bennett Dennis - August 06, 2012 at 04:44 PM

CB

Oh Yeah-----Give me some sugar!!!! That's what uncle Johnny would always say. I found myself saying that to my grandchildren just a week ago. See---people pass on their traditions and we carry them on. Just like Uncle Johnny will live on through everyone he touched I always thought he was Italian because he would always end his last word with "ah" It was funny like him. Pretty blue eyes, and yes his contagious smile. I learned something new about Johnny when I read his obituary. I knew he was a navy man, but not that he was on a special expedition to the South Pole. You can know someone but not everything about them. One story I remember about Uncle Johnny is around Easter time (I was a little girl) I had a baby chick. I put him in a big wagon to run around. Someone accidently stepped on him as they were getting in this big wagon. Johnny immediately offered to run to Woolworths to get me another one. My Dad wouldn't let him. He was a thoughtful, kind man and was good to my grandparents Carl William and Waunita Bennett. Love you Uncle Johnny---You'll be remembered. Cindy Bennett

Cindy Bennett - August 07, 2012 at 11:00 AM

PW

“ Donna,
I am so sorry with the loss of your father. As I have lost mine, I know how you are feeling at this time. Remember the good times, the fun memories, and the loss will ease with time. I love and send my hugs to you at this time,
Patti
xox

Patricia Anne (Coon) Ward - August 06, 2012 at 11:21 AM

CB

Dear Cousin Donna, Kendall and family: I'm sorry for the grieve that you are having now. I know Uncle Johnny is in a better place and not having any pain. Hopefully, he is visiting with Aunt Beverly and Johnny Bill. Donna---Debbie told me all the things that you did for your Mother and and then for Johnny the last 10 years. You definitely returned the nurturing you received from your mom and dad. You've earned your way to heaven. Now, I want you to think about yourself and do all that you have always wished that you could do. Forget about money, this or that, just go LIVE. You are the only one stopping yourself. Take that vacation, sit by a pool or beach--sip a margarita---go where ever your happy place is. The grandbabies will be waiting for you. The thing I remember about Uncle Johnny is that he was always happy and smiling. He was fun to be around. Donna----Thank you for Kendall. He is such a wonderful person. I'm so glad he comes to Memorial Day at the farm. He reminds me of Johnny Bill and how he has such a calming affect on people. I'm sending you my strength and love----your cousin Cindy Bennett

Cindy Bennett - August 06, 2012 at 03:09 PM