



## Mary Eleanor Johnson

November 15, 1942 - June 20, 2023

Mary Eleanor Johnson (Donovan) of Newnan passed away June 20, 2023 in Grady Hospital, downtown Atlanta after a 3 week stay in Trauma ICU due to a brain injury resulting from a fall. She was preceded in death by her parents Bernard and Jane Donovan and sister Anne Donovan of Saratoga Springs, New York; and brother Father Michael Donovan of Elkton, Maryland.

Mary grew up in Brooklyn & Queens, New York City. She graduated from St. Agnes Girls High School in College Point, NY & attended the University of St. John's in Jamaica, NY where she met her future husband, Bill. After 2 years, she left school to work at Time Magazine on Broadway in the heart of New York City. On December 26, 1964 she and Bill were married and moved to Pensacola, Florida where Bill was undergoing Navy Flight Training. After 6 years as a supportive and active Navy wife, they moved back to Long Island, NY to raise their family.

Mary raised six children, three of whom were adopted. She worked full-time as a Bowling Alley Manager, coached numerous youth soccer teams, and started a women's soccer league of over 1000 women. In her "spare" time, Mary was active in PTA, adoption organizations and helped Bill manage a youth soccer program of 1200 children. She travelled repeatedly to Asia to escort over 20 children to adoptive parents in the US who could not afford, or were unable, to travel.

In 1992, they moved to Fayetteville, Georgia subsequently coming to Newnan in 2005.

Shortly after moving to Georgia, Mary became very active in foster parenting caring for medically fragile or distressed young children. She helped care for 12 children. Additionally, for almost 40 years Mary cared for Bill's mom who lived with them until 2014. She loved music, dancing, and hosting large parties for friends and family. She was also an excellent bowler and avid golfer. Her home was always filled with music and was decorated throughout the year for every holiday occasion. Most of all, she loved people and always considered the needs and likes of other people before considering her own.

In lieu of flowers Mary would prefer a contribution towards a special education fund. If interested, please go to [www.Ugift529.com](http://www.Ugift529.com) and enter code V6A-J8N and your information.

A Memorial Service will be held at McKoon Funeral Home in Newnan, GA on Thursday June 29, 2023. There will be a visitation at 1:00 pm, followed by a short Service at 2:00 pm, immediately after which there will be an informal reception to be held at Lake Redwine Plantation Clubhouse at 10 Redwine Plantation Drive, Newnan, GA. Condolences can be expressed online at [www.mckoon.com](http://www.mckoon.com)

Survivors include her husband of 58 years Bill Johnson of Newnan; sister Eileen Donovan of Queensbury, New York; sons Bill Johnson of Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, Michael Johnson of Newnan, Georgia, Matthew Johnson of Pensacola, Florida, Van Nguyen of West Covina, California; daughters Sarah Johnson of Cortlandt Manor, New York, Amy Bennett of Newnan Georgia; grandchildren Christopher Johnson, Emma Johnson, Anna Johnson, Grace Johnson, Jamie Hiltzheimer, Tiffany Santana, Phillip Nguyen, Jewel Jiang, Ethan Jiang, & great-grandson Kenzo Santana.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory 770-253-4580

# Cemetery Details

## McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory

38 Jackson Street  
Newnan, GA 30263  
care@mckoon.com  
<http://www.mckoon.com>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 29. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home Chapel  
38 Jackson Street  
Newnan, GA 30263

## Funeral Service

JUN 29. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home Chapel  
38 Jackson Street  
Newnan, GA 30263

# Tribute Wall



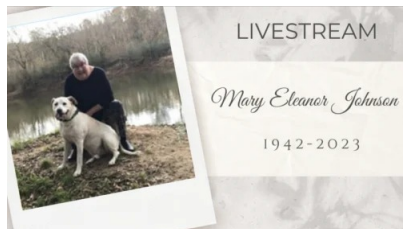
“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary Eleanor Johnson*



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**McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory** - June 29, 2023 at 12:38 PM



“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Webcast in memory of Mary Eleanor Johnson*



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**McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory** - June 29, 2023 at 09:27 AM



“ *Mark Gibson purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Mary Eleanor Johnson.*



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**Mark Gibson** - June 27, 2023 at 07:03 PM

DR

“ Our hearts are broken but we celebrate her being a part of our lives for so many years. She was so much more than her titles of friend, mentor, leader, organizer, but her best was Mother, Grandmother and Great Grand. Her vitality for life was apparent to everyone who spent any time around her. Her antics made us laugh, her parties were the best and her ability to hold her family together was such an admirable trait that others should aspire to. Her earthly presence will be greatly missed. Rest well Mary, we love you.

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**Debbie Cramer/Tim Riley** - June 26, 2023 at 10:32 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mary Eleanor Johnson.



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June 24, 2023 at 05:49 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mary Eleanor Johnson.

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June 24, 2023 at 05:49 PM

RH

“ Mrs. Johnson, or as she will be forever know to me as "Matt's Mom", was kind, generous and full of energy and love. I will always remember all the good times spent at the Johnson's home on Lion Lane. My sincerest condolences to the entire Johnson family.

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**Rob Hesketh** - June 24, 2023 at 05:37 PM

ER

“ John and I are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of our good friend for more than 40 years. The memories run through our minds like a movie reel. Mary made a significant difference in so many lives. Her enthusiasm to "try anything" was contagious. The four of us had many wonderful adventures. We were married at their home on February 15, 1986. We shared Mary and Bill's enjoyment of golf resulting in several memorable golfing vacations including visiting the World Golf Hall of Fame in 1998 where we played the Slammer & the Squire. We enjoyed the Summer Olympics in Atlanta in 1996. Rafting down the Chattahoochee and Bill waving to the three of us from a big rock he had just pushed us off of to continue our trip down the river. And on and on. Our home displays numerous pictures of our good times together which will keep memories of Mary in our hearts. Thank you Mary for being part of our lives. We love you.  
John and Elise Kulaya

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Elise Ross - June 24, 2023 at 05:23 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Mary Eleanor Johnson.



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June 22, 2023 at 09:07 PM