



Donald Kelly Johnson

February 20, 1934 - February 26, 2016

Colonel Donald Kelly Johnson, US Army retired, of Mount Holly died peacefully at home Friday, February 26, 2016 after a long illness. He was 82.

Kelly was born on February 20, 1934 in Ona, West Virginia to the late Elbie and Edna V. (Dolly) Johnson. He graduated from Marshall University in 1956 with a degree in psychology. While at Marshall he was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and ROTC.

After graduation he was honored to embark on a 27-year career as an artilleryman and missileer with the US Army, reaching the rank of Colonel. A decorated veteran, Kelly served overseas assignments in Germany and Korea and served two combat tours in Vietnam. He also held the positions of Indiana Recruitment Commander and Deputy Commander of Northeast Recruitment Command. He continued his education by earning a Masters Degree in Psychology. He subsequently attended the Air War College, earning a Masters Degree in Strategic Plans and Policy.

After his retirement from military service, Kelly had a twenty-year career as a real estate agent, achieving multiple Million Dollar Club awards. Although no longer in uniform, Kelly continued to serve his community, most actively as a member, past President, and International Fellow of the Mount Holly Lions Club. Kelly was a long-time member of the First Presbyterian Church in Mount

Holly, serving as a Community Luncheon volunteer, a founding and Advisory Board member of Homes of Hope, and as a Haiti mission trip volunteer. Kelly was instrumental in the formation and initial success of the Mall Ministry program, and participated in the Men's Prayer Breakfast for over 20 years. He was a member and past President of the Lakes and Pines Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. Kelly was a Golden Eagle Band sponsor and yeoman, a member of the American Legion, and a member of the Masonic Lodge.

Kelly was a formidable tennis opponent, constant gardener, and avid runner. He was a man of faith devoted to his family and community, never passing on an opportunity to give his time, his money, or his encouragement. Kelly was an enthusiastic idea man, always eager to creatively solve any problem that presented itself. He danced through life with a mischievous sense of humor. Growing up in West Virginia he loved hunting and archery.

Kelly is survived by his beloved wife, Linda; brother Charles W. (Bill) Johnson of Trenton, Alabama; children Colonel (ret) Heather Ierardi (Dave Gerard) of Rome, Italy; Donald K. (Deke) Johnson, Jr. (Kay) of Melbourne Beach, Florida; Holly Johnson Stuhr (Andreas) of Hoboken, NJ and Alzenau, Germany; Stephen D. Arvin (Holly) of Bellefontaine, Ohio; Julia Arvin (John DiBlasio) of Manchester, Vermont; and Jeff Arvin (Sarah) of Atlanta, Georgia. Kelly was a devoted grandfather to his surviving grandchildren Kurt Silsby (Chelsea); Deane Silsby; Elisabeth, Allison, and Phillip Johnson; Alexander and Helena Stuhr; Sara Rhoades; Tyler and Timothy Arvin; Anastasia "Cubby" Arvin-DiBlasio; and Marin and Gabriella Arvin; and three great-grandchildren. Kelly was predeceased by his grandson Ryan Silsby.

Visitation for family and friends will be Tuesday, March 1 from 5:00-8:00 pm at Perinchief Chapels in Mount Holly, NJ. Services will be held Wednesday, March 2 at 11:00 am at First Presbyterian Church, 125 Garden Street, Mt.

Holly, NJ. Kelly will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery.

The family invites friends and relatives to make a donation in memory of Kelly to either the Military Officers Association of America Lakes & Pines Chapter Scholarship Fund (PO Box 3, Fort Dix, NJ 08640) or the Michael J. Fox Foundation. Condolences or flowers for the family may be sent c/o Perinchief Chapels, Inc., 438 High Street, Mount Holly, NJ 08060.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 1. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Perinchief Chapels
438 High St.
Mount Holly, NJ 08060
(609) 267-0399

Service

MAR 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church
125 Garden St.
Mt. Holly, NJ

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Kelly Johnson*

October 29, 2022 at 11:57 AM



“ *Donald Kelly Johnson*

October 29, 2022 at 09:53 AM



“ *We miss you dad! Hanging out at Longdoggers with linda, Steve , Jeff and the families!!*

deke johnson - December 30, 2016 at 06:45 PM



“ *Our deepest sympathies to Linda and family on the passing of our dear Kelly. We feel fortunate to have shared so many memories with Kelly and Linda. Anne Marie and Gregory feel lucky to have "Uncle Kelly" in their lives. Kelly was always available when his friends and family needed help, whether it was moving old appliances to the curb, moving in or out of a house, or finding a key or tool in his "barn". He was a great soldier for his country, and in his fight with such a debilitating disease. We will always cherish our memories of Kelly and try to live by his example.*

