

John Edward Johnson

October 9, 1947 ~ October 29, 2025

John Edward Johnson was born on October 9th, 1947 to Cathy Christensen and Clifford Johnson in Ely, NV. John spent his youth in Colorado. He always had a deep appreciation for the arts and the natural world. At one point, he was part of an acting troupe in Telluride, CO. An avid learner and lifelong student, he graduated with his bachelor's degree from the College of Eastern Colorado. He was drafted into the US Marine Corps during the Vietnam war and spent most of his time in Okinawa. Upon discharge, he relocated to Utah to attend the U of U and obtain his master's degree. Utah was a good move as it was here that he met the love of his life, Patty. The two were married in 1991. Despite John not having children of his own, he took to grandfatherhood like it was always meant to be. Patty says this was largely due to him being such a kid at heart. If you knew John, this would make much sense. He had a profound sense of wonder and awe about life and the world around him that is rare in adults. Perhaps he knew that at some point he may lose his cognitive faculties which may have been the reason he listened to people speak with such presence and fervor. He listened intently to more than just people, he listened to the wind rustling through the trees, and the critters around him. He payed attention which made him a great storyteller, painting masterpieces from memory. He was incredibly kind, and compassionate, he often favored donating to charity in lieu of gift giving. He doted on Patty, always making sure to do something helpful and to make her smile. They shared countless adventures, mostly in the desert. He was a great man, humble and kind. He never preached about goodness, he simply led by example. He had many hobbies and interests, he was highly detailed and organized. He documented, scrapbooked, and journaled about every adventure from a weekend outing to the movies to weeklong backpacking trips up Kolob Canyon.

John peacefully departed his earthly existence on October 29, 2025, with his family at his side.

Preceded in death by his mother Cathy, brother Val, and grandson Andy. He is survived by his beloved, Patty. Brother, Alan. Stepsons John, Doug, Nick, and Bobby. Granddaughters, Mary Lee, Elizabeth, and Kenzie. And great granddaughter, Malia.

Per John's wishes, there will be no service. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Utah Public Lands Alliance to help preserve the natural world for all to experience the same childlike joy, wonder, and admiration that John had.