



Dr. Ray Loring Johnson

August 2, 1933 - November 2, 2023

Dr. Ray Loring Johnson, 90, passed away November 2, 2023, at his home in Charleston, South Carolina. A celebration of his life will be at 2:00 PM, Saturday, January 13, 2024, at Putney United Methodist Church, 1301 Dorrough Avenue, Albany, GA.

Ray was born on August 2, 1933, in Jacksonville, Florida and moved to Albany where he attended Albany public schools. He was a 1951 graduate of Albany High School, in the first Albany High School class to complete a twelve year curriculum. He was a 1955 graduate of Florida State University which he attended on a volleyball scholarship after being discovered by the FSU Volleyball coach while playing volleyball at the Albany YMCA. He was twice selected All-American and was a member of the 1955 National Volleyball Championship team. He loved rooting for his beloved alma mater, the FSU Seminoles, throughout his life.

Ray was a graduate of the Medical College of Georgia and practiced Family Medicine in Eastman, Georgia for a number of years before returning to Medical College of Georgia to complete a Psychiatry Residency. He established in Atlanta, Georgia, a private practice of psychiatry which spanned three decades.

Upon retirement in Atlanta, Ray returned to his hometown, Albany, Georgia to

be near family and old friends and made numerous new friends through participation in family activities and community organizations, especially performing arts.

His love for opera, especially Puccini, prompted his spontaneously singing whenever and wherever it he could, often without concern for whether it was appropriate. Rounding out his musical talents he shared his beautiful tenor voice as a choir member, singing at family and friends weddings, musical theatre, and as a member of the Albany Chorale. A theater career highlight was co-starring with wife Joy in Theatre Albany's production of "On Golden Pond".

Ray was a true polymath. He ran, sang, studied every day and was proficient in several languages always learning the language of his many foreign travel destinations. He was an ornithologist and active member of the Atlanta Astronomy Club. His happy place was among his neighbors and friends on Little Cumberland Island where he shared his love of nature and The Turtle Project with his children and grandchildren.

Ray completed many marathons including Boston and New York. He ran 36 Peachtree Road Races. Peachtree Road Race was an annual family event as his five children and later grandchildren and nephews joined him over the years to race, enjoy Fourth of July Celebration and often times an Atlanta Braves game over the weekend.

Ray was pre-deceased by his parents, brothers Bill Johnson, Warren Johnson and John Johnson; his sister Leslie Johnson Dehn and niece Amy Johnson.

He is survived by his wife Joy Ashton Johnson; sons Ray Johnson, Jr. (Nicole), Darwin Johnson (Jutta) and Clay Johnson; Daughters Deryl Johnson Dillard (Greg) and Roberta Johnson Tuck (Lennie); Grandchildren Jessica

Bode, Bryan Tuck, Michael Johnson (Ferny), Kyle Bode, Whitney Bode, Thomas Johnson, Felix Johnson, and Milo Johnson; a great-grandson Micah Johnson; Sister, Mariellen Johnson Bateman and sisters -in-law Myra Clark Johnson and Elaine Thompson Johnson and numerous nieces and nephews.

Those desiring to do so may send memorials to The Albany Chorale, P.O. Box 70942, Albany, GA 31708.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN 13. 2:00 PM (ET)

Putney United Methodist Church
1301 Dorrough Ave.
Putney, GA 31705

Tribute Wall

AH

“*Mariellen, I am so sorry to learn of the loss of your brother. His and Joy’s performances at Theatre Albany were great - enjoyed seeing them on stage. Please know that my thoughts are with you during this difficult time. Prayers for your family...*”

Arleeta Henry - January 17, 2024 at 09:40 PM

DW

“*Joy & Family=Our prayers are with you all!
Brenda Gail & Danny Wall (Leesburg, GA.)*”



Danny & Brenda Gail Wall - January 10, 2024 at 09:44 PM

WS

“*Walt Lowthian and Linda Sheffield planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Ray Loring Johnson.*”

Walt Lowthian and Linda Sheffield - January 10, 2024 at 02:16 PM



“*Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Ray Loring Johnson.*”



January 10, 2024 at 02:16 PM

AF

“ Audrey F. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Ray Loring Johnson.

Audrey F. - January 10, 2024 at 09:19 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Ray Loring Johnson.



January 09, 2024 at 12:53 AM

ED

“ Eamon & Karli Dutta planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Ray Loring Johnson.

Eamon & Karli Dutta - January 09, 2024 at 12:53 AM



“ FYI.
There isn't a PUTNEY UMC. Been dissolved to Fair Haven UMC because lack of funding for disaffiliation. Different pastor's are there. They are doing it hybrid pastoring. Thanks



Elena Taylor - January 08, 2024 at 07:00 PM

MB

Service is there . Thank you

Mariellen Bateman - January 08, 2024 at 09:19 PM



What a beautiful, Rich life he lived 90 years. RIP

Sandra H.Hancock - January 09, 2024 at 07:47 AM