



James Lowell "Jim" Johnson

January 16, 1946 - August 4, 2013

James Lowell Johnson, 67, a resident of Fredonia and formerly of Independence, died Sunday, Aug. 4, 2013 at Fredonia Regional Hospital.

A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. Wednesday at Countryside Funeral Home with the Rev. Gene Benefiel officiating.

Jim was born Jan. 16, 1947, at Independence to Arthur Ralph and Hilda Marie (Budke) Johnson; he was graduated from Independence High School and attended Independence Community College. He worked for KIND and the Independence Daily Reporter as an advertising sales representative, as well as at J.T. Maloney's in Independence. After his retirement from the Reporter, Jim worked part-time for Connections and the Apple Tree Inn.

On Aug. 22, 1990, he married Meredith Relph; they later divorced.

Survivors include a daughter, Jillian Avery Johnson, of the home; Jill's half-sister Stephanie Wilson, Fredonia; his former wife, Meredith Relph, Fredonia; two brothers, Ralph Johnson, Salina, and Mark Johnson, Independence; a sister, Diane Lewis, Springfield, Mo.; several nieces and nephews and many friends.

Jim will be remembered for his beautiful singing voice and his sense of humor.

Jim was baptized at the Zion Lutheran Church in Independence and later converted to Catholicism and attended Sacred Heart Church in Fredonia where he enjoyed singing in the choir and at weddings and funerals. He appeared in numerous Neewollah stage productions over the years, including singing and acting alongside Jill in "Meet Me In St. Louis." Jim and Jill also presided over the Neewollah "Doo-Dah Parade." He was a cast member in numerous Anna Award plays at Independence Community College and also was an Anna Award presenter; for several years, he sang in the Fredonia Community Chorus for the annual "Sounds of Christmas" performance and also was the verse reader for the annual Community Christmas Pageant.

Jim served nearly two terms on the USD 484-Fredonia board of education, until health issues led him to resign earlier this year.

A memorial has been established with the Fredonia High School vocal music department and be left with or mailed to the funeral home. Services entrusted to Countryside Funeral Home P.O. Box 247, Fredonia, KS 66736

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG 7. 4:00 PM (CT)

Countryside Funeral Home - Fredonia
420 S. 20th St.
P.O. Box 247
Fredonia, KS 66736
(620) 378-2882

Tribute Wall

HE

“ *Hassie Ezell lit a candle in memory of James Lowell "Jim" Johnson*



Hassie Ezell - August 15, 2013 at 12:12 AM

TH

“ *Tara Heimann lit a candle in memory of James Lowell "Jim" Johnson*



Tara Heimann - August 14, 2013 at 08:55 PM

DI

“ *2 files added to the album New Album Name*



Diane - August 08, 2013 at 09:03 AM

BS

“ When I left Indy nearly fifty years ago, a few images remained in my mind. One of these was James Johnson. He was a bud! I recall dragging the Main-Park-Oak-Penn circuit a thousand times with him in his mother's huge green Oldsmobile. I smile when his voice echoes within my mind, assigning my name with triple syllables. We had fun! Most recently James helped me "rescue" classmate Larry Griffin from a post-mortem fate-worse-than-death....carrying a huge workload so we could give Larry a respectful final resting place. James and I hadn't visited for several years, but when I explained the situation, it was like old times all over! It took him less than a minute to step forward to help. It was truly a noble effort (the way James did things) ... and greatly appreciated, especially when I scattered Larry's ashes per his wishes knowing James' great work made it all possible. James is one of those miracles of life that we apparently take for granted. I wish he were here right now! RIP my friend!

Bill C Self - August 07, 2013 at 12:32 PM

PR

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Patricia Relph - August 06, 2013 at 05:58 PM

PR

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Patricia Relph - August 06, 2013 at 05:56 PM

PR

“ 1 file added to the album *Jim in Meet Me in St. Louis*



Patricia Relph - August 06, 2013 at 05:55 PM

PG

“ 1 file added to the album *A Wonderful Dad*



Patricia Relph Gross - August 06, 2013 at 05:26 PM

PG

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Patricia Relph Gross - August 06, 2013 at 05:24 PM

RW

“ *Jim and I graduated from IHS and ICC together, both worked at KIND and shared the stage in at least one play I recall. I will always remember him as a dear 'old' friend.*

*My condolences to his family and esp to Jill.
Bob Wullenschneider*

Robert Wullenschneider - August 06, 2013 at 01:33 PM

MW

“ *Marilyn Whitson lit a candle in memory of James Lowell "Jim" Johnson*



Marilyn Whitson - August 06, 2013 at 09:24 AM

MW

Today the world is a little dimmer because of the passing of James. I knew him for over 50 years & never ever heard anybody say a word against him. He was one of the most gentle, classiest men I ever knew, truly a good man. I loved seeing he and Jill when she was about 2 years old, out about town. Here was this giant of a man holding the hand of this tiny little girl & I would tease him that I knew who was truly the "boss". We will miss you, James.

Marilyn Whitson - August 06, 2013 at 09:26 AM

AK

“ *“Lit a candle in memory of James "Jim" Johnson. I can't ever remember seeing him without that beautiful big smile on his face! He is now singing with the voice he was gifted with to Jesus.”*



Alecia Lewis Kunish

Alecia Kunish - August 05, 2013 at 05:49 PM

KW

“ *Jim was quite a gentle giant. I worked with Jim at the Appletree Inn in Independence and he was a gentleman at all times. I understand that he had quite a voice, sorry that I never heard it. He will surely be missed.*

Kay Westervelt - August 05, 2013 at 04:51 PM

KW

“ *Kay Westervelt lit a candle in memory of James Lowell "Jim" Johnson*



Kay Westervelt - August 05, 2013 at 04:47 PM

EL

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



ERnest Lewis - August 05, 2013 at 01:55 PM

RJ

Good picture.

Ralph Johnson - December 24, 2022 at 03:37 AM

RJ

James Johnson

Ralph Johnson - December 24, 2022 at 03:38 AM

TR

“ *One of the greatest men I've ever known and loved. I will miss him. God speed.*

Tammy Reed - August 05, 2013 at 12:50 PM

AM

“ *Anita Martin lit a candle in memory of James Lowell "Jim" Johnson*



anita martin - August 05, 2013 at 11:14 AM

MW

I knew Jim for 50 years & can honestly say I never heard a bad word about him or knew anybody that didn't love & adore this man. He was such a gentle giant of a man. Loved seeing him with Jill about town when she was very young, about 2 years old. I always teased him I knew who was the "boss". The world is a little sadder today with his passing.

Marilyn Whitson - August 06, 2013 at 09:19 AM