



Rodney Brian Johnson

April 20, 1957 - September 17, 2023

Rodney Brian Johnson was born on April 20, 1957, in Birmingham, Alabama to Mary Lu Johnson and Rodney Cooper. He passed away after a valiant battle with Multiple Myeloma on September 17, 2023.

Rod graduated Erwin High School in 1975. He then went on to get his BS in Communications from the University of Alabama in 1980 before taking a sabbatical of sorts and moving to Colorado. There he dabbled in disc jockeying, being a roadie for a band and got plenty of time on the ski slopes. Thankfully, his southern blood did not quite hold up to the winter climate, so he moved back to Alabama one year later. Once back in Birmingham, Rod attended UAB to gain his Teaching Certificate. He then went on to teach and coach at Shelby Academy from 1982-85. He started his 37-year career with the Jefferson County Board of Education in 1986. Rod earned his master's in educational leadership from UAB in 1992 and began his career in administration within JefCoEd. Throughout his career, Rod was influential in the lives of countless students and colleagues, leaving no child uninspired, no athlete un-coached, and no teacher un-mentored.

In 2000, he met his cherished life partner, Pam Johnson. They married in 2003 and have spent the past 23 years enjoying the most life has to offer by raising their blended families, becoming grandparents and attending as many concerts and Alabama football games as they possibly could.

Rod left every room he exited happier than he found it. His two non-living loves in life were football and music. He could tell you every play of the last

drive of the 1985 Iron Bowl and the set list from his last Jason Isbell show; perhaps even tying the two together in the same sentence. He had a smile you could spot a mile away, a laugh that travelled even further, and a knack for proving that growing up is a futile endeavor. His undeniable moral compass came naturally and fueled his lifelong journey of faith and an unmatched anchoring of his family.

Rod was a charter member of Clearbranch Methodist Church in Trussville. His faith was very important to him, and he attended Clearbranch (and his beloved small group) until he was unable.

Rod is survived by his wife of 20 years, Pam Johnson. His children, Caroline Johnson, Jenna (Max) Spicer and granddaughter Mae, Megan (Tim) Graham and grandchildren Cooper and Hannah, Matt (Meredith) Kirkland and grandchildren Landon and Whitley. His siblings, Terry (Sammy) Sanfilippo, and Brian (Cindy) Cooper. His parents, Mary Lu Johnson, Johnny Johnson, and Rodney Cooper.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Clearbranch Methodist Church in Rod's memory.

"Always remember there was nothing worth sharing like the love that let us share our name". - The Avett Brothers

Roll Tide!

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **23.** 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Clearbranch United Methodist Church
8051 Glenn Road
Trussville, AL 35173

Celebration of Life

SEP **23.** 11:30 AM (CT)

Clearbranch United Methodist Church
8051 Glenn Road
Trussville, AL 35173

Tribute Wall

KE

“ I am Katelyn Ellison i'm now in the 7th grade Mr.Johnson was my principle back when I was in 1-5th grade and now he's gone it really hurts to know that this sweet and loving man is now gone and when I graduated 5th grade I had an speech for him and he loved it and said he would never forget it sorry that i'm late on this but that man was the nicest guy you could ever meet and I wish my brother could meet him he would love him and I went to Chalkville Elementary School the home of the cougars.

Katelyn Ellison - May 09, 2025 at 01:00 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rodney Brian Johnson.

September 21, 2023 at 12:05 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rodney Brian Johnson.



September 21, 2023 at 12:05 PM

PC

“ Prayers & Love, from Discovery Clubs planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rodney Brian Johnson.

Prayers & Love, from Discovery Clubs - September 21, 2023 at 09:50 AM

PC

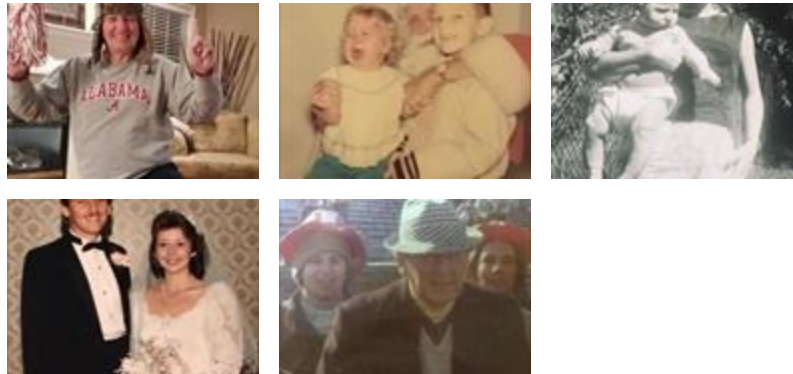
“ Prayers & Love, from Discovery Clubs purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Rodney Brian Johnson.



Prayers & Love, from Discovery Clubs - September 21, 2023
at 09:50 AM

TS

“ 5 files added to the album Family Photos



Terry Sanfilippo - September 20, 2023 at 02:33 PM

WA

“ Weeks, Heather and Jeff Alston purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Rodney Brian Johnson.



Weeks, Heather and Jeff Alston - September 20, 2023 at 11:08 AM

JP

“ I spent much time with Mr. Johnson from our time at SA and during our years working together at Chalkville Elementary School. I have many fond memories including being stranded at CES with 100 plus students during the snow event in January 2014, to working morning and afternoon carline. Mr. Johnson's consistent and steadfast leadership developed a school that provided academic excellence for all students and created the bond, closeness, and dedication of the Chalkville Elementary School Family.

Rest in peace Mr. Johnson.

Jeff Patterson

Jeff Patterson - September 19, 2023 at 11:01 AM