



Wesley Raymond Johnson

October 31, 1941 - April 12, 2014

Wesley Raymond Johnson of Queenstown, MD, died Saturday, April 12, 2014, at Anne Arundel Medical Center. He was 72.

Born in New York, NY, on October 31, 1941, he was the son of the late Clarence DeWitt and Johanna Marie Dessoffy Johnson. He graduated from Babylon High School, Babylon, NY, Class of 1959. Later he received his BA at Bethany College in WV and his Masters at the University of Pittsburgh in PA.

Wesley married Diane Marie Collins of Takoma Park, MD, in 1967. They had two children and later divorced in 1992. He started his career with the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission where he was an assistant Division Chief when he retired after 31 years. He was in charge of park planning, acquisition, design, and engineering. In 1995, he came to Queen Anne's County as Parks and Recreation Director. In 2003, he accepted a position with Maryland Department of Natural Resources as Assistant Secretary and retired on December 31, 2004. He was a lifetime member of Maryland Recreation and Parks Association and a member of Centreville Rotary Club of Centreville, MD.

Wesley is survived by his son, Wesley Ryan Johnson of Washington DC; daughter, Holly Sten and her husband Curtis of Hume, VA; grandsons, Turner and Sawyer Sten both of Hume, VA; and sister, Judy Castellano of Long

Island, NY.

A visitation will be from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, 2014, at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A. in Chester, MD. A funeral service will be at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, April 16, 2014, at St. Christopher's Catholic Church in Chester, MD. Burial will be announced following the service.

Memorial contributions may be made in his name to the Salvation Army.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 15. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Chester Location / Kent Island
106 Shamrock Road
Chester, MD 21619
(410) 643-2226
info@fhfuneralhome.com

Visitation

APR 15. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Chester Location / Kent Island
106 Shamrock Road
Chester, MD 21619
(410) 643-2226
info@fhfuneralhome.com

Service

APR 16. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Christopher's Catholic Church
1861 Harbor Drive
Chester, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Wesley Raymond Johnson*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - April 15, 2014 at 08:11 AM



“ *Wesley Raymond Johnson*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Wesley Raymond Johnson*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Wesley Raymond Johnson*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Holly and Wes,
I heard the news of your loss and wanted to let you know even though it has been way too many years since we have seen each other, I wanted you to know you are in my thoughts.*

Kevin B Cassis - April 26, 2014 at 12:23 PM

AT

“ Holly and Wes Jr., Joyce and I are saddened by the passing of your dad. He was so proud of you two and cherished his time spent with you. We know this for a fact as we experienced some of the best times of our lives with your dad, mom ,and you two. Whether it was in the Outer Banks, skiing as part of the Rat City Ski Club, or spending many hours at Enterprise, he smiled and loved life with you. We were fortunate to have been part of his and your life. You gave him strength and the will to persevere through his persistent illness. We are so proud of him as we are of you.

While your dad's passion for the environment and preserving open space and parkland, especially along the Patuxent and in Queen Anne County, will be his legacy, Joyce and I will always remember Wes as a dad, friend, and one, who if he considered you a friend, would do any thing for you. Your dad will be missed, but not forgotten.

Our prayers are with you,
Art and Joyce

Art and Joyce Tankersley - April 16, 2014 at 06:24 PM

LH

“ Holly, we only met you Dad once, at your wedding. Great person. He must have been so proud to have a daughter and family like you. We wish you the best in this difficult time.

Sonja and Larry

Larry Haskel - April 16, 2014 at 03:53 PM

PR

“ I had the opportunity to meet your Dad when he had me and Mr. Waterman come to give him an analysis as to his home last January. I spoke to him again last March and he was having health problems. I told him I was more than happy to help him in anyway I could (take to appointments, etc.) as your Dad was the type of person you immediately took a liking to. I am so sorry for your loss. He was such a nice man. My prayers are with you all. Pat Radcliffe

Pat Radcliffe - April 16, 2014 at 02:16 PM

SC

“ Holly & Wesley,

Your Pops was Tops, can't believe it's been 25 years since I talked to your dad. We had some great conversations, sort of scary we had so much in common when it came to cutting through all the BS to get the job done.

