



# Richard Lee Johnson

SEP 18, 1934 - NOV 27, 2022



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MEMORIAL PARK  
Funeral Home & Cemetery

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## **Richard Lee Johnson**

SEP 18, 1934 - NOV 27, 2022

**R**ichard L. Johnson age 88 of Collierville, Tennessee, passed away on November 27, 2022.

He was born on September 18, 1934 in Holly Springs, Mississippi to Clayton and Pearl Johnson. He was known for his courage and perseverance. Richard contracted polio at age 10, rending his legs dysfunctional. However, he learned to walk using crutches early in life. His determination helped make him successful in his life and career.

Richard was a valued educator, starting as a special education teacher at Westwood High School in 1961. He obtained his Ed.S Degree from the University of Tennessee. He was promoted to Supervisor, and then Director of Special Education for Shelby County Schools. During this time, he earned many education awards, both locally and nationally. After retiring from the Shelby County Schools, he served as Principal of The Wesley School in Collierville TN and Guidance Counselor at Rossville Christian Academy in Rossville, TN.

Richard grew up in church and used this measure of faith to guide him. He was also a member of Grace Evangelical Church.

He leaves his son, Warren (Patty) Johnson, step-daughter Melissa Chambers, a sister Sandy Brown, his granddaughter, Amy Bynum, two great grandchildren, Charlee and Birklee Bynum, and his cat named Socks.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife Emily Johnson, two sisters. Elizabeth Williams and Inez Bell and a brother Clayton Johnson.

Funeral services will be held at Memorial Park Funeral Home in the Fireside Chapel on Wednesday, December 7 at 11:00 am. Visitation will be held and hour prior to the service starting at 10:00am



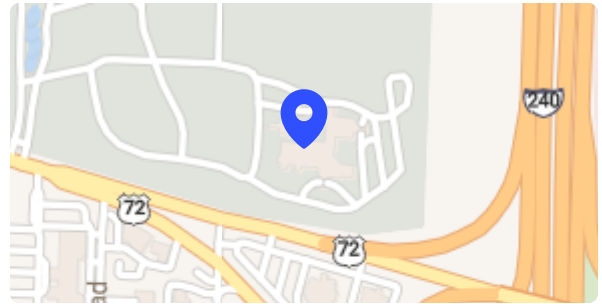
# Events

**Richard Lee Johnson**

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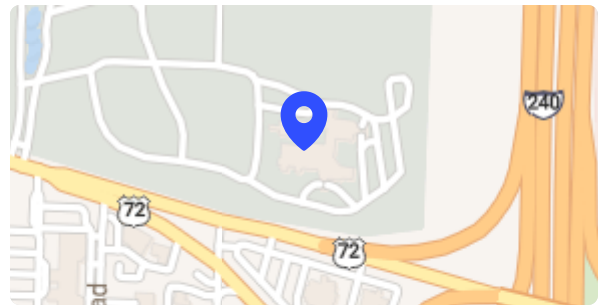
## Memorial Visitation

- Wednesday**, December 7, 2022
- 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM CT
- Memorial Park Fireside Chapel**  
5668 Poplar Avenue, Memphis TN 38119



## Memorial Service

- Wednesday**, December 7, 2022
- 11:00 AM CT
- Memorial Park Fireside Chapel**  
5668 Poplar Avenue, Memphis TN 38119





## Tribute Wall

**Richard Lee Johnson**

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TB

**Thomas Butcher** posted:

We all lost a great man recently. Some of us lost a great personal friend; I feel as if I lost a brother. I worked for Richard in the exceptional education area at various schools and became very close friends with Rich and his soulmate, Emily. We were like family, traveling together, camping and enjoying the outdoors and craft fairs. I always admired his tough, outer demeanor, his constant, positive spirit. No doubt a lesser man could have withdrawn into a justifiable slump of self-pity, but not my brother, Richard. When it came to the welfare of others, including his family or his students, he was a lion. He was so proud of his son, Warren, as well as all the rest of his family. Richard was a man of unquestionable integrity, strength, and tenacity, as well as warrior for the rights of the population he so strongly advocated for over many years. It has been wisely said that "consistency, thou art a jewel," and Rich never wavered from his ever-present commitment to the countless exceptional students whose rights he fought for. In my short 73 years, I have been fortunate to work with individuals of impeccable character, bravery, and intellect, both with the FBI and US military. Richard daily outshone them and did so with a smile. Likely the most valuable take away from all of the funerals I have attended is as follows: "There is a vacuum with the passing of this giant that cannot be filled by someone with less passion, commitment, and love for others. It is therefore up to each of us to make up that void. Find us a comfortable spot by the campfire, brother, where our eternity of peaceful adventures awaits. Walk, hike and dance with Emily, all unencumbered, until we meet again.

December 16 at 4:07 PM

MC

**Mike Coggins** posted:

Saddened to hear of Richard's passing. It was an honor to know him and work with him at Rossville Christian for several years. I am happy to know that he and Emily are celebrating in heaven together. I will miss talking with him and hearing that great laugh. Condolences to all his family. May God bless and comfort you in the coming days.

December 2 at 5:34 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Richard by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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