



Robert Jerry Johnston

November 22, 1935 - February 7, 2021

Robert Jerry Johnston age 85 passed away due to complications of Covid-19 on February 7, 2021 in the Veteran's Hospital in Salt Lake City, UT. He was born on November 22, 1935 in Ramah, NM to Jennie James and Jesse Johnston. Together they had 4 boys and 10 girls, but he was his mom's only son.

He attended 12 years of school in Ramah and helped to build the new high school at the time. At age 17 he joined the US Airforce and served for 4 years; including 2 years in Korea as a Russian linguist under dangerous conditions. He returned home and married his childhood sweetheart Carmen Kay Clawson. They were married for time and all eternity on October 28, 1955 in the Mesa, AZ Temple. Jerry was a faithful and active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints all his life serving in many capacities including Bishop, High Counselor, Ward Clerk and as a Senior Missionary in Magadan, Russia from May 1999 - October 2000 with his Carmen. This was a cherished, shared experience for them. They were blessed with 6 children and lived most of their lives in Ramah.

He had many interests and talents. He worked in a refinery in Gallup and in uranium mines in Grants. He owned a gas station in Zuni for several years and was loved by the Zuni people. The majority of his career was spent as a computer programmer and systems analyst for many businesses in the area. In his later years, Jerry worked for his son Bob doing various jobs related to his long-term care facilities. He loved to invent tools and come up with better ways to do things. He could invent a tool out of anything on hand to do any unusual task. He was a master at woodworking and loved to solve puzzles. He was full of good humor, loved to pull pranks and tell jokes. He made everyone around him feel loved and a welcome part of his life.

He is survived by: his wife Carmen Johnston, children Andria (David) Whitlark of Woodstock, GA, Shirley (John) Harris of Lehi, UT, Robert (Mely) Johnston of Farmington, NM, Natalie (Kyle) Larsen of Highland, and UT, Lester Johnston of Ramah, NM, 25 grandchildren, 48 great-grandchildren, 2 sisters Mervie and Agnes (Don), and many,

beloved nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, 11 siblings, daughter Elizabeth, her husband Robert Whitehead, and great granddaughter Brooklyn Flores.

Funeral Services will be held Saturday February 13th, at 11:00 am, at the Highland 26th Ward Chapel located on 9681 North 6900 West Highland, Utah, where a Viewing will be held prior to services from 10:00-10:45 am. Interment at the W-Triangle Ranch in New Mexico.

Events

FEB **Viewing** 10:00AM - 10:45AM

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Highland 26th Ward

9681 North 6900 West, Highland, UT, US

FEB **Funeral Service** 11:00AM

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Highland 26th Ward

9681 North 6900 West, Highland, UT, US

Comments



“ I grew up just down the street from Jerry and Carmen. He was a youth leader in more ways than just a calling. He mentored a lot of us troubled kids in Ramah and a large part of my life has been affected by his love and kindness. He and Norman Bloomfield were making and setting off model rockets and flying model airplanes. He invited all who could find the time to join them. I will never forget his affable laugh and kind voice and will love that forever. He will surely be missed by me I could fill a book full of memories about time spent with him and his family. Tears roll down my cheeks as I sit here and remember times spent with him. I love you Carmen and pray for you at this difficult time.

LOUIS LAMBSON - February 14 at 10:28 AM



“ Just about the first job I had was working for Jerry at his gas station in Zuni. He taught me how to mount and balance tires, pump gas, sell candy, and talk to customers. I remember how gregarious and kind Jerry was with everyone. He told amazing stories of working in the mines and helicopter rides. Those years were impressionable for a young man of 14 years and I feel blessed to have had his influence at that time in my life. He will certainly be missed but we will one day again see his smile and experience his warm affections.

Michael - February 13 at 10:22 AM



“ My family lived in Ramah for a couple of years when my brother and I were teenagers. The Johnston family welcomed us as if we were family. Mr. Johnston was such a positive role model and leader to all the youth of the community. We were blessed to have landed in Ramah. Our experiences there among such incredibly wonderful, quality people remained the high point of our youth. A true blessing and a precious gift from God.

Carol Wallace



Carol - February 11 at 08:56 PM



“ One of my favorite sayings of his was when asked how he was doing, he'd respond, "Worse than yesterday, better than tomorrow". I also enjoyed his version of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'. I hope it is written down somewhere.
The McDormans love you, Aunt Carmen.

Jay McDorman - February 11 at 07:44 PM



“ I had just returned from my Mission in July of 1965 and was in Ramah to be released. Jerry needed to go to Washington DC to represent Ramah about something. He didn't own a suit and asked to borrow one of mine. We were close enough in size for that to work. I was only there long enough to meet with a member of the High Council to be released, then my fiancé and I left for Oregon. Jerry was a very good man. He had to be to convince Uncle Cal to let him marry Carmen. I didn't know they were up here in Utah. Was a missed chance to visit. Love to Carmen and the family.

Phil Bloomfield - February 12 at 07:59 AM