



Mr. Billy C. "B.J." Johnson

June 30, 1953 - March 19, 2021

UTICA - Mr. Billy C. "B.J." Johnson, age 67, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, March 19, 2021 in the comfort and dignity of his home.

Born in Lewisville, Arkansas on June 30, 1953, Billy was the son of the late Johnnie Clifton Johnson and Jessie Mae (Johnson) Patterson. He also knew the love of his late step-father, Rayford Patterson. Raised and educated in Utica, he was a graduate of T.R. Proctor High School/Class of 1971. Billy was blessed with a daughter, Cherie, who was born to B.J. and Annie Mae Brooks, a daughter of whom they both are very proud.

Billy worked at Utica Radiator as a Machinist. He also held jobs at Kelsey Hayes and the Orion Bus Industries where he worked in the manufacturing of bus parts and assembly. He loved going to work because he loved anything automotive, and he was the ultimate mechanic! B.J. actually built a hot rod car that was admired by many ~ blue in color, meticulous in its assembly, from interior to exterior. It was perfection! He enjoyed it to his last days, ...his 1940 Willys Coupe. Billy had many gifts in life: he had a 'princess' in his daughter, he had the patience of a master mechanic, an infatuation with machinery, and terrific taste in cars. He loved his dog, and Lobo was his name. He was this man's best friend. Lobo loved to do tricks and he was a great guard dog. As he got used to the house, he became a little more docile.

B.J. also collected cowboy boots in natural khaki tones, and he loved those boots! He was a motorcyclist and he loved his Harley Davidson, his riding jacket and his motorcycle group, a gang of good friends that rode together to

the end. He loved the music of Rick James, The Ohio Players, Bob Marley, and The Delfonics.

Most of all, he loved his grandbabies and great-grandbaby! He had a beautiful relationship with his girls and was supportive of them. Amaria was the songstress, and Mariah was the violinist. He never missed a celebration with them. He pampered them, and the girls will always remember his love and guidance. Billy was a support and an exclusive assistant cook to his late mother, Jessie Mae. He tried to duplicate her recipes. He came close to replicating them, but could not surpass her! Billy had a strong personality and he was an important person in the lives of his family members. He shared his heart, and although he had a quiet soul, he led by example. He was a brother, a family man, and the go-to person. And there was meaning and sentiment in the words that he said.

Billy believed in God, and that grounded him. The blessing and memories of Billy's life will remain in the hearts and minds of all who knew and loved him, because in his heart, his family came first and they were the reason for his existence. He was courageous about his heritage and was a strong advocate of his God-given rights ~ Amen.

Billy is survived by his beloved daughter, Cherie Johnson-Foster and husband Joseph Foster; his grandbabies, Amaria, and Mariah; great grandbaby, Málani Wright; his brothers, Eric Patterson and wife Angela Morales-Patterson, and Thomas Ray Patterson; and his sister, Cheryl Victoria Patterson. He also leaves his nieces and nephews, Elijah Patterson, and Isaiah Patterson, Thomas Traglia; Tonya Michelle Graham; and the memory of his nephew, Corey Ricks; great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins; aunt and uncle, Annie Lee and James Richardson; and his friends with whom he shared a loyal bond, Robert "Smitty" Smith, Jessie "Ghost" Patterson, Frank "Schack" Shackelford, James Liggins, and Lee Liggins. When B.J. passed, he met up with Nathaniel "Stick" Sanchious, Floyd Patterson, and Charles Edward "Newt" Hammett Jr., who preceded him. He was predeceased by a host of aunts and uncles.

The family is grateful to B.J.'s son-in-law, Joe Foster; Cherie's brother, Demetris Brooks; and Pamela Dunkley. They knew B.J. and they kept a watch on him, a support that will never be forgotten.

Those wishing to call upon the family to bid farewell of B.J. may pay their respects on Wednesday, March 31st from 3:00 to 4:00 at the Eannace Funeral Home, 932 South Street, corner of Hammond Ave. Face masks covering your nose and mouth are required and social distancing and contact tracing will be implemented. A Memorial Home Going Service will be held privately and at the convenience of the family.

