



## Dr. Kirby Knox Johnson

September 29, 1924 - August 8, 2015

Dr. Kirby Knox Johnson, Sr., age 90, a retired veterinarian of Fairburn, passed away Saturday, August 8, 2015. He was the son of the late Reuben Lee and Sarah Iona Kirby Johnson.

Dr. Johnson was born in Graymont, GA, in 1924. He was an excellent student who deeply loved nature. He took great pride in his rise to the rank of Eagle Scout in the Fairburn chapter of the Boy Scouts of America. At age 16, he entered Auburn University and finished with a degree in veterinary medicine in 1946. He was member of the Omega Tau Sigma fraternity. He married his childhood sweetheart, Betty Jean Turnipseed of Atlanta, in 1946. After two years of service in the Mexican-American commission for the eradication of aftosa fever, appointed by the U. S. government to prevent the spread of foot-and-mouth disease in Mexico, the young couple moved to Fairburn. He set up his practice as a large and small animal veterinarian and proudly served the south Metro Atlanta area for more than 60 years. His love for his profession and for people, in general, garnered him a widespread reputation of kindness and generosity, and as one who never met a stranger. But the thing he considered his greatest accomplishment was the home that he and his wife blessed with ten children. The house itself was an ante bellum home place that he and his wife renovated in 1952. Dr. Johnson lost his beloved wife to cancer in 1991, after 45 years of marriage. Turning to his longstanding love of music and song, he joined the Fayetteville chapter of the Barbershop

Harmony Society, where he joyously sang for a number of years. Dr. Johnson was a wonderful father, a loyal friend, a true patriot, and a devout Christian. In his 90 years, he profoundly and positively affected the lives of many. He was person of goodness and integrity, and will be missed by everyone he has left behind.

He was also preceded in death by his daughter, Sandra Dahl and is survived by daughters, Celia Clay and her husband Dwight of Fairburn, Angela Shartar of Marietta, Melanie Cooper of Hickory, NC, Eugenia Johnson and her husband Francisco of Dayton, OH, Jennifer McEwen and her husband Homer of Mableton; sons, Kirby Knox Johnson, Jr. of Palmetto, Lee Johnson and his wife Rhonda of Palmetto, Eric Johnson and his wife Beth of Tyrone, Mark Johnson of Peachtree City; 18 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. A funeral service will be held Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at 1 o'clock at Peachtree City Christian Church with remains placed in state at 12 o'clock. Dr. George Dillard officiating. Interment will follow at Holly Hill Memorial Park. Charitable donations in lieu of flowers should be made to the American Wildlife Federation. Those wishing may sign the online guestbook at [www.parrottfuneralhome.com](http://www.parrottfuneralhome.com). The family will receive friends on Monday evening from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m. at Parrott Funeral Home & Crematory, 770-964-4800.

# Tribute Wall

BW

“ Prayers with the family as they lay to rest a great man of God! Our family loved him as we worked with him at First Christian at Fairburn!

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**Bonnie & Jesse Winfrey** - August 13, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ Paw paw I am going to miss you. Tell grand mother Betty I love her.

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**Rachel Elizabeth Wiggins** - August 11, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ Dear Melanie and all of the Johnson family, So sorry for you loss. We were lucky to have shared our lives growing up in Fairburn and our family was fond of your dad. Know that I am thinking of all of you. I regret I am unable to be there.  
Jeff Johnson

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**Jeffrey Johnson** - August 11, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ Celia and family,

We are so sorry about the loss of your beloved father. I remember your father fondly and I know you will miss him.

With our deepest sympathies,  
Leda and Ed Walker

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**Leda and Ed Walker** - August 11, 2015 at 12:00 AM

OE

“ Words are never adequate at times like this. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

*Dr. Kirby was a fine upstanding person and will certainly be missed by all who knew him. May you find comfort and peace in the love of your family and friends.*

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**Owen and Bobbie Edge** - August 11, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NW

“ I am praying for your family during this difficult time. May God grant you comfort, peace and many precious memories.

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**Nancy Whittenburger** - August 10, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ Great man who lived a wonderful life.

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**Timothy E. Dinsmore Sr.** - August 10, 2015 at 12:00 AM

EP

“ Mark,

*Praying for you and your family.*

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**Eddie R Parrott** - August 10, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LI

“ Sorry to hear of the passing of your Father. His love for man and animals were a true blessing to all. May God bless the family and guide you during this time of sorrow.

