



Leo Johnson

June 19, 1931 - January 14, 2024

On Sunday, January 14, Leo Johnson, loving husband, father, and grandfather, passed away at home. He was born on June 19, 1931, to Elbert and Lola (Adams) Johnson of Jessieville, Arkansas.

Johnson graduated from Hot Springs High School in 1949. He attended Henderson State University, and in 1953 received his B.S.E., and in 1958 his M.A.

Johnson spent one year in the United States Army (starting on October 6, 1953) where he trained in military police. After a knee injury, he received an honorable discharge.

Johnson's first coaching job was at Dierks during the 1954-55 school year. He was at Bradley for 13 years from 1955-1968. He lost his first game, which was his only home loss in 13 years. His Bradley teams won four state championships in 1962, 1966, 1967, and 1968. They lost by one point in the finals of 1965.

Coach Johnson's teams won the Joe T. Robinson Tournaments in 1965-1968 and lost by one point in the final game of 1964.

Johnson's junior girls went undefeated for five consecutive years. His senior girls compiled a 78-game win streak before losing by one point in a regular season game in 1968. That was the only loss in six years. Overall, Johnson's teams suffered 26 losses in 13 years.

Later, Johnson served as coach and principal at Stephens for three years. He then resigned from coaching and became the full-time principal. He later

served 13 years as superintendent and retired in 1989.

Johnson conducted girls' basketball camps in Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. He served on the first committee, which formed the AHSCA Girls All-Star basketball game.

In 2012, Johnson was honored at "Leo Johnson Years" which was celebrated by his former players in Bradley at the Gov. Conway Days Festival. He served as Grand Marshall of the parade, attended the Leo Johnson Roast and 3-on-3 basketball game by his former players. In 2014, he was inducted into the Arkansas High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Leo moved to Searcy in 1998 to be close to his grandsons. He enjoyed his time outdoors, feeding his catfish and deer. (Thanks for the memories, Gramps...) He was also a member of the Park Avenue Baptist Church in Searcy.

Leo is survived by his wife, Sissie; daughter, Claya (Jeff) Byram; grandsons, Hunter (Carlie) Byram and Hayden Byram.

In addition to his parents, Leo was preceded in death by his brother and sister. Visitation for Leo will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 1:00pm with services following at 2:00pm at Park Avenue Baptist Church in Searcy.

Interment will follow in Gum Springs Cemetery.

Funeral services will be livestreamed by Powell Funeral Home.

Arrangements are entrusted to Powell Funeral Home of Searcy. www.powellfuneralhome.net

The family of Leo Johnson would like to thank Arkansas Hospice for the excellent care and for the many visits from their pastor, Keith Lunceford.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations be made to Park Avenue Baptist Church building fund. Donations can be made online at <https://www.parkavenuebaptist.org/> (new auditorium fund), or 211 East Park Avenue, Searcy, Arkansas 72143.

Cemetery Details

Gum Springs Cemetery

Hwy 367 S. @ Booth Road
Searcy, AR 72143

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 18. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Park Avenue Baptist Church
211 East Park Avenue
Searcy, AR 72143

Funeral Service

JAN 18. 2:00 PM (CT)

Park Avenue Baptist Church
211 East Park Avenue
Searcy, AR 72143

Interment

JAN 18 (CT)

Gum Springs Cemetery
Hwy 367 S. @ Booth Road
Searcy, AR 72143

Tribute Wall



“ *Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Leo Johnson*



Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services - January 17, 2024 at 02:03 PM

JM

Heaven has a wonderful Coach, Father, Grandfather, and Husband! I be always credited him with being a large part of my successes in life. We learned so much more than how to win a basketball game!

See you soon Coach Johnson! 🙏🙏🙏

Jenny (Whitt) Mitchell - January 19, 2024 at 02:47 PM

SP

He was my first year of teaching principal. Oh, what a teacher he was!

Sherry Phillips - February 15, 2024 at 06:06 PM

RS

“ *Sissie and Claya, mom and I were so sad to hear about Leo. He was a great principal and coach in Stephens, where I played for him. I'm sure Grandmother is so happy to see him in Heaven. She thought the world of Sissie, Leo and Claya. They were so sweet to her. Our prayers are with the family. We love each and everyone of you. Rhonda and Shelda*

Rhonda Sanders - January 19, 2024 at 04:25 PM

B(

“ I'm So Sorry to Hear of Mr Leo's Passing. He Was A Great Coach and Supertendent! He was A wonderful Father and Husband! Claya I'm So Sorry for Your Loss. You and Your Family will Be In My Prayers. 🙏

Belinda Grant (Jackson) - January 18, 2024 at 05:33 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Leo Johnson.



January 17, 2024 at 11:29 PM

JB

“ Prayers and love to Leo and family and friends, such a blessing he was to so many people who lives he touched. He helped so many young people and he never met a stranger, A special prayer and thank you to Leo for service to the United States of America, and to our Church. Our condolences to the whole family and friends, May God Bless you all and help you during this time. John O. Jr., and Lynda Bailey part of your Park Avenue Baptist Church Family



John O. Jr and Lynda Bailey - January 17, 2024 at 01:13 PM