*Love,
Scott, Amanda, Anne Marie and Greg Steeves*

amanda Steeves - March 01, 2016 at 09:23 AM

AS

“ 5 files added to the album Steeves' memories with Kelly



amanda Steeves - March 01, 2016 at 09:12 AM

JK

“ *I didn't know Col. Johnson very well, only through my long friendship with Julie and the many warm and loving things she has told me of him through the years. He served his country and his community (just like another great dad that I happen to know), and I'm grateful for his service, which always involves sacrifice. The world sorely needs every good person it can muster, and while it has lost another with Col. Johnson's passing, it is certainly a better place for his work, his caring, his influence, and now his memory. Please accept my most sincere condolences for the loss you are suffering. May he rest in peace always.*

John Kingston

John Kingston - February 29, 2016 at 08:45 PM

TR

“ hugs to you Heather and Deke and Holly and dear Linda in this time of devastating loss.

Your dad // husband knew your love as you tenderly cared for him, providing his needs hour after hour and sharing tidbits of pleasure through music and touch throughout. Prayers for comfort in fond family memories and hope in blessings from our Heavenly Father.

tracy

tracy - February 29, 2016 at 05:31 PM

GS

“ Linda and family, I am so very sorry to hear of Kelly's passing. What a wonderful guy, whom I worked with for so many years. He always put a smile on our faces and had such a positive attitude toward everything he did. He was so very proud of his family. I send prayers during this difficult time for you and your family. Glenda Selby

Glenda Selby - February 29, 2016 at 04:46 PM

JS

Linda and family, I am so very sorry to hear of Kelly's passing. I, too, worked with Kelly in real estate for a brief time and always enjoyed his presence at the office and his input! It was apparent how much he loved his family and was so involved in so many things! He will be missed by many! Prayers to all, Jeannie Marvin.

Jeannie Stock - March 01, 2016 at 06:02 AM

WF

“ I read the obituary about the loss of your loved one and I extend my sincere condolences. At this time you are feeling an unbearable pain, and experiencing a great loss. Psalms 46:1 says, “God is our refuge and strength, a help that is readily found in times of distress.” He will help you get through this difficult time. (Isaiah 41:10) I hope this brief Bible message has brought you a measure of comfort in this difficult time.

Williams Family - February 29, 2016 at 02:07 PM

JM

“ Dear family,
I know that you are all feeling the loss of your beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, cousin, uncle, and friend. Even though he had this illness which we all knew, barring a miracle cure, had this inevitable end, it is never easy to say good-bye. Thank you for being such an inspiration as a family unit. I have been so impressed by how often you all visited and contacted him and Linda on a regular basis, how you would all gather for special occasions and holidays from all over the world, and how everyone was constantly working toward helping, encouraging, researching, etc.

Blessings and hugs to you all!

*Jennifer L. Murduck
Maryland*

Jennifer L Murduck - February 29, 2016 at 12:04 PM

JF

“ Dear Johnson family:

I wish to convey my sincerest condolences to your entire family. Losing a loved one in death is one of the hardest things that anyone will ever have to deal with. There is a great hope held out to us for the future because God promises to bring those we lost back to life by means of a resurrection to a paradise earth, where sickness and death will be no more. I hope this brief message will bring you a measure of comfort in this difficult time.

Johnson family - February 29, 2016 at 11:41 AM

BP

“ KELLY/ WAS A GREAT FIRST COUSIN, FOND MEMORIES OF OUR YOUTH HERE IN WEST VIRGINIA. GREAT WEST VIRGINIAN, AMERICAN SOLDIER WHO CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO THIS WORLD DURING HIS PRESENCE. MAY GOD REST HIS SOUL AND HE FIND PEACE ETERNALLY. ALSO MAY GOD HELP HIS FAMILY EXPERIENCE PEACE. GOD SPEED COL. DONALD KELLY JOHNSON. HOPE TO SEE YOU IN HEAVEN. BILL PHELPS

BILL PHELPS - February 28, 2016 at 09:03 AM

JL

Linda and Family

We learned of Kelly's passing through the Ladies of Lakes & Pines Chapter, MOAA. John has fond memories of working with Kelly on the MOAA Executive Board for many years. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. In deepest Sympathy, Gladys and John Lord, .

John Lord - March 01, 2016 at 01:10 PM