



Dennis O'Neal Johnson

October 21, 1953 - June 24, 2018

Pastor Dennis O'Neal Johnson, 64 of Rural Columbus passed from this life June 24, 2018 with his children by his side.

He was born October 21st, 1953 in Webb City Missouri, the son of Jack Fare, and Barbara Jean "Nadine" (O'Neal) Johnson. Dennis attended grade school in Webb City, Riverton, and Columbus, graduating with the CUHS Class of 1971. He attended NEO A&M, and Ozark Christian College.

While attending Junior High he met his wife Joyce Ann Ruggels and in April of 1973 the couple married at the First Christian Church in Columbus. They resided in rural Baxter Springs for a few years before moving to the farm Joyce was raised on north-east of Columbus. The couple made that their home together for the next 40 years. It was the place they raised their children, taught Faith, hard work, and the values of life.

Dennis was an active member of the Columbus community, he worked alongside his parents and his brother Jack in the family business at Polar Pantries.

Dennis was a member of the Sherwin Christian Church, becoming the pastor in 1987, with his ordination service on May 22, 1988. He recently celebrated 30 years as Sherwin's pastor. He also was involved with the Columbus Association of Churches, The Columbus Police Department and the Cherokee County Sheriff's office. He also was involved in Cherokee County 4-H as a youth, as a parent, and as a leader.

He worked for a time for Charlie's IGA, Bob's Apple Market, Medicalodge of Columbus, Murdock Funeral Home, and Bath Naylor Funeral Home. Dennis worked countless hours providing for families in need, he ministered to families in the entire community during his life. He performed Weddings, Baptisms, called on the elderly in the Nursing Homes, and performed countless funerals for members of this and other communities.

Dennis is survived by his son Chris Johnson and his wife Holly of rural Columbus; his daughter Lacey Branstine and her husband Eric of rural Columbus; three grandchildren: Bethany, Isaac, and Faith Johnson. One brother Jack Johnson and wife Carla of Columbus; four sister in laws: Janice Sandberg, Marlene Clark (David), Lavon Lovell (Gary), Glenda Ragland, along with 10 nieces and nephews, and their children. Dennis also is survived by the congregation of the church he faithfully served, all who had a very

special place in his heart.

Dennis was preceded in death by his loving wife Joyce of 42 years, his parents Jack and Nadine Johnson, his Mother in law Flossie (Frobish) Smith, Father in law, Robert Byrl Ruggels, a stepfather in law Vernal Smith, and one Brother in law Bill Sandberg.

Funeral services will 10 am Wednesday, June 27, 2018 at Calvary Baptist Church in Columbus, Kansas with Pastor Galen King, and Pastor Gerald Griffin officiating. Visitation will be held Tuesday evening at Calvary Baptist Church located at 625 East Sycamore Street, in Columbus, from 6 to 8 p.m. Burial will follow at Lone Elm Cemetery in rural Columbus. Condolences may be left at <http://www.bathnaylor.com>. The Family asks that memorials be made to Sherwin Christian Church for the Education fund of Mary Gathoni; these may be left at or mailed to the funeral home. Services are under the direction of the Bath Naylor Funeral Home of Columbus.

Cemetery

Lone Elm Cemetery

Columbus, KS, 66725

Events

JUN Visitation 06:00PM - 08:00PM

26

Calvary Baptist

: 625 E Sycamore, Columbus, KS, US, 66725

JUN Service 10:00AM - 11:00AM

27

Calvary Baptist

: 625 E Sycamore, Columbus, KS, US, 66725

Comments



“ Dennis was a one of a kind !! The Kansas Guardianship Program was blessed to know, and work with him over the many years that he was a volunteer guardian to vulnerable adults in need. He was such a JOY and an awesome advocate for many!! Thank you family for sharing your loved one with us!
KGP Staff and Friends

Barbara Longhofer - September 06, 2018 at 03:29 PM



“ Dennis was one of the nicest people on earth, always time to listen and a kind word for everyone. My mom thought he was the "finest man she ever met." He will have a special place in Heaven. Dennis will truly be missed in our community.

