



Lt. Colonel Bobby J. Johnston

July 15, 1935 - October 24, 2025

Lt. Colonel Bobby J. Johnston has taken his last flight. The “Sweet Chariot” Airlines came to pick him up on Friday, Oct. 24, 2025. He was born July 15, 1935, in Bidville, AR. He was the son of the late Eubert Johnston and Alpha (Jackson) Johnston. Lt. Col. Johnston served four years in the US Navy during the Korean War and 20 years in the US Air Force, where he flew B-47 Bombers during the Cold War and KC-135 Tankers during the Vietnam War. In 1968, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroic rescue of four fighter pilots and aircraft that would have crashed if they’d run out of fuel behind enemy lines. He made the decision for his crew to go into enemy territory to refuel the F-105 fighters and save their lives! He received the Distinguished Flying Cross for this action.

His final assignment was a three year Tour of Duty at the American Embassy in Rome, Italy, as the Attaché to the Italian Air Force. Lt. Col. Johnston received the Legion of Merit Medal for his Outstanding work in the area of Intelligence and working with the Pentagon while in Rome.

He is survived by his wife, Diane Bell Johnston, two daughters, Renae Moore and Renita Watts. His third daughter, Rochelle Johnston, preceded him.

Lt. Col. Johnston and his wife have seven Grandchildren: Jason Culpepper, Shari Homan, Keith Able, Tara Holroyd, Stephanie Hobby, Alexandria Johnson, and Victoria Watts. Their 11 Great-Grandchildren are: Carter & Chase Culpepper, Gavin, Silas & Norah Homan, Blakely & Jeremiah Able, Payton Holroyd, Ethan & Annabelle Hobby, and Colton Johnson.

He is also survived by his three sisters, Loretta Sossamon, MaryAnn Johnston, and Wilma Brushwood.

Funeral service will be 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, November 4, at the Harris Chapel.

Burial will be 1:00 p.m. Tuesday at the Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery in North Little Rock. Arrangements are by Harris Funeral Home of Morrilton.

Visitation will be from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Monday, November 3, at the funeral home.

Cemetery Details

Arkansas State Veteran's Cemetery

1501 West Maryland Avenue
North Little Rock, AR 72120
(501) 683-2259
<https://www.veterans.arkansas.gov/cemeteries/nlr>

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 3. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Harris Funeral Home Chapel
1325 Oak Street
Morrilton, AR 72110
<http://www.harrisfuneralhomes.net>

Funeral Service

NOV 4. 10:00 AM (CT)

Harris Funeral Home Chapel
1325 Oak Street
Morrilton, AR 72110
<http://www.harrisfuneralhomes.net>

Burial

NOV 4. 1:00 PM (CT)

Arkansas State Veteran's Cemetery

1501 West Maryland Avenue

North Little Rock, AR 72120

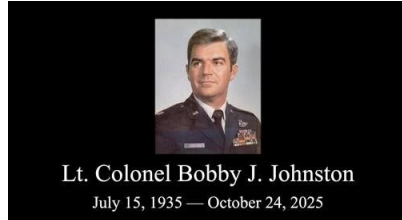
(501) 683-2259

<https://www.veterans.arkansas.gov/cemeteries/nlr>

Tribute Wall



“ *Harris Funeral Homes, Inc. created a Funeral Service of Lt. Colonel Bobby J. Johnston in memory of Lt. Colonel Bobby J. Johnston*



Harris Funeral Home - November 04, 2025 at 10:23 AM



“ *Red, White & Blue Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Lt. Colonel Bobby J. Johnston.*



November 02, 2025 at 05:49 PM



“ *My husband (also a USAF aviator and retired LTC) send condolences and prayers. What an extraordinary career. May he rest in peace.*

Nancy & Ray Moix - November 01, 2025 at 02:10 PM



“ *Henny Collins purchased the White Standing Spray for the family of Lt. Colonel Bobby J. Johnston.*



Henny Collins - October 31, 2025 at 02:08 PM