After reading his accomplishments it's pretty clear he got the job done more than once doing exactly what he loved. I can only imagine how many times he had to say: Cut the crap & get on board!

Around 1999 I was attending a seminar in VA about vineyard establishment talking with a guy who said he had worked at MNCP&P so I asked if he knew Wes Johnson, he said, you know Wes? I said know him, hell I used to live next door to him. Did find out plenty I never knew about your dad because he never talked about his accomplishments, annever about how much he was admired by folks that knew what they were talking about.

Sorry I can't be with you today but you all will be on my mind for sure.

Best, Steve Cassis

Steve Cassis - April 16, 2014 at 08:52 AM



“ So Sorry for your loss Wesley.



Kimberly Orr - April 16, 2014 at 07:58 AM

Justin
Collins

“ *Diane, Holly, and Wesley, Turner and Sawyer- I feel so bad for your loss; but also that I didn't get more time to get to know "Uncle Wes" better. I really admired him for both his personality, and what I knew of his integrity when up against tough political and bureaucratic pressures. An admirable man to have as a father..Rest in peace Wes*

Justin Collins - April 16, 2014 at 06:46 AM

LP

“ *Lynda And Gene Palmatary sent a virtual gift in memory of Wesley Raymond Johnson*



Lynda and Gene Palmatary - April 15, 2014 at 08:29 PM

LP

I had the great privilege of meeting Wes when I was working in the County Commissioner's Office. We all had a great working relationship and was surely a friend to many. My prayers and blessings go to his family at this time. Wes you will never be forgotten. Rest in peace my dear friend. God Bless, Lynda Palmatary, Centreville.

Lynda and Gene Palmatary - April 15, 2014 at 08:35 PM

SL

“ *I knew Wes from MNCPPC and MRPA. When ever you go into any Maryland park, Wes has left a footprint there. He was a tireless advocate for open space and park land. Thanks goes to him for all he did on the county level in P.G. Co and Queen Anne's Co for their park systems. His sense of humor about Recreation staff vs tree huggers/park staff will always be, for me, a fond memory of him at the MRPA conferences. Go hug a tree!*

Susan Law - April 15, 2014 at 04:47 PM

JW

“ I know Wes is so very proud of his children. I went to the viewing this afternoon and Holly and Wes were humbled by the outpouring of friends of Wes Johnson. Peg and I spent weekend with Wes, Diane, and the children working on completing their house in Howard County. Then back to Enterprise supper, crabs, and Diane's home brewed orange tea. Times have changed for all of us but the memories we have of Wes we'll always hold dear in our hearts. Wes was the most courageous men I've met. I shall miss him.

Jim and Peg White - April 15, 2014 at 04:30 PM

JB

“ Wes did so much to beautify Queen Anne's County. As Director of the QAC Parks, his vision with developing, expanding and maintaining the parks with all of the lovely plantings, a job well done! Wes always had such a warm and charming smile and I was glad that I had the opportunity to work at the County with Wes. He was a good listener and wanted to help if he could. Wes will definitely be missed but he left everyone a lot of beauty that will be seen forever.



Janet Boldyga

Janet Boldyga - April 15, 2014 at 03:12 PM

SW

“ Although most of those who enter the Queen Anne's County Park System can never have known Wes, they will see him in land that was acquired with his charm; walk paths ornamented by his taste, and be surrounded by the various creations of his personality. What they will miss is something we didn't, the smile, friendship and invention of a very singular individual. The readers and writers here departed; Mr. Johnson's handiwork will remain.

SW

Steve Wilson - April 15, 2014 at 01:22 PM

MZ

“ Queen Anne's County was forever changed when we hired Wes in 1995. He promised the County Commissioners a park system that we would be proud of and immediately went to work to make it so. There is so much that Wes did for the citizens of Queen Anne's County and it shows in every single park and ballfield that we have. Some of the best times that I had as County Commissioner was spent with Wes Johnson. You are very good man and I will miss you...Mike Zimmer

Mike Zimmer - April 15, 2014 at 12:32 PM

GO

“ I have many wonderful memories as County Commissioner, hiring Wes was one of them that turned out to be a real good thing. The passion he brought to the job was amazing, he loved his job and it showed. Wes's vision for our Parks System was clear, from the very complex acquisition of Conquest to the Cross Island Trail the years we worked together the parks system quadrupled. His love for "Crape Myrtle's" and beautifying our parks and government facilities will be apparent for many years to come. Queen Anne's County is a better place because Wes called it home, my deepest sympathy to Holly and Wes Jr.!