Della Campbell - June 29, 2018 at 07:20 AM



“ He will be missed. When we visited Columbus to visit my Mom at Medical lodge he would always come by to say hello and reminisce of high school. He had a very calming affect on you. He spoke at my father and Mother's funeral. I am so sorry for your loss.
Paula Ellis

Paula Ellis - June 28, 2018 at 08:03 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Dennis O'Neal Johnson.



June 26, 2018 at 12:34 PM



“ DJ you will be missed by many. There are so many memories that could be told. You were always there for everyone. I will forever be grateful for god putting you into my life. You were number one. Lol. To your family I pray for peace and comfort. You definitely are in a better place, with all the honey buns in the world. I will definitely miss you! Till we meet again Dj.b

Kassie Leonard - June 26, 2018 at 12:02 PM



“ I wanted to express our deepest sympathy. You may find that time afterwards still has moments of sadness or even funny memories; but keep them all in your heart. Time does heal and your Faith in Him will carry you through.
Peace, Prayers and Blessings,
Dan & Sandy Martin

Sandra Martin - June 26, 2018 at 11:04 AM



“ Dennis was the best "half-ass" preacher I have ever met! He knew how to play and be silly and he knew exactly how to sit quietly with us in times of grief. He brought joy and love with him in every encounter and he loved his family with all that he had. We know exactly where Dennis is today, and he spoke the Word to many people who never would have heard it from someone else. Jewels in his crown for sure!

Janie G Jarrett - June 26, 2018 at 08:08 AM



“ Dennis was one of a kind! He will be missed terribly by so many as he touched so many lives! Prayers for his family and friends! Soar high Dennis!

Mary Brumback - June 25, 2018 at 08:43 PM



“ We are so sorry to hear of this. I knew Pastor Dennis' family while growing up in Columbus, and have fond memories of those days. May God comfort all who love him...

Marti (Simkin) Wells-Smith - June 25, 2018 at 07:53 PM



“ Dennis was always there for me and my family when we needed him. I was blessed to have known him. Thank you Dennis for all you did for us!

Glenda Crabtree - June 25, 2018 at 01:07 PM



“ He will be greatly missed. Dennis was a blessing to everyone he met. He was there for our family when my husband passed and assisted at his visitation. Heaven is a better place. Columbus has lost a great one.

Mavis Bowin - June 25, 2018 at 12:30 PM



“ I met Dennis when he was a student at Ozark Christian College. Then I had the privilege of attending law enforcement chaplain training with Dennis. He had a heart for people and loved to serve his church and law enforcement family. Thanks, Dennis, for a life lived for the King of Kings!

Robert Heath - June 25, 2018 at 11:33 AM



“ Dennis and Joyce were both the most godly loving couple I've ever known. They were first friends for many years, enjoying the llamas together, that is how we met. Then as the years went by he performed my daughters wedding. I know he missed Joyce so terribly. Everyone should be so lucky to have a long and loving marriage as these two.

I wish I could put into words how special of a person Dennis was to all that knew him, but there just aren't words special enough to describe him

Rest In Peace now Dennis, your home

Merry P Barley - June 25, 2018 at 10:38 AM



“ I have known Dennis for all of my life, he was a good man. So sorry for your loss. Love
Light Hugs

Sally - June 25, 2018 at 02:37 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. He was always very kind to everyone.

Shelly - June 25, 2018 at 11:25 PM



“ We are so very sorry for your loss. May your memories bring some smiles. And may the hope you have in Jesus, bring you peace. May God bless you all, in this difficult time.

Kurt & Delberta Fluharty

Kurt & Delberta Fluharty - June 27, 2018 at 04:15 PM



“ Dennis was a really nice guy who cared for people always smiled and he will be missed by many in the community. I think he is having the time of his life in the presence of his Lord and savior, his message to us would be trust in God and believe in Jesus as the bible says in John 3:16. See you Dennis in Heaven some day.

Lee Kreiger - June 28, 2018 at 03:53 PM