



Richard Arlen Johnson

February 2, 1937 - March 22, 2017

Richard Arlen Johnson 1937-2017

Richard Arlen Johnson passed away at his home on March 22, 2017.

Richard was born February 2, 1937 in Midvale, Utah to Byron Tanner Johnson and Mary Wallgren Johnson. Richard is survived by his wife Gloria Olivia West, brothers Byron Jesse Johnson Jr. (Sharyl) and Ronald Lynn Johnson (Vicki Jo), sister Connie Johnson Tilson (Glen). Richard has three children; David Arlen Johnson (Melanie), Tammy Jean Johnson Rich (Terry) and Marissa Graham May Johnson. Richard has several grandchildren; Brandi, Kortni, Whitney (Aaron) and Jessi (Trevor) and great grandchildren; Jaydon, Gavyn, Danae, Dayton, Dentley, Killian and Demetria.

Richard was married to Julia Cabibi Johnson for 22 years. They have two children, David and Tammy whom they loved very much. Richard was their hero.

Richard was married to Glenda Graham May for 24 years and he adopted her daughter Marissa. Glenda died after a long battle with cancer.

Richard later married Gloria Olivia West. They were married September 9, 2006. Gloria has two daughters, Rachel and Rebecca. They had a great love for Richard. Gloria and Richard enjoyed their time together.

Richard lived a rich, full life, he was involved in many things. Life was an adventure; hunting, fishing, dancing, photography, traveling to Alaska, African bead collector and trader, expert in firearms and knives, collector of many artifacts. He was a part of the Mountain Men in Utah and went to Rendezvous for over 60 years. He was a Mountain Man in every aspect and his name was “grizz” after the grizzly bear. His knowledge about guns, reloading, black powder guns, knives, tomahawks and hunting was immeasurable. Richard was a resource to hundreds of men that sought his knowledge. He was a life-long member of the NRA and the Eagles Lodge.

He was a caring, loving husband, father, brother, grandfather and friend. He was a man of his word.

Richard worked for Kennecott Copper for 30 years as a Signal Maintainer he was also a welder for several years. He also held many positions in the L.D.S. Church, his favorite being scouting. He retired to care for his wife Glenda while she battled cancer.

Richard will be missed on this earth. His kind spirit, helping hands and steady voice gave great peace to many. Richard was one of a kind, a ‘man for all seasons’. His example and energy will live always in the hearts of those that loved him and knew him well. Our lives have been blessed and enriched greatly to know Richard Arlen Johnson.

Some of Richard’s teaching experiences include:

1954 – 1960

Military Instructor for 6 years in an engineering company teaching two classes a week in small arms and ammunition, map reading and compass use, military demolitions and high explosives and supply procedures.

1965 – 1971

On the job instructor of five men, teaching apprenticeship training in signal maintenance and safety in electrical trade.

1960 – 1984

Instructor in gun safety and target shooting

1970 – 1986

Knife collection and exhibition in Jordan School District schools.

1972 – 1986

Lectures and black powder rifle use and effect of gun powder on man and his environment. Given by appointment in Jordan School District schools.

1984 – 1985

Volunteer reading and math coach at 5th grade level at Mount View Elementary 2 to 3 times a week to migrant students and those needing one on one assistance.

He also taught special classes for Boy Scout church groups on knives, guns and gun safety and classes to young women on simple automobile maintenance.

Some of his talents and experiences include:

Electrician

Expert Rifleman

Knife expert

Freelance Photographer

Mechanic

Hunter

Fisherman

Water color painting

Drafting and Blueprints

Outdoor & Camping Skills

Traveled in Western U.S. including Alaska and Western Canada

“The Oak Tree” A message of encouragement

A mighty wind blew night and day. It stole the oak tree’s leaves away,
Then snapped its boughs and pulled its bark until the oak was tired and stark.
But still the oak tree held its ground while other trees fell all around.
The weary wind gave up and spoke, “How can you still be standing, Oak?”
The oak tree said, “I know that you can break each branch of mine in two,
Carry every leaf away, shake my limbs, and make me sway.
But I have roots stretched in the earth, growing stronger since my birth.
You’ll never touch them, for you see, they are the deepest part of me.
Until today, I wasn’t sure of just how much I could endure.
But now I’ve found, with thanks to you, I’m stronger than I ever knew.”

Richard also had a few poems that he loved about giving thanks:

A true friend laughs at your stories even when they’re not so good, and
sympathizes with your troubles even when they’re not so bad.

Irish Proverb

The greatest good you can do for another is not just to share riches but to
reveal to him his own.

Benjamin Disraeli

Friendship that flows from the heart cannot be frozen by adversity, as the
water that flows from the spring cannot congeal in winter.

James Fenimore Cooper

How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a weary
world.

William Shakespeare

Words from Family:

My father taught me the ways of the outdoors and how to respect life. He taught me to look for the best in people. He enjoyed life to its fullest. He had vast knowledge and experience. He loved God and all His creations.

David Johnson

You shaped me into the person I am today. You were such a great father and friend. You have given me so many memories. I love you so much!

Tammy Rich (Johnson)

I love you so much grandpa. You will always be in my heart and on my mind. Thank you for everything you did for me.

Love Kortni Patrick (Rich)

We love you so much and appreciate everything you've done for us. We will miss you greatly.

Love Rebecca and Rachel

Memorial services will be held at:

Parkway 4th Ward

3407 W 9625 S, South Jordan

April 1, 2017

10:00 am – 11:00 am receiving line

11:00 am – 12:30 pm memorial service

Lunch to follow

Color Guard to follow Memorial out on the lawn.

