



## Robert Edwin "Fella" Johnston

January 31, 1933 - September 6, 2024

Mr. Robert Edwin "Fella" Johnston (91) of Newnan, Georgia passed away Thursday, September 6, 2024 at Grady Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia. He was born January 31, 1933 in Palmetto, Georgia to the late William Howard "Pat" Johnston and Ada Florence Chandler Johnston. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife Betty Jean Jones Johnston; sisters, Nina Johnston Adams, Patricia Johnston Smith; brother, William Howard "Buddy" Johnston.

A lifetime resident of Coweta County, he attended Madras School in his early years and graduated from Newnan High School in 1951. "Fella" married his high school sweetheart, Betty Jean Jones, one month after their high school graduation, building their future together in Newnan. A devoted couple, they were married until she passed away after 64 years of marriage.

Proud of his community, "Fella" was an active Board member and Chairman for the local Humana Hospital, a founding member and Board of Trustee for the Heritage School, and the 4th longest standing member at First Baptist Church in Newnan, where he served in many capacities including Deacon, finance Chairman, Training Union Leader for Teens, usher and longtime greeter and supporter on "his" door to welcome members to church. "Fella" was most proud of his relationship with the Bank of Coweta (now Synovus Bank), and was selected as a Board Member Emeritus for his many years of

service. Outside of Coweta, he was an instrumental member of the Roosevelt Warm Springs Development Fund Board, serving as treasurer, raising money and aiding students with disabilities to achieve personal independence and successful job placement. He was a stalwart Board Member, and was instrumental in bringing speakers like Chick-fil-a founder Truett Cathy, former Atlanta Brave Marquis Grissom, and 8-time Mr. Olympia Lee Haney as speakers for graduation ceremonies at Warm Springs.

As an accomplished leader in his family owned and operated business, E. L. Johnston, Inc., those familiar with "Fella" knew his work ethic set him apart from most.

In his personal life, as well as his business career, "Fella" practiced "The Golden Rule". He believed in working hard, being generous to those in need, and making each person he met feel important. A true consummate Southern Gentleman, "Fella" loved his family fiercely, his community passionately, and his God humbly.

The funeral is Sunday, September 8, 2024 at 2:00 o'clock in the Historic Sanctuary of First Baptist Church Newnan, with visitation and reception in the church fellowship hall following the service.

Condolences can be expressed online at [www.mckoon.com](http://www.mckoon.com). The family requests memorial contributions to The Wesley Woods Employee Fund, in care of Sharon Edgar, Wesley Woods of Newnan, 110 Edgeworth Road, Newnan, Georgia, 30263

Survivors include sons, Robert Edwin Johnston Jr. (Nan), Robert Higdon Johnston (Rebecca); daughter, Allison Johnston Davis (Barry); grandchildren, Ansley Johnston Hidalgo (Javy), Carly Davis Winstead (Josh), Ashley Davis Boland (Jay), Barry Alexander Davis Jr. (Katelyn), William Chandler Davis,

Robert Higdon Johnston Jr., Winfred Coates Johnston; great grandchildren, Sebastian, Annie Glenn, Davis, Mary Margaret "Mae", John Allen, Reeves, Jackson, Caroline, Barry III; sister-in law, Sara Ray Johnston; a host of nieces, nephews, employees, and friends.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory 770-253-4580

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

SEP 8. 2:00 PM - 2:45 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Newnan Historic Sanctuary  
15 West Washington St  
Newnan, GA 30263

## Visitation

SEP 8. 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Newnan  
15 West Washington Street  
Newnan, GA 30263

# Tribute Wall

LA

“ *A real honorable and helpful person that will be missed by many.*



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**Leroy Arnold** - September 09, 2024 at 10:03 AM

MS

“ *What a genuinely nice person. I know he will be missed by so many friends and family.*  
*Cliff and Martha Smith*

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**Martha D Smith** - September 09, 2024 at 07:03 AM

RD

“ *I am so sorry to hear of Mr. Fella's passing. He and Mrs. Betty Jean were such dear friends to my dad and mom - Jimmy and MaryLynn Sprayberry. I know they had a beautiful reunion. Love and peace to you all.*

*Ruth Sprayberry DuCharme*

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**Ruth Sprayberry DuCharme** - September 08, 2024 at 09:44 PM

KY

“ To all the Johnston family , I would like to express my deepest sympathies. Your father was one of my most memorable friends of my father’s (Roscoe). And of course I remember seeing “Mr. Edwin “ every Sunday at church growing up. He was such a great person. Kind, nice, and caring man. One of the best. May he rest in peace. And to everyone may angels put their arms around you and comfort you through your grief. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.