During this time of social distancing that we are all experiencing, please take a moment to connect with B.J.'s family through the "Memories" section of his obituary. Our prayers go out to all as a sign of our continued support.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 31. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Eannace Funeral Home, Inc.
932 South Street
corner of Hammond Ave.
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 724-6714
eannacefh@roadrunner.com

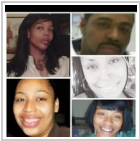
Tribute Wall



“ *Jeremy Hayes lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy C. "B.J." Johnson*



Jeremy Hayes - April 22, 2021 at 09:42 AM



“ *Deepest sympathy to B.J's family. He was a great guy and often came by our house to sit and talk with Jim. Sorry to hear of his passing. Prayers of comfort to his family and friends.*



Dawn Winston - April 02, 2021 at 04:50 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Billy C. "B.J." Johnson.*



March 29, 2021 at 10:10 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of Billy passing away. God bless*



Roseann Simmons - March 27, 2021 at 09:28 PM

Annie
Brooks-
Hogan

“ Annie Brooks-Hogan lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy C. "B.J." Johnson



Annie Brooks-Hogan - March 27, 2021 at 04:10 PM

RL

“ My sincere condolences too BJ'S entire family . so sad too here of my long time friend passing away ...may you RIP my friend...unbelievable..

Ruthie liggins - March 26, 2021 at 12:31 PM

RH

“ ROSANA Morales And Duck Harris lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy C. "B.J." Johnson



ROSANA Morales and duck harris - March 26, 2021 at 09:41 AM

RH

“ Very sorry for the loss of a wonderful person. Condolences to the family of BJ and may you rest in paradise"BJ". With love from the harris family. Donald duck harris and ROSANA Morales ❤️

ROSANA Morales and duck harris - March 26, 2021 at 09:41 AM

RL

My condolences to BJ'S entire family. May you RIP my friend

Ruthie liggins - March 26, 2021 at 12:14 PM

DT

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. May God Comfort and Strength the family.

Diane Tanner - March 26, 2021 at 02:40 AM

PA

“ Big Brother Billy! You were Big Brother and Eric was (and is) Little Brother. My memories go all the way back to Third Avenue in Utica. And yes, you were the strong, resilient one. Your love for fast cars was legendary! I even remember our trip to Michigan. Saddened to hear of your departure but grateful to God of all the fond memories. Rest well Billy. You are loved and appreciated by us all. Love eternal for you, Aunt Jessie, and Uncle Rayford.....
Kelvin (Pat) and Donna Richardson
Arlington, Texas USA

Pat - March 25, 2021 at 08:36 PM

GW

“ Hello- my deepest condolences in your loss. My name is Georgia Watters, I am Al Carter's sister. Al speak wonderful thoughts and memories of BJ. I pray that your heart will be at Peace from the Blessed Life and memories of your beloved Billy Johnson. Praising God for his 69 years of borrowed time on Earth. Rest in Heaven, BJ, in perfect peace, where we will all meet. God bless the family and friends. My sincere condolences.

Georgia Watters - March 25, 2021 at 06:33 PM

DT

“ Dwight Tullis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy C. "B.J." Johnson



Dwight Tullis - March 25, 2021 at 09:39 AM

LJ

“ To the family I sent my condolences and will keep you in my prayers
🙏

Leola Turner Jones - March 25, 2021 at 08:02 AM

AB

“ I WILL MISS YOU MY DEAR FRIEND I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
ANDI WILL ALWAYS TAKE CARE OF OUR GIRLS LOVE AND I
AM GOING TO LOVE YOU

ANNIE MAE BROOKS - March 24, 2021 at 11:54 PM

V(

“ Bill, I was in shock when Eric called me... You & I just shared a very deep and heartfelt conversation while I was in Utica earlier this year (2021). It was and will never be forgotten by me!



I will definitely miss you, our FAMILY PEACE KEEPER and just know that WE WILL LOVE EACH OTHER - ALWAYS & ENDLESSLY!!

