

## Robert “Bob” James Johnson

Robert “Bob” James Johnson, 71, formerly of Hill City, passed away on May 20, 2021 at the State Veterans Home in Hot Springs, SD.

The first son of Carl and Pearl (Bieber) Johnson was born in Rapid City, spending his younger years in Rapid City, McLaughlin, and Hill City, SD. After graduating from Hill City High School, his U.S. Navy tour aboard the carrier USS Independence 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet, took him to Athens, Greece in the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

His work led him down the paths of homebuilding, roadbuilding, and the oil fields of Wyoming/Montana. Later, he worked for OSHA in Wyoming.

With the completion of his BS degree in geological engineering at SDSM&T in 1981, he went to work for ODECO (Ocean Drilling and Exploration Company) in New Orleans. He worked offshore in the Gulf of Mexico on deep-water drilling platforms generally known as “floaters”. Bob rose to the title of what is known in the industry as “The Company Man”; the one who is on-site and responsible for all operations, including the lives that are at risk and hundreds of millions of dollars in equipment, etc.

During Hurricane Juan in 1985, he survived a disaster at sea. Afterwards, he testified in congressional hearings resulting in much more stringent regulations regarding evacuating rigs in the Gulf. His testimony resulted in him being blackballed from the industry; yet has likely saved lives.

In 2005 Hurricane Katrina destroyed their family home forcing them to make a drastic change in their lives.

His first marriage to Vivian Bryan blessed him with his “little princess” Kiffaney. He later married Donna Bianchini and was again blessed with two beautiful children, “Haley Girl” and Ian “my little boy”. He was very proud of and loved his children with his entire heart. They were his #1 priority!

Bob’s eyes would twinkle when spending time with children. He loved joking, playing games such as 21 questions, punch buggy, and Pictionary. He always had something up his sleeve! He loved hitting the water parks and Disney World (what about those teacups, Epcot Center, and Pirates of the Caribbean, Bob!!). Bob loved watching his kids’ games and was the best cheerleader ever. Oh yes, and he LOVED his “popcorn soup” (was that 2% popcorn and 98% butter, Bob?) and a good movie!

He was a remarkable woodworker and had a sincere love for music, whistling while he worked. One of his favorite songs was “How Far Is Heaven” by the Los Lonely Boys and memories of him singing “You Are My Sunshine” still linger. He loved Star Trek and space, sharing many nights looking up at the constellations with his kids at Grandma’s house. And then...there were the competitions to find the satellites! How ‘bout the big and little dipper?

Bob was intelligent, caring, intuitive and known for speaking the truth and was not one to back down when standing up for what is right. This was reflected in his jobs and his personal life. Bob enjoyed sharing his knowledge with others, encouraging them with “You can do whatever you put your mind to,” and one of Robert’s favorite rules was “work smarter, not harder.”

If you really took the time to know Bob, you knew he was someone special. He was one of a kind with a peaceful presence and a humble heart of gold, always willing to lend a hand. Leading by example, he was the first to boldly put his life on hold to care for his mother Pearl when she first needed care at home.

He would tell his children, “If you’re scared or nervous... pray... specifically, the Lord’s Prayer”. An inquisitive soul, but said, “All the questions about life don’t matter - the only thing that matters is Jesus”.

He is survived by his daughters, Kiffaney (Tyrone) Johnson of Roanoke, VA, and her mother, Vivian, and Haley Johnson of Kyle, TX; son, Ian (Sierra) Johnson of Kyle, TX, and their mother, Donna; Bob’s mother, Pearl Johnson Barrett of Rapid City, SD; siblings, Greg (Deanna) Johnson of Rapid City, SD, Mary Johnson of Hill City, SD, Carol Linder of Sioux Falls, SD, Barb (Ron) LaFever of Milwaukee, WI, and David Johnson of Rapid City, SD; and grandchildren, DiAnna, Keith, Robert, and Liam; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his father, Carl F. Johnson.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.kinkadefunerals.com](http://www.kinkadefunerals.com).

*The family would like to invite you to join them for fellowship and lunch following the Committal service in the church hall. We thank you for your presence and condolences.*

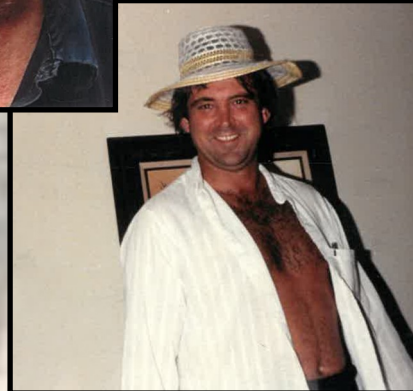
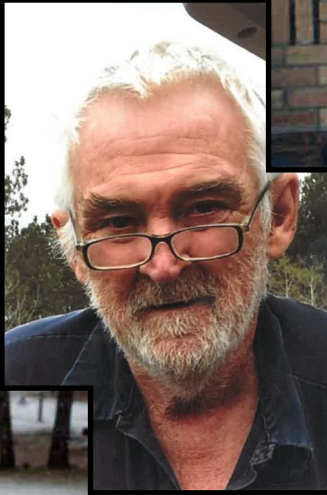


*In Loving Memory Of*

**Robert “Bob” James Johnson**

**May 30, 1949 - May 20, 2021**





*Dad to me he was such an amazing person. He was so smart, caring, intuitive, stood for what was right. He loved Star Trek, space, water parks, Disney World especially the tea cups, Epcot Center and Pirates of the Caribbean, lol. I always thought those places were so wonderful but in reality they were wonderful because he was there with us. He would have such an excited look on his face when we got there. He made anywhere special, just to be with him was enough. He knew what it was to make his children happy, to make us think about things beyond our understanding and always seek the truth in everything. He wanted to teach us so much about everything. We would lay under the stars at Grandmas house and talk about constellations.. big dipper, little dipper, etc., and competitions to find satellites. He always shared his knowledge of things so we could be smarter and better humans. He was wonderful. I could go on and on but if you really took the time to know my dad, you knew he was someone special. He was one of a kind. He will be missed beyond words for the rest of my time on this earth. I love you, dad.*

## *In Loving Memory* **Robert James Johnson**

### ***Born***

May 30, 1949  
Rapid City, South Dakota

### ***Died***

May 20, 2021  
Hot Springs, South Dakota

### ***Vigil***

Wednesday, May 26, 2021, at 4:30 p.m.  
Kinkade Funeral Chapel  
Sturgis, South Dakota

### ***Mass of Christian Burial***

Thursday, May 27, 2021, at 10:00 am  
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church  
Sturgis, South Dakota

### ***Celebrant***

Father Timothy Castor

### ***Musicians***

Dr. Barry Furze Megan Johnson

### ***Musical Selections***

“On Eagle’s Wings” “Here I Am, Lord” “Be Not Afraid”  
“I Am The Bread Of Life” “You Are Mine” “Come To His Aid”  
“Amazing Grace”

### ***Pallbearers***

Ian Johnson Isaiah Johnson John Linder  
Jeremiah Linder Jaaron Johnson Mathew Degley

### ***Military Honors***

Sturgis Veteran’s Honor Guard

### ***Final Resting Place***

Black Hills National Cemetery  
Sturgis, South Dakota