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**LibbyAustin** - August 10, 2015 at 12:00 AM

NM

“ Angela (AJ) and Family, I am so sorry to her of your Father's passing. It is very hard to lose a father, my Dad passed away two years ago. But you have so many wonderful memories that will help you along the way. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Neysa Mobley - August 10, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SF

I was so sad to hear of Dr Johnsons passing. He was a kind man i knew most of my life. My husband Shane said t tell Mark and the rest of the family you are all in our prayers.

Shelly Godby Fordham - March 03, 2019 at 04:44 PM

MF

“ Sorry to hear of your loss. Your dad was a great man.

Mike Wilkins and family - August 10, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Heaven just gained a very special person. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

jennifer clark - August 10, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ Eric and family,

I'm so sorry to hear of the loss of you dad. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Trudy Wall - August 10, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Mr. Kirby was a nice man. Sorry for your loss.

Bo Brown - August 10, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ I offer my condolences on the loss of Kirby. I will love and miss him greatly. I know he is now rejoicing with Betty.

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**cathy johnson** - August 10, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BE

“ I am sorry he was a good man that will be missed. He helped our family a lot and will not forget him.

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**Buzzy Elliott** - August 09, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Dr. Johnson was a fine Christian Southern Gentleman. He was a wealth of history and valued member of the community. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

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**Doug Brown** - August 09, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Kirby may you rest in peace and may your family know that you are in a better place.

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**Berry & Marlene Brock** - August 09, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ Please accept the WIGGINS FAMILY condolences for the loss of your father.

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**Annette Wiggins** - August 09, 2015 at 12:00 AM

WC

“ I met Dr. Johnson at the Kiamichi Men's Christian Retreat in the 1970's. He and I stayed in contact with each other over the years through our work in The John Birch Society. He will be very much missed and always remembered.

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**William S. Cherry** - August 09, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ So sorry to hear about Dr. Johnson. What a wonderful family in Fairburn and so many wonderful memories. Love to you all.

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**Carole Hudson Walker** - August 09, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LY

“ So sorry to hear about your loss. I attended Campbell High with Angela. Dr. Johnson was always there for our pets. I remember his strong, kindness and his faith.

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**Laurie Fuller Yawn** - August 09, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ May God bless you all during your time of sorrow.

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**T L Hoover** - August 09, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Kirby was a wonderful friend and neighbor.. We all lived there next door for over 40 years.. I remember all the times people would come to our house looking for him. We would send them next door or across the street.. He never meet a stranger... He took care of not only our dogs and cats but everyone eles. I have so many wonderful memories.. I remember the mule Tony.. Kirby had knowledge u could sit and listen 2 for hours.. He will be greatly missed.. Thoughts and prayers at all the family

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**Donald and Leslie Parrott And Debbie Stacks** - August 09, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DN

“ So sorry to hear about Kirby! I really wasn't quite expecting this after our last conversation, Eric. I won't be able to be there physically. Got to work. I will be with you all in spirit! Love to all!

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**Donna Norris** - August 09, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ Sorry for your loss Lee! I remember coming to the kennel with my granddaddy, Mr.Charlie Rodgers. Your dad used to treat and take care of granddaddy's dogs way back before I was born in 1959! Dr. Kirby was a great man and was always very nice to me and my brother when we came up with grandad! We. will one day get to see him again! He is at Jesus' side now! Prayers for your family!

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**Joel Laster** - August 09, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ I am so sorry to hear of Dr. Johnson's passing. I cannot begin to count the families and lives of all walks, that The Johnson family has touched, blessed and improved their quality of life. And what a shining example Dr. And Mrs. Johnson have been to all in our little part of the world. May he rest in peace with Mrs. Johnson. My thoughts and prayers go out to your entire family. May you many memories bring you all comfort.

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**Linda Cochran** - August 09, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ To all of you, sons and daughters of Kirby, I want you to know that I am so sorry for your loss. Your dad was a special person.

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**Denni K Mack** - August 08, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ I am so sorry to hear about Dr. Johnson's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Johnson family.

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**Sandra Neely Wallis** - August 08, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ I will be praying for all of you. Comfort and peace.

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**Beth Collinsworth** - August 08, 2015 at 12:00 AM

VP

“ Eric and Family,  
We are very sorry to hear about your Dad. He was a special person that helped a lot of people and animals in his life.

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**Van and Raleigh Pounds** - August 08, 2015 at 12:00 AM