George O'Donnell

George O'Donnell - April 15, 2014 at 12:15 PM

SH

“ I had the pleasure of working with Wes for several years at QAC Parks and Recreation as his Assistant. Boy... was that a job keeping him straight! He taught me so much about acquisitions, parks, Program Open Space grants and life in general. In the years we worked together we developed a fantastic friendship that carried on long after he retired from the County. In fact, he would call me frequently to pull a file or take care of personal paperwork for him. He would just say "Send me the bill!"

His visions will last a lifetime in the park system not only in Queen Anne's County but throughout Maryland!

I will miss our long talks, laughs and advice that he often gave me through the years. He was a mentor to me and will be deeply missed!

Rest Easy My Friend! I will think of you oftenespecially when I visit our parks and see a Crape Myrtle, the deep red ones of course!

Shari

Shari - April 15, 2014 at 11:38 AM

DM

“ A great man, one of a kind. It was an honor and privilege to work for and with him. For the nearly 8 years Wes was at the helm of the QAC/PPR, few outfits could match our accomplishments. None of which would have happen without his leadership and "we can do this" attitude. His place will be empty for a long time. Marg and I convey our condolences to Holly and Wes.

Dick and Marg McIntyre - April 15, 2014 at 10:39 AM

AM

“ *Holly and Wes, I am so, so, so sorry to learn about your Dad's passing. My thoughts and prayers will be with you and your family. I have a lot of fond memories of your Dad. My deepest condolences. Big, warm, hug to you and your family! Will ne thinking of you and your Dad! Ana S. Moyka.*

Ana S Moyka - April 15, 2014 at 08:49 AM

HS

“ *1 file added to the album Dad*



holly sten - April 15, 2014 at 07:53 AM

JW

“ *Wes Johnson's numerous contributions to the citizens of Prince Georges County will always be remembered. He was always a kind and friendly man to work with. Rest in peace!*

Jim Worthington - April 15, 2014 at 07:45 AM

RESIST

“ As my father's co-worker at the Commission and a charter member of the Rat City Ski Club, Wes was like an uncle around the Bittner house, and my entire youth is filled with wonderful memories of the times we spent together. Whether skiing in Canada, eating fresh picked silver queen corn and crabs at the house on the Enterprise farm, hearing about the glory that was Babylon Pizza on a long ride up to Long Island, or as we built his home up near Triadelphia, Wes was funny, irreverent and endlessly entertaining to the younger set. When the question, "I wonder whether that lasagna is cooked all the way through?" was raised, it was Wes, casually strolling through the kitchen (ski chalet in Canada), who plunged his finger deep into the center of the lasagna, pulled it back out, licked it, said "Yup.", and just kept strolling. All of my love to Holly and Wesley. You know we loved your dad, and will miss him.

Andy Bittner - April 15, 2014 at 04:46 AM

LH

“ WES introduced me to 'our' Commission 40 years ago. Over the years that followed I was blessed to call him my friend, colleague, and often a 'guiding light'. In his lifetime WES accomplished much. He did it with focused, enlightened effort and with his infectious, and wonderful wry humor. His smile, and his laughter could as easily fill a room, as it could a wetland cove. WES leaves such a strong legacy because he focused tirelessly on our environment and by helping so many others see, learn about and love what he loved... our waters, lands and wildlife. Well done. Rest in peace my friend. We send our love and condolences to his family.

Larry Hill - April 14, 2014 at 11:58 PM

BG

“ Wes was a true public servant whose enduring legacy will live on in the hundreds of miles of trails that he established, the many public facilities that he developed and the thousands of acres of open space that he helped preserve for the citizens of Queen Anne’s County and the State of Maryland. I’ll always remember him as a real go-getter and one who never hesitated to speak his mind. Wes was a fun boss to work for at DNR. My condolences to his entire family. He will be missed.

