



Robert Anthony "Bob" Johnson

April 17, 1960 - December 4, 2024

It is with profound sadness that the family of Robert (Bob) Anthony Johnson announce his unexpected passing. Bob passed away in Gallatin, Tennessee on December 4th, 2024, at the age of 64. He was born on April 17, 1960 in Hammond, Indiana. He is the son of Mary T. (Dixon) Johnson and the late Robert E. Johnson of Griffith, IN. He is survived by his mother Mary, his wife of 44 years Susan Lynn (Riggs) Johnson of Elmwood, TN (Married May 24, 1980) and his children, Robert [Kimberly] E. Johnson of Springfield, TN and Sarah [Carlos] A. (Johnson) Rivera of Springfield, VA. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Carlos Rivera, Alexander Johnson, Oren Johnson, Isabella Rivera, Marysol Rivera, Christian Rivera and Katrina Johnson along with an Aunt, countless adoring nieces, nephews, extended family and in-laws.

Bob is a graduate of Griffith Senior High School, Class of 1978, where he excelled at the tenor saxophone and was a varsity football and track athlete. He enlisted in the United States Air Force and became a proud graduate (Summa Cum Laude) of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University out of Bitburg, Germany with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. Due to his success he was sent to OCS and became an Officer in the USAF where he proudly served until his retirement in 1993. Bob was the maintenance man for the Flying Tigers and wore that distinction like a badge of honor. He talked often

about the Gulf War Illness Project (Project IN-DEPTH) that he worked on before his retirement and was excited and proud of the work completed with the VA and the NIH to help veterans suffering from wartime illnesses. One of his proudest projects outside of supporting the Gulf War during Operations Desert Storm and Shield was the design and construction of the Flying Tigers Heritage Park at England AFB in Alexandria, Louisiana. Heritage Park was a display of aircraft stationed at the base over the years and commemorated the lives of all airmen past, present, and future.

Bob was also a 32nd Degree Master Mason with Garfield Lodge #569 as well as a member of the Knights Templar.

Following his service in the USAF, Bob was a successful project manager with various government contracting agencies to include a liaison with the Saudi Arabian Royal Air Force in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. His private interests were varied and when he became interested in a craft he excelled at it. He was a talented woodworker who built countless projects with his daughter, Sarah and his granddaughters Isabella and Marysol, and these heirlooms are cherished in their homes. He was a certified marksman and hunted with his son Robert and Grandson Oren. He was a very talented cook and a successful bootlegger during his time in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, even authoring a cookbook teaching others the art of distillery.

Through the years, Bob and his wife and children traveled the world. Bob ensured his family experienced cultures in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa and the United States and they are forever grateful for his sacrifice and devotion. It brought him a great deal of happiness to provide endless new experiences for his wife, Susan and his two children.

Bob was devoted to his family and was a beloved son, husband, father,

grandfather, uncle,
friend, boss and will be desperately missed by all who knew him.

The family will receive friends from 9:00-11:00AM Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at the Austin & Bell Funeral Home in Springfield, 509 Walnut Street, Springfield, TN 37172.

Funeral services will be conducted at 11:00AM Tuesday, December 17th, in the funeral home chapel.

Military graveside services will be conducted at 2:00PM Tuesday, December 17th, in the Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery, 7931 McCrory Lane, Nashville, TN 37221.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to your local masonic lodge in his memory.

Austin & Bell Funeral Home in Springfield is in charge of these arrangements.

AUSTIN & BELL FUNERAL HOME-
509 WALNUT STREET, SPRINGFIELD, TN (615) 384-1000

Cemetery Details

Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery

7931 McCrory Ln
Nashville, TN 37221-5704
(615) 532-2238

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 17. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Austin & Bell Funeral Home Springfield
509 Walnut St.
Springfield, TN 37172
(615) 384-1000
<https://austinandbell.com>

Funeral Service

DEC 17. 11:00 AM (CT)

Austin & Bell Funeral Home Springfield
509 Walnut St.
Springfield, TN 37172
(615) 384-1000
<https://austinandbell.com>

Military Graveside Service

DEC 17. 2:00 PM (CT)

Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery
7931 McCrory Ln
Nashville, TN 37221-5704
(615) 532-2238

Tribute Wall

NL

“ Bob was truly a great friend, mentor, and all-round outstanding person. He was instrumental in standing up the TSA training program and spearheaded many innovations in how programs there were done. He accomplished herculean feats and did it with a smile and a laugh. He launched the careers of many there, Lockheed Martin, and Northrop Grumman. His impact is the testament to his legacy. I am proud to have been a brief part of it and his friendship. Thanks for everything Bob! -- "We'll Fly Anything, Anywhere, Anytime" (AVG Flying Tigers)



Nathan Lefebvre - December 17, 2024 at 10:18 AM

SR

Nathan, thank you for sharing this. It warms my heart to hear these stories about my Dad. He was fond of all of you he worked with on the TSA training program. We couldn't get him to stop talking about it ❤️

Sarah Rivera - December 18, 2024 at 10:20 AM

DK

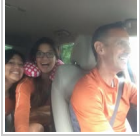
“ Bob was a great friend. He got me into Masonic life. I remember hanging out at his home, having dinner with his mom and dad, and when he and Sue married. My prayers go out Sue and his family.