Previous Events

Receiving Line

APR 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

Parkway 4th Ward
3407 W 9625 S
South Jordan, UT

Memorial

APR 1. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (MT)

Parkway 4th Ward
3407 W 9625 S
South Jordan, UT

Color Guard

APR 1. 12:45 PM (MT)

Parkway 4th Ward
3407 W 9625 S
South Jordan, UT

Lunch

APR 1 (MT)

Parkway 4th Ward
3407 W 9625 S
South Jordan, UT

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard Arlen Johnson*

October 05, 2023 at 07:49 PM



“ *Tammy and David, I know I haven't seen you and your family for so many years. Your dad and mom meant a lot to me and my family. Very sorry for your loss of them. All my live Janet email me sometime. maeholder070@gmail.com*

Janet (Davis) Holder - April 03, 2017 at 07:52 PM



Janet thank you so much. I've tried your email don't know if I got it wrong.

Tammy Rich - April 12, 2017 at 01:07 PM



“ *Tammy I'm very sorry to hear about the loss of your dad. I know how much you loved him and he loved you*
Kaylein



kaylein - March 29, 2017 at 07:45 PM



“ *Coleen Humphrey lit a candle in memory of Richard Arlen Johnson*



Coleen Humphrey - March 29, 2017 at 09:53 AM

TR

Thank you Colleen for coming to the funeral it was really good seeing you

Tammy Rich - April 08, 2017 at 09:42 PM

IS

“ *Ilene Schmeiser lit a candle in memory of Richard Arlen Johnson*



Ilene Schmeiser - March 28, 2017 at 02:35 PM

LP

“ *Lois Peacock lit a candle in memory of Richard Arlen Johnson*



Lois Peacock - March 27, 2017 at 06:39 PM

TR

Thank you for the beautiful flowers! Dad really loved you guys!

Tammy Rich - April 08, 2017 at 09:41 PM

JP

“ Richard is one of my oldest and dearest friends - he makes us all feel like you are the most special person in all the world.....
I first met Richard as a young girl deer hunting with mutual friends. One day as he lined us all up for target practice and a gun safety session I pulled the trigger of his 44 in the split second that he had turned away to answer a question. Never had I held or shot a gun in my life! The 44 kicked me in the head so hard all thought that I was dead!

Richard watched over me that night as my goose egg lump continued to swell. (I still have the lump). From that night forward Richard vowed to watch over and protect me.

That was almost 30 years ago now and Richard kept his promise to me all that time.

Richard is like a prophet of old whose feet you sit at and listen and learn from. His eyes look right into your very soul. He was a tremendous teacher who always pulled from you your very best and helped you see the magnificent possibilities you held in store. He humbly served so many with strength and compassion.

He sculpted my life with his wisdom and love and is part of the foundation of who I am today. His stories still make me laugh and I enjoyed the confidences we kept between us two. He was one of this world's greatest treasures! However, the biggest thing I will remember about Richard was his connection to God, the "Great Spirit" as he would say, and how he dedicated all his time, talents, words and deeds to Him and pointed us all in that very same and noble direction. It is a comfort to know Richard watches over us all now and will be there with that amazing smile and hug for when next he greets us!

With love from Julie Peacock

Julie Peacock - March 27, 2017 at 06:36 PM

JM

Richard was my 2nd cousin on our maternal side. Always Captivated by his life stories so full of color and mesmerizing. You were our Mountain man relative and we won't forget you.!

John Mayne (Wallgren side)

Antioch, California

John Mayne - April 01, 2017 at 04:18 AM

S(

I met Richard when I was 15 years old. His brother Byron Jr., was walking me home from a church dance & we stopped to introduce me to Jr's family. His mother told me then that she had named him for the very handsome Movie Star, Richard Arlen, whom she had a crush on in the 1930's. 55 years ago Richard was wearing a holster & gun and had a knife in his boot. I baked "Happy Birthday" cakes for Richard for many years thereafter (love to celebrate our family occasions) & when Richard turned 80 in February, 2017, we shared that cake with him & he was still wearing his gun and knife! A sweet letter written by Mary, Richard's mother, from Midvale, dated August, 1940, to Great Gramps in Payson, when she was the young mother of her year old Connie and 3 year old Richard told the tale. She tells Gramps, "Well Richard sure missed you when he woke up and just thought it was terrible that you left so early". The other day he said, "Boy, look at my new Plymouth, isn't it a honey". (Gramps had just been to Midvale to show off his new car). "He keeps me going, just to keep up with him". One day I was getting a drink and Richard just stood there. So I asked him if he wanted a drink, but he said, "No, I just had one". "Where did you get a drink?" He just looked so cool and says, "Out of the Gold Fish Bowl"! So that's Richard Arlen Johnson:

Named for a very handsome Movie Star

Always, Always packed his Gun & Knife

Loved Birthday Cakes

He's Very Cool by Age 3

His Plymouth is a "Honey", and

He drinks from his Gold Fish Bowl :)

Nice Memories...Thank You Richard

With Love, Your Brother Byron & Sharyl

Sharyl Johnson (Sister-in-law) - April 08, 2017 at 12:05 PM



Rebecca
Kemker

“ *Memorial Fund is located: <https://www.gofundme.com/richardarlenjohnson>*

Rebecca Kemker - March 27, 2017 at 06:20 PM