



Willis Lee Johnson

October 5, 1930 - December 26, 2016

Willis Lee Johnson, 86, passed away on December 26, 2016, in Fairhope, AL. Willis was born on October 5, 1930 in Randolph County, AL to Lester and Essie Johnson. He lived in Oxford most of his life and was active within the community, especially with Antioch Baptist Church of Oxford, where he was a long-time member. Willis worked as the Dresser Industries Pattern Shop Supervisor, but his true passion was raising cattle on his 150 acre farm surrounded by Choccolocco Creek.

Willis went out of his way to help others and was an Oxford High School Football Booster Club member, President of the Calhoun County Cattleman's Association, and a board member responsible for beginning Choccolocco Creek cleanup efforts. He loved fishing for bream and crappie, and caring for his roses at his home in Meadow Lakes.

Willis and Betty moved to Fairhope in 2013 where he was a member of First Baptist Church. There he continued his passion for gardening and developed a new love for Satsuma oranges.

Willis was very proud of his supportive family, and was greatly loved in return. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Betty Jean Patterson Johnson; his sister, Carolyn Beecham of Rainbow City; his sister-in-law Joyce Johnson of Oxford; his four children, Brenda Fleming and spouse Don Rowe of Fairhope,

AL, Cathy Farr and spouse Steve Farr of Atlanta, GA, Sam Johnson and spouse Sonia Miranda of Fort Lauderdale, FL and Jim Johnson and spouse Tracey McGee of Wake Forest, N.C.; six grandchildren, Tammy Johnson and spouse John Boyanoski, Brett Johnson, Kelsey Johnson, Garrett Johnson, Aidan Johnson and Norah Johnson; and two great grandchildren, Hannah Boyanoski and Kittridge Boyanoski. He is preceded in death by his parents, his brother; Gerald Johnson; and his long-time fishing buddy James Purdy.

The family will receive visitors at the Miller Funeral home in Oxford on Thursday, December 29, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. A graveside service will follow at 11:30 a.m. at Forest Lawn Gardens in Anniston.

Cemetery Details

Forestlawn Memorial Gardens

730 Golden Springs Rd
Anniston, AL

Previous Events

Service

DEC **29**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Miller Funeral Home
50 Hamric Drive East
Oxford, AL 36203
(256) 831-4611
millerfuneralcal@gmail.com

Graveside Service

DEC **29**. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Forestlawn Memorial Gardens
730 Golden Springs Rd
Anniston, AL

Tribute Wall

GE

“ Sweet Betty, you and Willis have been such a special couple in our midst! You both always had a smile and a hug for all. You were truly blessed to have shared so many years together. We were blessed you shared the last few with us. Please know you are loved by many.

Russell and I send our love and sympathy to you and your family in this time of loss.

Russell & Gerry

Geraldine Eubanks - December 29, 2016 at 10:03 AM

CC

“ Dear Betty and family, our deepest sympathy. Willis had such a gentle and kind spirit and he will be greatly missed by everyone that knew him. Carolyn and Ken Cramton

Carolyn Cramton - December 29, 2016 at 09:33 AM

VM

“ Sending our prayers and condolences to Betty and the family. We will miss Willis' sweet smile and hugs. We will be thinking of you in the days ahead.

Vicki and Doug Montgomery.

Vicki Montgomery - December 29, 2016 at 07:29 AM

DW

“ When Willis and Betty joined our Sunday School Class, I felt as though we had an immediate connection. They are both so sweet and likable, and I grew to love them in no time! They brought me some of those beautiful roses to my home twice after I had back surgery, which I dearly admired. I miss you already, but I know you are in that HEAVENLY PLACE that we all long for! No pain, no sickness, no tears, no unhappiness! Praise God for that! I am so glad I called you last week to hear your sweet voice here one last time. I love you. Miss Betty, I am here for you always if you need anything at all. I love you too,
Donna Will

Donna Will - December 28, 2016 at 07:58 PM

HH

“ I have been thinking since I received the call from Sam, what I did I do to deserve the friendship of Willis Johnson. He was always the one helping me and doing things for me when we were neighbors across the creek in Oxford. NOTHING!! I can still remember years ago when the creek flooded and he helped me retrieve a calf that got stuck. He tied a rope to me and I went into the water to save the calf. His gentle demeanor, his sweet smile will always be remembered by me. Prayers for Miss Betty and the family.
Harold Harmon

Harold Harmon - December 28, 2016 at 07:44 PM

LC

“ *Willis always had a warm smile! He will be greatly missed. Praying for Betty and all his loved ones. Heaven welcomed a sweet man of God.*

Love, Lynn and Charlie Carroll - December 28, 2016 at 07:31 PM

DC

“ *Mr. Willis will be greatly missed. I always enjoyed the hugs he gave and his sweet humbling spirit. Dave and I came to love Mr. Willis and Mrs. Betty. Mrs. Betty, please know you and your sweet family are in our prayers!*

Dave and Rita Curenton - December 28, 2016 at 04:41 PM



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



December 28, 2016 at 01:34 PM

LS

“ Willis was a dear friend and one that we grew to love and appreciate since he and Betty moved to Fairhope and became valued members of the Truthseekers Class at FBC. We cherish the many times together and especially the visits in their home and the Rook games.

Willis will be greatly missed, but we are comforted by the knowledge that he is in his Heavenly home. We extend our condolences and prayers to Betty and the entire family.

Lawson and Sharon Swearingen

Lawson and Sharon Swearingen - December 28, 2016 at 12:07 PM

AP

“ The TruthSeekers Sunday School Class will certainly miss Willis. Each Sunday we looked forward to seeing his smiling face and receiving a hug! Such a kind and very thoughtful person. His spirit and his love for his Savior was contagious. John L and I will certainly miss him! Prayers for Betty and his precious family. Amelia Pope

Amelia Pope - December 28, 2016 at 11:49 AM

FC

“ Willis was such a special person, and will be missed but we know where he is and that makes his passing much easier to bear. Our sympathies and prayers to Betty and his family. Bob & Faye Cheatham

Faye Cheatham - December 28, 2016 at 11:23 AM