David Byron Kraus - December 13, 2024 at 06:49 PM

ML

“ My sincere condolences on your loss. May God give your family strength and comfort during this time of bereavement...”

MLeonard - December 12, 2024 at 10:37 AM



“ My condolences to The Johnson Family. BJ was truly one of the good guys. Back in high school, I sprained my ankle at a track meet. BJ picked me up and carried me to the training table, about 60 yards away.
Keith Lickwar

Keith Lickwar - December 11, 2024 at 08:46 PM

SR

I loved hearing this story about my Dad. His heart was so huge ❤️

Sarah Rivera - December 18, 2024 at 10:21 AM

SR

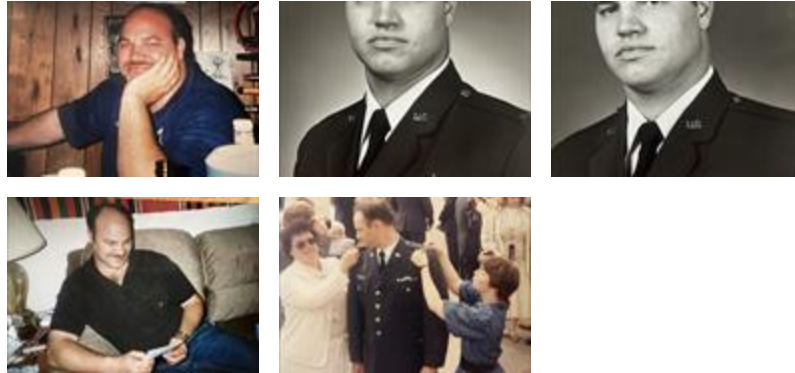
“ Veterans memorial for Dad online.

https://www.vlm.cem.va.gov/ROBERTANTHONYJOHNSON/a85477?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR0glo7xJu72a-5Jy8ufYgrq1tH86bQGBd9APslcriW2obBzMZT0HVw337o_aem_TN394XJp8YBLuFLQIHjaNw

Sarah Rivera - December 11, 2024 at 09:45 AM

SR

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Sarah Rivera - December 11, 2024 at 09:26 AM

MA

“ On behalf of Garfield Lodge No. 569 (his home Lodge), we are very sorry to hear of Bob's passing. Please accept our condolences in our absence, and may God hold your family in this time. - all our love, Matthew J. Backus, PM, Secretary

Matthew - December 10, 2024 at 10:35 PM

SR

“ 9 files added to the tribute wall



Sarah Rivera - December 10, 2024 at 11:17 AM

CA

Sarah, these are great pictures. Thanks for sharing them. I worked with your dad for the past few years and only got to see the "thumbnail" pics we have internally. These are so great! He could talk for hours about his chickens and bone broth. My granddather was also a Mason and a chicken farmer so lots of stories to share. He will be missed.

Carol - December 10, 2024 at 03:55 PM

LO

“ *Our sincerest condolences on Bob's passing. As a fellow member of the Riyadh Bootlegger team, I will never forget his efforts to get the wood chips to get the flavor just right. We are grateful that we got to know him and his family and sorry to hear of his sudden passing.*

Lonnie - December 10, 2024 at 02:40 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert Anthony "Bob" Johnson.*



December 09, 2024 at 10:50 PM

CA

“ *"In the infinite meadows of Heaven bloom the stars, the forget-me-nots of angels." - Longfellow....*

My sincerest condolences on Bob's passing. May his inquisitive and adventurous spirit, his faith, and his wit be his legacy. I have missed working with him and am so grateful to have known him. He was a man of many stories, a rock for us to learn from and lean on, and a man of goodness and honor. God bless and keep you all.

Carol - December 09, 2024 at 05:09 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert Anthony "Bob" Johnson.*



December 09, 2024 at 11:55 AM

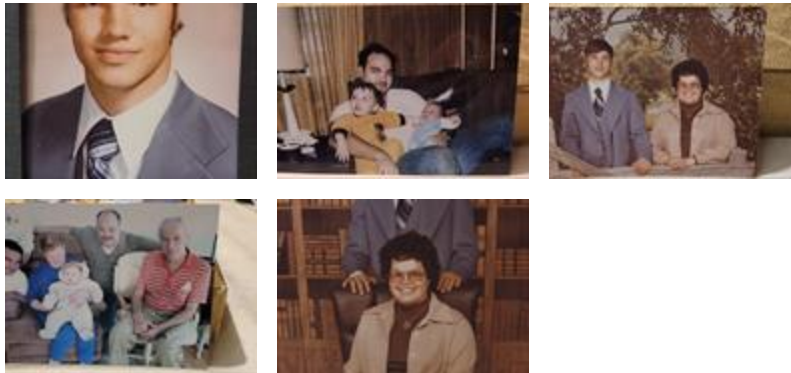


“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert Anthony "Bob" Johnson.

December 09, 2024 at 11:55 AM



“ *14 files added to the tribute wall*



Sarah Rivera - December 09, 2024 at 09:07 AM