

## Arthur David Johnson

September 23, 1942 - September 16, 2023

David Johnson, 80, died peacefully in his sleep on Saturday, September 16, 2023 in Jacksonville, FL. He is survived by Joyce Grader Johnson, his wife of 59 years; siblings Peter and Odette; sons Tim and Phil; daughters-in-law Silvia and Marina; grandchildren Sarah, Alyona, Nikita, and Tony; and great-grand children Katy and Arian. He was also loved by many close friends, extended relatives and in-laws.

David was born in Pittsburgh, PA on September 23, 1942. He graduated from Columbia University with a BS and MBA, and met his future wife Joyce, who graduated from St. Luke's Nursing College "across the street". Once married, David's career path took them to Corning, NY where Phil joined the family; Amherst, NH where Tim joined them; then 16 years in Pittsfield, MA. Joyce's quest for warm weather and diving took them to Orange Park, FL for 30 years, where dad retired from Lafarge in Palatka, FL. He accomplished his dream of owning a company - a machine shop in Keene, NH for a short time. He chose to work for smaller companies during his career as an industrial purchasing agent, including Columbia Bicycles, which allowed him to take samples of the latest toys home to his sons after the annual Toy Show each year, Gowdy-Shandoff's, and Bicron Electronics.

David was an active camper, and took several canoe camping trips with family and friends to the Allagash River in Maine and other exotic places. He was an Eagle Scout and was a scout leader and sustaining member for years. He was an avid game player, including Hearts and Scrabble. He equally enjoyed

a quiet weekend at home (installing a dishwasher or other projects "on the list") or a hike down into the Grand Canyon. He loved to cook and tend the garden, often picking fresh tomatoes for dinner once arriving home from work. David was committed to social action work, including participation in the Fresh Air Fund, hosting a 1980 Presidential Candidate's campaign team at the family home, and hosting an International Student exchange student. More recently, he taught English to Immigrants, participated and led discussions with the Jacksonville Human Rights Commission, dedicated countless hours to Wage Peace, and tirelessly contacted his Senators' offices to advocate for legislation he felt was important. He found active fellowship with his chosen faith, the Unitarian Universalist Church, in three of the communities where he lived.

David was challenged by three different cancer diagnoses since 2013, and an untreatable lung infection this year. He lived his life to the fullest even despite his medical issues: A year after his first cancer, he marched with Joyce in a Martin Luther King Jr. Parade. A year after his second, he rebuilt a wood chipper, chipped brush from the yard, and placed the chippings around the yard. He was determined to stay in their house until he couldn't, and moved to an Independent Living Facility with Joyce earlier this year - with stress on the word independent.

In lieu of flowers, please remember David in the following ways: 1) vote, contact your representatives frequently to tell them how they are doing, and vote again. 2) Participate in one of the above named organizations, or a similar one. Consider a financial contribution to the same. He will be remembered in a private ceremony with close family.

# Tribute Wall

RM

“ Arthur David Johnson September 23, 1942 - September 16, 2023 Board Members and associates of UUJF (Unitarian Universalist Justice Florida, a State Action Network working for social justice in Florida and nationally) were blessed to know David Johnson and blessed by his generous efforts to contribute to our mission. His example will continue to inspire us. He acted on the values affirmed and promoted by Unitarian Universalism and its respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. David is deeply missed.  
Richard Bud Murphy, UUJF Board President

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**Richard Bud Murphy** - November 04, 2023 at 01:13 PM

MH

*I met David thru his legislative advocacy fighting for fairness and justice for all people. I am honored to have known him and am humbled by his contributions for a more just world. He is missed but not forgotten.*

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**Mike Hughes** - November 30, 2023 at 10:39 AM

 Dan  
Boschen

“ David is the first person I met who wasn't called by his first name like me. I have such fond memories growing up in Pittsfield and being made to feel so welcome in the Johnson home. Such a kind and good-hearted man. My condolences.

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**Dan Boschen** - October 07, 2023 at 08:58 AM

CJ

“ I will think of Joyce and David whenever I am involved in social action or voting. And I will miss Joyce and our nurse talk. You are a remarkable family.

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**Cynthia Jorgensen** - September 26, 2023 at 01:02 PM

MR

“ *All pleasant memories of this kind man. Good sense of humor, head on straight and very welcoming. So sorry for your loss.*

*Mike Roussin*

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**Michael Roussin** - September 25, 2023 at 09:19 PM

CT

“ *My sister Diane and I were fortunate to have a rare reunion with cousins David, Peter and Odette over a decade ago in Boston. We didn't see much of each other over the years because of our nomadic childhoods but he was always in our thoughts and we greatly admired his and Joyce's support for social justice. Sending condolences and positive vibrations to the entire family. Om shanti shanti shanti.*



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**Craig Toomey** - September 25, 2023 at 08:16 PM

PJ

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Philip Johnson** - September 24, 2023 at 03:38 PM

PJ

*Dad helped inspire my adventurous spirit, and followed me to many of my own adventures. Here he and mom pose at Big Almaty Lake, Almaty, Kazakhstan.*

Philip Johnson - September 29, 2023 at 04:23 PM

PJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Philip Johnson - September 24, 2023 at 03:37 PM

PJ

*Dad surrounded by Grand and great- Grandchildren Katy, Tony, Nikita, and Arian.*

Philip Johnson - September 29, 2023 at 04:22 PM

PJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Philip Johnson - September 24, 2023 at 03:36 PM

PJ

*At Clark Park in Orange Park, with daughter-in-law Mara's daughter and family.*

Philip Johnson - September 29, 2023 at 04:26 PM

PJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Philip Johnson - September 24, 2023 at 03:21 PM

PJ

“ Philip Johnson sent a virtual gift in memory of Arthur David Johnson



Philip Johnson - September 24, 2023 at 03:16 PM

CL

David Johnson attended the Indivisible Florida Network meetings and shared his organized legislative advocacy plan with us for years. In his honor, I continue to seek action alerts produced by grassroots organizations and act on them in the timely manner which David taught me. My thoughts will be of David and his family when I advocate.

Cynthia Lippert - November 10, 2023 at 11:25 AM

PJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Philip Johnson - September 24, 2023 at 03:15 PM

## “ Obituary

*Arthur David Johnson*

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**Philip Johnson** - September 24, 2023 at 11:35 AM

PJ

*Spell8ng correction from last sentence: "Remembered"*

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**Philip Johnson** - September 24, 2023 at 03:11 PM