



## Ray Johnson

April 8, 1930 - November 3, 2023

Ellis Ray Johnson, 93 of the Grassy Community, passed away Friday, November 3, 2023, at his residence. Ray was born April 8, 1930 in Grassy, the son of James Ellis Johnson and Victoria Berry Johnson. He was a graduate of Arab High School Class of 1948. He married the love of his life, Betty Jean Copeland on April 8, 1951. He attended Snead State Community College and while attending college he was drafted into the United States Army, serving in Korea and Japan during the Korean War. When he was honorably discharged in 1953, he continued his schooling at Jacksonville State Teacher's College receiving his bachelor's degree in education. Later, he received his master's degree from Alabama A & M University. He was an educator for over 37 years for the Marshall County School System, spending most of those years at Grassy Junior High School. He served many roles while working at Grassy...from principal, teacher, coach, bus driver and janitor. He was a member of the Alabama Education Association and the American Legion Post in Decatur.

He is survived by his wife of 72 years: Betty Johnson; a daughter: Vicky L. Johnson; sisters: Nell Davis (Monty) and Carolyn Ellinger (Bill); brother-in-law: Verlon Copeland; special friend: DeWitt Miller; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and many dear friends. He was preceded by his parents: James Ellis and Victoria Johnson; brothers: James B. "Buddy" Johnson and Joe H. Johnson.

Funeral Service was 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at Gober Funeral Chapel with Brother Brandon Berry officiating and eulogy by Mickey Hunt. The burial was in Rocky Mount Cemetery, Gober Funeral Chapel directing. Visitation was from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. Tuesday at Gober Funeral Chapel.

Pallbearers: James B. Johnson, Jr, Monty Davis, Jr, Charles Hewett, Larry Walker, Gary Graves, Jackie Chamness, Garey Whitlock and Larry Bodine.  
Honorary Pallbearers: Chris Johnson and Joey Perkins.

# Cemetery Details

## Rocky Mount Cemetery

2237 Guntersville Rd.  
Arab, AL 35016

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 7. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Gober Funeral Chapel  
1331 Guntersville Road  
Arab, AL 35016  
(256) 586-8111  
goberfuneralhome@otelco.net

## Funeral Service

NOV 7. 2:00 PM (CT)

Gober Funeral Chapel  
1331 Guntersville Road  
Arab, AL 35016  
(256) 586-8111  
goberfuneralhome@otelco.net

# Tribute Wall

MT

“ *Mr Johnson was a special teacher to all his students always a friend and supportive for all school activities we loved him dearly*

Mary taylor - November 07, 2023 at 12:28 AM

BJ

“ *A wonderful man that done so many great things for so many in our community and our great school GRASSY!!! So sorry for y'all loss*  
🙏



Becky Jones - November 06, 2023 at 10:00 PM

H1

“ *HONOR GUARD POST 15 lit a candle in memory of Ray Johnson*



HONOR GUARD POST 15 - November 06, 2023 at 08:07 PM

T1

“ *Tim&Debbie Riggs AL Post 15 sent a virtual gift in memory of Ray Johnson*



Tim&Debbie Riggs AL Post 15 - November 06, 2023 at 08:05 PM

HP

“ *HONOR GUARD POST15 lit a candle in memory of Ray Johnson*



HONOR GUARD POST15 - November 06, 2023 at 07:28 PM

PM

“ *Betty Jean and Vicki, condolences. I loved Ray--at family gatherings and other occasions, he was always the reticent one. Which means very few people knew the real Ray.*

Patricia Megnin - November 06, 2023 at 05:25 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Ray Johnson.*



November 06, 2023 at 04:42 PM

RM

“ *Betty and Vicky, so sorry to hear about the loss of this wonderful man. I always looked up to and admired him so very much. He made a real difference in so many people's lives, including mine, and made the world a better place. You all are in my prayers. Peace and comfort to you both during this difficult time.*

Randall Morrow - November 06, 2023 at 11:33 AM

NM

“ *Nalani McNary lit a candle in memory of Ray Johnson*



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**Nalani McNary** - November 05, 2023 at 05:30 PM

CJ

“ *Chris & Leslie Johnson purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Ray Johnson.*



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**Chris & Leslie Johnson** - November 04, 2023 at 07:59 PM