*Kay McMichael Young and Pat Young*

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**Kay McMichael-Young and Pat Young** - September 08, 2024 at 02:12 PM

BP

“ Fella and Betty Jean were so very special to me. Their many acts of kindness will never be forgotten. Fella adored Betty Jean and his children. I so admired their deep love for each other. He was truly the consummate Southern Gentleman. His work ethic should serve as a blueprint for everyone. The word "lazy" was not in his vocabulary. I greatly respected him and felt honored to be his friend.



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**Bill Parker** - September 08, 2024 at 09:52 AM

RH

“ Sincere condolences to your family. “ Fella” was a fine man and such a contributor to the community. God bless and comfort your family. - Robin Swanson Harlan

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**Robin Swanson Harlan** - September 08, 2024 at 04:16 AM

AM

“ Edwin, I am so sorry for your loss. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Art Murphy - September 07, 2024 at 11:34 PM

AC

“ I cared for Mr. Johnson for a little over a year, very nice and kind man, always say how was your day, he would always answer he had a good day, never complain always wanted to make every body happy. Always talked about work. Avery special man in my life that I met and loved.

Augusta Cannon - September 07, 2024 at 09:24 PM

MS

“ Melissa S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Edwin "Fella" Johnston.

Melissa S. - September 07, 2024 at 04:10 PM

TF

“ The Mikko Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Edwin "Fella" Johnston.

The Mikko Family - September 07, 2024 at 11:30 AM

TF

“ The Mikko Family purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Robert Edwin "Fella" Johnston.



The Mikko Family - September 07, 2024 at 11:30 AM

DS

“ Drs. Nina ("Bunny") and Greg Sharp planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Edwin "Fella" Johnston.

Drs. Nina ("Bunny") and Greg Sharp - September 07, 2024 at 11:19 AM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Robert Edwin "Fella" Johnston.



September 07, 2024 at 11:19 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Robert Edwin "Fella" Johnston.



September 07, 2024 at 10:49 AM

PC

“ Pam Clemons lit a candle in memory of Robert Edwin "Fella" Johnston



Pam Clemons - September 07, 2024 at 09:55 AM



“ Geez what a great guy. Hands down one of if not my favorite during my years in Newnan. Sympathies to the entire family from both Mary Alice and me. Just hearing his name always lit up my day. In fact funny but just last week I was asking about him. He had a good run for sure with a great family, fantastic wife, and successful business career. Heritage would not be the same today without his involvement over the years.

Dennis Brown - September 07, 2024 at 07:18 AM



“ Jody and Monica Bennett purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Robert Edwin "Fella" Johnston.



Jody and Monica Bennett - September 06, 2024 at 10:25 PM



“ Bobby and Stephanie Morgan purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Robert Edwin "Fella" Johnston.



Bobby and Stephanie Morgan - September 06, 2024 at 08:05 PM

GS

“ Edwin was an amazing human being. When I was the director of the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation, he served on our board, which was when I first met Ed. He was a remarkable board member, always willing to go above and beyond to help those with disabilities have meaningful lives. He served with great humility, never seeking recognition in return. I became his friend and admirer that lasted long after I left Warm Springs. My fondest memory of Edwin was our frequent dinners at Waffle House where we discussed anything and everything. I was fortunate enough to meet his lovely wife, Betty, and all of his family, all of whom he loved more than anything. I learned a lot from Edwin, and I will miss him dearly. Rest in peace and sail with the wind at your back, my friend!  
Greg Schmieg

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**greg Schmieg** - September 06, 2024 at 07:56 PM

JR

“ Fella was the “true Southern gentleman”, the finest of men. I treasure the wonderful memories, Harry and I spent with Fella and Betty Jean. He is now with his “beloved Betty Jean”! Rest in peace, my dear friend!

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**Judy Rivers** - September 06, 2024 at 05:24 PM

JW

“ One of the sweetest men I have ever known! A true Southern Gentleman! Heaven is rejoicing this day!!!! I know this family is comforted because of his tremendous faith and love of God!!! Will be thinking of all of you! Judi Worth

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**Judi Worth** - September 06, 2024 at 05:18 PM



*Mr Fella was one of the sweetest and kindest man I have known. He always greeted me at "his door" with a smile and a compliment. He was a treasure to FBC and the community. I am out of town, but will have your family in my prayers.*

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**Susie Walker-Powers** - September 07, 2024 at 11:04 AM