Bob Gaudette - April 14, 2014 at 08:35 PM

PV

“ Saddened to hear about Mr. Wes Johnson's passing. I worked with Wes at Park Planning and Development Division (PGCO-DPR) in some projects that required Civil Engineering input. Wes seemed to me to encapsulate "American" attributes such as a can-do attitude, a dashing personality and a certain coolness. These were my impressions as a young man learning the ropes in a new, foreign land...I also know he cared about employee's well being from personal experience working directly with him. My condolences to his family.

Paulo A. Valerio - April 14, 2014 at 03:32 PM

NO

“ Holly and family,
I am very sorry for your loss. I do remember when I started in M-NCPPC and your Dad had a great history with us. May God give you comfort to you and your family during this difficult time. Nydia Ocasio, M-NCPPC, Parks and Recreation

Nydia Ocasio - April 14, 2014 at 02:08 PM

KC

“ Holly and Wes, Turner and Sawyer I'm so sorry for the loss of your Dad. He was such a wonderful father to you both as well as the best PopPop to you boys. I know you will miss him dearly. Love to you all.

Kathy Coolidge

Kathy Coolidge - April 14, 2014 at 01:19 PM

BK

“ Dear Holly and Wes,
My heart is breaking for your loss. You were his world. I am so sad, but grateful to have shared time with him on this earth.

Betsy Kirk - April 14, 2014 at 12:17 PM

LC

“ Holly and Wes, Your Dad was a visionary about conservation, and the importance of our place in the natural world. He was also funny, irreverent, and quite cool. So glad to have known him. I see so many of his strengths reflected in both of you.

Laura Collins

laura Collins - April 14, 2014 at 11:56 AM

JV

“ To the family: I only have the very fondest of memories of Wes & I laughing and chatting together. We worked at Park & Planning, Riverdale & I got to know him well--found him to be great fun & an interesting conversationalist and also with a warm sense of humor. I liked him a lot & will miss his coolness. Godspeed, Wes

Jim Vines

Jim Vines - April 14, 2014 at 11:46 AM

BK

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Betsy Stone Kirk - April 14, 2014 at 11:24 AM

HS

“ 7 files added to the album Dad



Holly Sten - April 14, 2014 at 10:30 AM

JM

“ *Holly and Wes Jr.*

I never once talked with your dad when he didn't talk about the two of you, what was going on in your lives and how proud he was of the both of you. He will definitely be missed by all who had the pleasure and honor to know him. As we travel through this life we are lucky and blessed when someone touches our lives in a lasting way. Wes Johnson was that kind of person in my life and I will forever be better off for have known him.

The parks in heaven will be getting a true advocate and a heck of a caretaker.

You, Mr. Wes Johnson, will be forever in my memory.

Jim Mallow

Jim Mallow - April 14, 2014 at 08:49 AM

GT

“ *Some of my fondest memories of Wes were on the golf course where the rules were definitely just guidelines..... Every errant shot (and there were a lot!) deserved a mulligan regardless of how many we "bought". He was my boss, my mentor, but most of all my friend. Holly and Wesley, just know how much he meant to all of us.*

Gregg Todd - April 14, 2014 at 07:20 AM

AG

“ *Amy Benton Greenwood lit a candle in memory of Wesley Raymond Johnson*



Amy Benton Greenwood - April 14, 2014 at 07:15 AM

CP

“ Remembering Wes always makes me smile. He is a wonderful friend with a great sense of humor, intense love of parks and ability to make even the most mundane conversation memorable. While I am saddened Wes and I will not share the future I am happy for the many experiences we shared in the past. All the best dear friend...you will be remembered and celebrated often.

Chip Price - April 14, 2014 at 06:31 AM

DR

“ Wes will be dearly missed by many. I got to know Wes thru work and feel most fortunate in also having been his friend, as well as a family friend. Blessing and prayers to all and may you rest in peace dear friend. Diane Ramsey

Diane Ramsey - April 13, 2014 at 07:58 PM

JR

“ Wes, you will be greatly missed by your many friends and associates-I was fortunate to have met you and to have shared many hours that will be fondly remembered . Rest in Peace my friend. John Rhoads

John Rhoads - April 13, 2014 at 07:05 PM

FG

“ Wess was a great boss and teacher he made your job enjoyable. He was compassionate and caring he will be missed. Frank Gardner

Frank Gardner - April 13, 2014 at 03:01 PM