



## Stephen F. Johnson

June 13, 1945 - December 9, 2021

Stephen Johnson of Prattville, AL was born June 13, 1945, in Milwaukee, WI. His family moved to Memphis, TN, soon after his birth. He was raised in Memphis and lived there into his adult life before joining the U.S. Army. He is a Vietnam combat veteran, earning a Bronze Star with Valor for Heroism for exhibiting bravery under fire during the Tet Offensive in 1968. After his tour of duty, he returned home to Memphis and attended computer school, earning an associate degree. He married his wife of 51 years, Barbara J. Atkins, in Memphis on August 23, 1970. Shortly thereafter, he once again decided to serve his country by joining the U.S. Air Force. During this time, the computer industry was still a revolutionary new industry. He was a pioneer in the computer industry and earned numerous awards and accolades. He along with a few of his colleagues designed a computer program in the early 1970s, while in the Air Force, called CAMS. This system or a variant thereof, is still in service to this day with the U.S. Air Force and her allies. He retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1988 at the rank of MSGT and joined the UNISYS corporation as a systems analyst. He quickly rose through the ranks at UNISYS before retiring from there. He then became a Federal Civil Servant and worked at Gunter AFB. His favorite assignment as a civil servant was working as the Subject Matter Expert Liaison with the Royal Dutch Air Force. He enjoyed visiting Holland and interacting with his colleagues at the RDAF. He remained highly active throughout his adult life and enjoyed spending time with his granddaughters and great granddaughter. He loved cars and anything

to do with innovative technology. He had a soft spot for animals and the less fortunate and would often find a family in need and provide them a nice Christmas. Few people knew of this, as he did not seek the spotlight, he simply provided from the goodness of his heart. He is preceded in death by his brother: Dr. James R. Johnson of Memphis TN, his stepfather: John M. Brown and his mother: Lucille Brown, both of Memphis, TN. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Barbara J. Johnson, His son, Mitchell S. Johnson and his wife Abbie Foshee-Johnson, His Granddaughter, Kirsten T. Boyd and her Husband Jamie Boyd of Fairhope, AL, His Granddaughter Kaitlyn N. Phillips and her Husband Elijah Phillips of Rockford, AL, his Grandson Patrick Foshee of Tuscaloosa AL, and his Great-Granddaughter Kinsley T. Phillips, His nieces, Tiffany Johnson, and Caroline Johnson, both of Memphis, TN. We know he is looking down from heaven and celebrating the birth of his Great Grandson, James Fischer Boyd, born December 10, 2021, the day after his passing. He loved God, He loved his Country, and He loved his family. May he rest in peace.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 15. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Prattville Memorial Chapel and Memory Gardens  
841 Fairview Avenue  
Prattville, AL 36066  
(334) 365-7147  
prattvillememorial@live.com

## Service

DEC 15. 2:00 PM (CT)

Prattville Memorial Chapel and Memory Gardens  
841 Fairview Avenue  
Prattville, AL 36066  
(334) 365-7147  
prattvillememorial@live.com

# Tribute Wall

LL

“ So Honored & Blessed to have known Steve & Barbara the last 24 years. He was 1 of a kind & such a Gentleman!! I worked with them handling All their Real Estate Transactions & their families. I watched his granddaughters grow up & are now both Beautiful Moms . God Bless you All & sending Prayers . Lisa Lynn Arc Realty

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**Lisa Lynn** - December 15, 2021 at 10:45 AM

NW

“ Between my interactions at REMIS when Mr. Johnson was my RCAF POC along with Jim Graves and my working with him on the IMDS Team, I had the honor and pleasure of working with Mr. Johnson for 15 years. In all that time, he always had a smile on his face and was one of the kindest people that I have worked with. He will be missed, but I know that he will continue guiding IMDS from Heaven as they continue to march forward. May God bless the Johnson family; you are in my prayers.  
Nicole :-)

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**Nicole Webb** - December 15, 2021 at 09:40 AM

SC

“ I have known Steve for over 40 years, he was one of a kind. He was dedicated to his work and especially to his family. We would go for walks during our lunch breaks where we would talk about family and/or work. More times than not Steve would find solutions on how to correct software design issues. Most of all he loved talking about his family.  
Rest in piece Steve, You are already missed.

