

Russell Johnson

June 13, 1947 ~ April 9, 2023

Jay Russell Johnson, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and teacher, passed away Sunday April 9th, 2023 at the age of 75. He was born on June 13th, 1947 to loving parents Geraldine and Raymond Johnson, and grew up in Ogden, Utah.

He was a proud graduate of Ben Lomond High School in 1965. After high school, Russell went on to earn his degree from Brigham Young University. He was extremely proud of his school and could often be found cheering on BYU's football and basketball teams.

After graduating from Brigham Young, Russell married Cheryl Jean Satterthwaite on June 18th, 1976, in the Ogden Temple, where they were sealed for time and all eternity. Together they had four children: Sarah (Jake) Schaugaard, Blake (Jeri) Johnson, Todd (Cara) Johnson, and Ashlee (Chase) Dimond. He adored his family and cherished the time he spent with his grandchildren: Madison (Aaron) Rasmussen, Austin (McKelle) Schaugaard, Kemry, Maycee & Titan Schaugaard, Stratton, Marley, Torah & Tatym Johnson, Tenley, Ryder, & Easton Johnson, Paislee, Zeek, & Mack Dimond.

Russ was a man of many passions. He was an avid theater enthusiast and enjoyed teaching drama at Kearns and Taylorsville High Schools for over 30 years. Teaching was one of his greatest passions. He made countless friends during this time, and was a role model and mentor to many. Russell loved Disney, especially Mickey Mouse, and worked at Disney World after retiring in 2002. He enjoyed traveling with his family and students, especially to Disney Land and New York City. In addition to teaching, Russell was a master sergeant in the Army Reserves and proudly served his country. Russell was also a skilled barber and enjoyed giving haircuts to family and friends.

Russell was a devoted member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served a mission in Scotland from 1966-1968, where he developed a love for the Scottish people and culture. He served in the conference center, and as a temple worker at the Jordan River and Draper Utah Temples. He was also a director of the Hill Cumorah Pageant, where he combined his love of the church with his love for theater.

Russell had been struggling with dementia and diabetes in his later years, and despite receiving exceptional care from his family, his health had been gradually declining. He ultimately passed away peacefully in his home, surrounded by his loved ones. Russell was preceded in death by his wife, Cheryl Johnson, and his parents, Raymond and Geraldine Johnson. He is survived by his children, grandchildren, and siblings Radene Johnson, Dee (Kris) Johnson, and Dale (Cathy) Johnson. The legacy that he left behind through his passion for teaching and his kindhearted nature will live on through the lives of his family, friends, and countless students he taught during his life. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Funeral services for Russ will be held at 11AM on Saturday, April 15, 2023 at the Mt. Jordan 4th Ward, 235 East Sego Lily Drive, In Sandy, Utah. A viewing will be held at the same location Friday evening, April 14, 2023 from 6-8PM, and again Saturday morning prior to services beginning at 10AM. Interment to follow in the Larkin Sunset Gardens Cemetery in Sandy, Utah.

Funeral services will be streamed via Zoom for those wishing to attend virtually. You must have a free personal Zoom account to watch the services. To watch the streamed services, click the "Watch Services" link above.