



David Rowan Johnson

January 23, 1947 - March 30, 2025

David was born in Holdrege, Nebraska to Kenneth and Mary Virginia Johnson. He grew up in New Braunfels, Texas, where he excelled at New Braunfels High School, athletically and academically, lettering in baseball and basketball.

He was actively involved in scouting, earning the highest honors as an Eagle Scout. His legacy in Scouting continued as a Cubmaster for his sons' Cub Scout Pack. His son Michael became an Eagle Scout, his daughter Kristi brought her sons up through scouting and also served as Cubmaster for her own sons' Pack, and all three of David's grandsons earned their Eagle Scout Rank.

He continued his academic career and began his military career at The University of Texas at Austin and the Air Force ROTC, following in his father's footsteps into the United States Air Force. Much of his 23 ½ year career in the Air Force was spent as a pilot, flying KC-135 refueling tankers.

In the same year he was commissioned, he married the love of his life, Loretta Marguerite "Rita" McAfee on September 5, 1970. In their 54 years of marriage, they lived in 7 different states and raised three children. As a military family often does, they collected friends from each place they lived who are as dear to their hearts as family.

Shortly after David retired from the Air Force in 1993, he launched into a second career as a Systems Engineer working for The Boeing Company. He dedicated himself to this position until his retirement in 2012, when he decided enough was enough and he wanted to spend more time with his wife.

David and Rita started splitting their time between Littleton and then Lakewood in Colorado and The Villages in Florida following his retirement. In 2016, they officially moved to The Villages full-time, where they enjoyed golf, pickle ball, and friends in the Colorado Club together. They were also both active members of Hope Lutheran Church and sang in the Voices of Hope choir.

David is survived by his wife Loretta “Rita” Johnson (nee McAfee), daughter Kristi (David) Benson, son Patrick (Linda) Johnson, grandsons Andrew Benson, Ryan Benson, and Grant Benson, granddaughter Lauren Benson, younger brothers Mark Johnson and Kevin (Gail) Johnson, and many beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, and their families. He was preceded in death by his parents Kenneth and Mary Virginia Johnson and his son Michael Johnson.

The service will be held Friday, April 11, 2025, at 10:00 am, at Hope Lutheran Church in The Villages, Florida. It will also be live streamed at hope4all.church/live. In lieu of flowers, the family requests a donation in memoriam to Hope Lutheran Church in The Villages (hope4all.church), Haitian Timoun Foundation (htflive.org), or to the charitable organization of your choice.

Previous Events

Church Service

APR **11**. 10:00 AM (ET)

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
250 AVENIDA LOS ANGELOS
THE VILLAGES, FL 32162

It will also be live streamed at hope4all.church/live

Tribute Wall

CB

“ So sorry to hear about David's passing. He was someone I admired as a younger person.

Claudette Barrington - April 10, 2025 at 04:57 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of David Rowan Johnson.



April 09, 2025 at 08:48 PM

LM

“ Little did I know this picture in time would be the last memory shared with David! We had such a great visit catching up about 20years of life!! Much love and many prayers for you all as you go through this difficult time of loss but also celebrating his well lived life! ❤️🙏. I will be watching from Hong Kong. Rita, I'm here for you, my dear friend 😊. I think you still have my cell number. Please do not hesitate to reach out at any time 🙏



Liz Michael - April 04, 2025 at 02:03 PM