



Johnny Lamar OKelly

May 16, 1943 - April 25, 2025

Johnny Lamar OKelly, age 81, of Morganton, North Carolina, passed away peacefully at Carolina Caring Hospice on April 25, 2025. Born in Sylva, NC on May 16, 1943, Johnny lived a life defined by faith, service, and deep pride in both his family and Irish heritage. A devoted member of Victorious Church of God, Johnny lived his faith with quiet conviction and kindness. He also spent several years volunteering to help with local elections, believing strongly in the importance of civic duty and community involvement. Johnny worked faithfully for 40 years at the North Carolina School for the Deaf, where he was respected for his integrity, dedication, and compassion for the children.

He is survived by his loving wife, Faye Huffman Clark OKelly. A bonus son, Clay Clark (Connie), and their family, Andrew Clark, Marina McLean (Isaac), Aurora McBrearity, Aiden McLean, and Lilith McLean.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ora Lee Phillips OKelly; his parents, John Hiram OKelly and Geneva Katherine Fincannon OKelly; sister, Doris Reep; and half-brother, Clyde Rector.

Johnny will be remembered for his steady presence, generous spirit, strong faith, and his love for family, heritage, and country. His legacy continues through all those he inspired and uplifted.

The family would like to thank the staff of Carolina Caring Hospice for their compassionate care.

The family will receive friends from 11am until 1pm, Wednesday, April 30, 2025 at Sossoman Funeral Home. A celebration of life service will be held at 1pm in the Colonial Chapel with Pastor Ken VanBuckirk officiating. Entombment will follow at Burke Memorial Park Mausoleum.

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

Visitation

April 30, 2025

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center

Service

April 30, 2025

1 p.m.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center

Committal

April 30, 2025

2 p.m.

Burke Memorial Park

Tribute Wall

I delivered to Johnny at NCSD for several years. He was truly a Godly man and a dear friend. My prayers go out to his family

—KEVIN WHITENER

Johnny , my Irish friend I won't say goodbye, I know I will see you again. Amanda and I will miss you terribly , but will think of you often. So until we meet again, so long for now . Amanda and I love you . Faye , I love you sugar . My heart is with you . If you need me , don't hesitate to reach out. Condolences, Carmen Greene

—Carmen Greene

—John K Mooney

May you find comfort and peace in your time of sorrow. May God bless you.
David and Lynda Wilson

—Lynda and David Wilson

So sorry to hear about Johnny. Always a great neighbor. Always knew he was looking out for me and his other neighbors. Faye, you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

—Donna Benner

O'Kelly families and friends, I so enjoyed visiting Johnny on occasion at the NC School for the Deaf or while around and about in our beloved Morganton community. Johnny always had a ready smile and we had meaningful conversations. I just know he is in his heavenly mansion. May our Lord and Savior

comfort you as you journey through the grieving process. Grace and love abounds!

—Wayne Giese