Sossoman
Funeral Home & Crematory Center
5th Generation Family Owned & Operated Since 1949.



James Luther "Paw" Johnson

Jan. 9, 1944 - Oct. 18, 2026

James Luther "Paw" Johnson, 82, of Morganton, NC, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, October 18, 2026 while surrounded by his family.

Born in Burke County, NC on January 9, 1944, he was the son of the late Walter Johnson and Eula Baker Johnson.

James was the youngest of 6 children and lived on his family farm, his favorite place to be, until his death. He was fond of giving others nicknames, and he was known to tell a good story. He held various jobs throughout his career, including working at Henredon, Drexel Heritage, Brackett Brothers, and owning his own grading business. However, his favorite job was farmer.

James is survived by his wife of 58 years, Peggy Johnson; son, Steve Johnson and wife, Joy; daughter, Alicia Crawley and husband, Jeff; grandchildren and the light of his life, Dillon Johnson and wife, Mikayla, Jonathan Crawley, Morgan Johnson, Nick Johnson, and Kelly Crawley; great-grandchildren, Colten and Amelia Johnson, and one on-the-way, Camryn Johnson; sisters, Rebecca Dale and Linda Benton; his fur-companion, Gus; and numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family.

In addition to his parents, Paw was preceded in death by sisters, Mattie Suttle and Lucille Norman; and brother, Melvin Johnson.

Lucille Norman, and brother, Melvin Johnson.

The family will receive friends from 5 to 6 p.m., Friday, October 23, 2026 at Nowlings Chapel Free Will Baptist Church. A celebration of James' life will follow at 6 p.m. in the church with Rev. Darvy Hensley and Rev. Jeff Duncan officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to Brendletown Fire Department, 5157 US 64, Morganton, NC 28655.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall



James was the sweetest and kindest person. He would light my day even on the harder ones. Always had a smile on his face. We would give each other a hard time and loved every moment of it. He will truly be missed. Please send my love and a big hug with thoughts and prayers for peace and comfort to Peggy and the family. Kayla Bingham.
previous Hopewell Family Medicine CMA

–Kayla Bingham

So sorry for your loss. Sending love and prayers to your family during this difficult time. God is so good!

–Paul and Becky Jolly



Prayers for the Johnson family

–Brett Davidson



So sorry for your loss. I know for certain he was deeply loved by you all. Praying for you though this tough time.



—Angela Pettus

I've known James for a long time he was a happy go luck man he has never met a stranger in his life he used to tell me all kinds of jokes for you Steve and the

family James will be missed so sorry to hear about James

—Terry Whisenant



Peggy, I am sorry for your loss. I know this is hard. Continue to lean on God and he will bring you through. I Pray for God's comfort during this hard time in your life. May God wrap his Loving arms around you now an in the days ahead of you. James was a very friendly man he will be missed. Love Tommy and Terry Moses

—Terry Moses



Prayers for the family james was a fine person I knowed him and his family a life time and he will be missed so so sorry for your lost Brother

—Bennett A Chapman



I loved you like my own family. You will be missed terribly. My heart is broken Paw! Love, Clorissa “Sissy” Durkee

—Sissy