Steve Cole

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**Steve Cole** - December 15, 2021 at 09:07 AM

JL

“ Steve Johnson was a great person. First met him during our Phase IV conversion in the mid-80's at Holloman where he taught me about QLP, Cons commands, and so much more. It began a great phase in my career and made me incredibly interested in learning all I could about the new system and all it could be used for to better support the aircraft maintainers. All of that started with him! It took another 10 years before I made it to Gunter and worked with him in the database shop. I'm thankful to have had that time and to work the other great folks there (many of which also benefitted from his example and mentorship). In recent years I'd often see him walking around base at Gunter or catch-up a bit when I'd see him at the commissary. He'll be greatly missed. My condolences to his wife and progeny.

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**Jim Lowe** - December 15, 2021 at 08:19 AM

AT

“ Steve was a true treasure in the Maintenance Information Systems arena. Following my assignment here, he patiently showed me how to t-shoot issues following the schema, stating that even a blind squirrel could do this. He often said "nothing surprises me" when we had to modify the system to support customer requests, no matter how illogical they sounded. I could always rely on him whenever encountering a problem that kept getting away from me. He was one of the original, small cadre of true subject matter experts here on Gunter. I'll be forever grateful to have worked and been trained by him and the others.

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**Allen Trump** - December 14, 2021 at 02:32 PM

PH

“ Steve was my mentor in the digital arena of aircraft maintenance information management, beyond normal user functions, when we worked together at Nellis A.F.B. in the early 80's. He talked me into joining him at the mecca for maintenance information management at Gunter Air Force Station, AL in 1983 and arranged a by-name request through the Air Force personnel system to be assigned at Gunter. We went on several TDY's together after spending over a year in and out of Huntsville, AL where the initial information system was being updated by a new contractor. We and other functional analyst were the testers of the new system before it was fielded. After it passed and was fielded, our group of functionals would go to the large air Force bases and assist in the conversion from old to new system and help them adjust to the new capabilities. We also trained other personnel to go to other bases within their command and do the same. We were a tightly knit group for many years. Steve was always at the forefront for any new capability to update, correct, and improve the information system capabilities. He went on to other endeavors but was happy to help in situations where he was very knowledgeable of the information system. He will be missed by family, friends, co-workers and dozens of Air Force base level users of the information system. He has indeed left his mark and will long be remembered for his service. Heartfelt condolences to Barbara, Mitchell, and all the kids and grandkids. May he rest in peace.

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Paul Hobbs - December 14, 2021 at 02:04 AM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Stephen F. Johnson.



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December 13, 2021 at 10:27 AM

TB

“ I first met Steve more than 10 years ago when he went to work for the Royal Netherlands Air Force worked instead of Karl Oleson. From the start there was very good contact and I had been in contact every day during the period that the Royal Netherlands Air Force worked with IMDS. Due to the time difference of 8 hours with the Netherlands, this was mainly every afternoon and often also in the evening. In those years I got to know Steve as a great colleague that you could always rely on. His knowledge of Unisys software was extraordinary and his pragmatic way of solving problems is unique. During our many visits to Gunter together with Ton Blom, the reception was warm and we always looked forward to the visit. We regularly went to lunch, dinner or just somewhere nice to drink a beer. I still often use the slogan “Miller time” something Steve often said at the end of a working day. Unfortunately, more than three years ago, after more than 40 years, the collaboration between the Air Force and the Royal Netherlands Air Force came to an end because our leadership opted for a different computer system. During the migration to the new system, Steve has been of great help to us and it would not have been possible without him. I look back on a good time and a great collaboration and as a soldier I say “Old Soldiers never die”. My condolences to his wife Barbara and family.  
Major Ton Bouman Royal Netherlands Air Force.

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**Ton Bouman** - December 13, 2021 at 09:40 AM

BP

“ Steve was one of my mentors. He had a talent for making complex database designs and issues easy to understand. He was a joy to work with. I could talk to him about anything. I owe a lot of what I know about databases and script coding to him.

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**Billy Puckett** - December 12, 2021 at 09:02 AM

BG

“ Steve was a mentor to me. He helped me get hired with Unisys. I would have to say I owe my career to him. He taught me in a way that pointed me in the right direction but did not give me the entire answer. This allowed me to learn how to solve problems and write code in several languages. He was one of the unsung heroes in our field, because he did not seek glory, but did a lot to support others.

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**Ben Groover** - December 11, 2021 at 11:28 PM

BF

“ Ben Groover and Family. purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Stephen F. Johnson.



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**Ben Groover and Family.** - December 11, 2021 at 11:20 PM