MAY YOU REST IN PARADISE... PLEASE CONTINUE TO WATCH OVER ALL OF US... Give Granny, Papa, my Mama (Lorene), Ma Jessie, Daddy, my Son (Cory), Cory's Dad, Tony, and my 1st Granddaughter, Cortni... ALL OF MY LOVE!

REST NOW BROTHER... I LOVE YOU & I WILL NEVER STOP... Yes, I'M SHOUTING THIS LOVE TO YOU!

Your Sister, Victoria Patterson (Vickie)

Victoria Patterson (Sister) - March 24, 2021 at 02:19 PM

AB

TO MY CLOSE FRIEND BJ WE HAD A SPECIAL BUN AND I WILL ALWAYS REMEBER OUR TALKS AND HOW YOU CATE ABOUT ME REST MY FRIEND NO MORE PAIN AND SURFING I WILL MISS YOU LOVE ALWAYS ANNIE MAE I WILL TAKE CARE OF THE GIRLS LOVE

ANNIE MAE BROOKS - March 24, 2021 at 09:52 PM

CP

“ Cynthia Patterson-Bivens lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy C. "B.J." Johnson



Cynthia Patterson-Bivens - March 24, 2021 at 02:04 PM

RG

“ We would like to extend our deepest condolences and sympathies to you and your entire family at this time. Earth has no sorrow heaven can't heal. We are praying for you and with you in Jesus Name!



Rev. & Mrs. Arthur Gary - March 24, 2021 at 09:37 AM

KA

“ On behalf of the McKinley Brighton Elementary School community, we send our sincere condolences to Eric and family. We are continuing to pray for the family.

Katrina Allen - March 24, 2021 at 08:22 AM

T(

“ With warmest sympathy and love to everyone.. Take your rest Uncle Billy. Love you



Tonya Graham (Niece) - March 23, 2021 at 08:24 PM



“ *Summer's Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Billy C. "B.J." Johnson.*



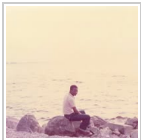
March 23, 2021 at 06:55 PM



“ *We would like to extend our prayers and condolences to the family of (cousin) Billy C. "BJ" Johnson, in your time of bereavement. Words are never enough in times like these, but it is our hope that you are comforted by the many precious memories of Billy's life and legacy.*

Pastor Gerald & Evangelist Dorothy Richardson

Apostle Gerald Richardson - March 23, 2021 at 06:50 PM



“ *It's amazing how short life is, and how we forget how life is precious. It seems just like yesterday I spoke with you, laughing and admiring Mae Mae. I never would have thought I would be saying goodbye so soon. I enjoyed being your "Princess", the only child. You treated me like I was the only person that mattered in the world. I thank you for always watching over me and being my protector. I'm sad to let you go, but I know you are at peace and resting. I will love you ALWAYS, and will keep your memory alive. Make sure you and Grandma continue to watch over "Your Girls." Love you Daddy*

Cherie Johnson Foster - March 23, 2021 at 02:46 PM

AB

I NO THAT GOD LOVED YOU BEST BJ I WILL REMEBER THE LAUGHS;THE TALK THAT WE HAD WE BECAME SPECIAL FRIEND AND I AM GLAD WE COULD DO THAT I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU MY DEAR FRIEND REST IN PEACE NOW NO MORE HURT GOD GOTTA YOU NOW LOVE LOVE

ANNIE MAE BROOKS - March 24, 2021 at 10:06 PM

MR

“*Eric - One of my first memories ever from early childhood in Utica was visiting with you guys at your house. So many amazing memories over the years... more brothers than cousins. My prayer is that Billy will now rest in eternal peace and has reunited with your mom and dad in paradise. God bless and love to you always!*
- Michael (Mickey), Candice, Alyssa and Ramsey

Michael Richardson - March 23, 2021 at 02:41 PM

EP

“*My oldest brother who I will miss dearly! Always strong and a master mechanic and machinist! I will always remember our talks about automobiles and motorcycles.*

Eric Patterson - March 23, 2021 at 02:29 PM