



Robert Stephen Johnson

April 3, 1986 - March 23, 2023

Robert Stephen Johnson II, 36, succumbed to years of struggling with addiction on March 23rd. We believe openness about the circumstances best honors his memory and serves our community, where though addiction is far too common, it is often still stigmatized.

“Stevie,” a nickname he hated, so his sister must use it publicly one last time, is not merely a statistic – he is so deeply loved. If you ever need an image to help conjure compassion about this problem in our community, I invite you to think of Stephen and our family. Think of his infectious laugh or his endless witty catchphrases. Each and every person struggling with addiction matters more than anything to someone, like he did to us.

Stephen was born on April 3, 1986 in Huntington WV to two loving parents, and one very skeptical big sister. He was endlessly inquisitive, as evidenced by the absurd number of times he was stung by bees each summer. He had a photographic memory and was a talented artist. He worked in the service industry after graduating from Cabell Midland High School in 2004, traveling all over the US – Kentucky, California, Florida, and everywhere in between. He is survived by his mother, Denise Walker, who wears many hats including personal shopper, taxi driver, and whatever you call a person with an enormous amount of love and patience (oh yea, a mother); his father, Steve Johnson, whose many hats include problem solver, mechanical teacher, protector, and encourager of Stephen’s love of horses; his sister, Megan Johnson, whose skepticism never abated due to his skill at being the

quintessential “little brother,” but who has to admit he made everything so much more fun; and finally, his grandparents Reverend Robert and Marceline Johnson, who could always be relied upon to tell mom ‘we didn’t fight a bit’ and provide us with endless support and prayers.

Stephen was preceded in death by his beloved Grandmother Walker, or “Lena Mary” as he always called her, who supplied us with endless frozen snickers and the best childhood imaginable filled with climbing hills and playing in the creek with no adult supervision.

We will receive family and friends from 1:00-2:00pm in the sanctuary at Pea Ridge Baptist Church, with a Memorial Service to follow. After the memorial, a lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome!

We request that instead of flowers, donations be made to River Cities Street Ministry. They provide hot breakfast, packed lunches, and many other essentials to those in need every Saturday.

Checks can be made out to: River Cities Street Ministry c/o Trinity Episcopal Church 520 11th St Huntington, WV 25701 or you may Venmo the Coordinator with a memo referencing Stephen: @vera-gerlach

Henson and Kitchen Mortuary and Cremation Services 6357 E. Pea Ridge Rd. Huntington, WV near Barboursville is caring for the family. Online condolences and memories may be shared with the family by visiting www.hensonandkitchen.com .

Previous Events

Funeral Service

APR 1. 2:00 PM (ET)

Henson and Kitchen Mortuary and Cremation Services
6357 East Pea Ridge Road, Huntington, W.Va. 25705
Huntington
Huntington, WV 25705
fredkitchen@hensonmortuary.com
<http://www.hensonandkitchen.com>

Visitation

APR 1 (ET)

Henson and Kitchen Mortuary and Cremation Services
6357 East Pea Ridge Road, Huntington, W.Va. 25705
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Tribute Wall



“ Henson & Kitchen Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Robert Stephen Johnson



Henson and Kitchen Mortuary and Cremation Services - March 30, 2023 at 03:02 PM



“ Happy heavenly birthday, Stephen! I've always wondered what happened to Stephen, I'm sad to have found this. We worked together at my very first serving job almost 10 years ago. He could run circles around the rest of us. He was so lively and talented and knowledgeable. He looked out for us younger kids just getting into the industry and nightlife scene. I spent many nights at his house, watching him run around his kitchen whipping up delicious cocktails at the speed of light, while simultaneously talking your ear off. I remember his favorite subject being his grandmother and how much he loved her. 💖



Ash Lyn - April 03, 2025 at 12:29 PM

TB

“ I have been searching for Stephen for the past two years. I have searched every place. I did a Google search and to my disappointment, I unfortunately found this. Stephen was a good guy but had some problems. He and I would sit and talk for hours, he was knowledgeable. I was intrigued by what he knew about various things in life. Weeks or months would go by sometimes and I wouldn't hear from him, then I'd get a message or he would stop by the house. I remember one time he came by and asked me to help him get his car out of impound and try and find where they took his dog lol. I live in Clarksville, Indiana, about 2 miles north of Louisville, Ky. I had to drive him like 20 miles to South Louisville where his car was, and follow him to where his dog was at. He cracked me up all the way there to get his car. He always had a great smile and something witty to say. You will be missed, my friend. RIP my dear friend Stehen. God love you.

Todd Ballew - January 16, 2024 at 06:10 AM



“ *Robert Stephen Johnson*

October 23, 2023 at 01:49 AM

GM

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. Stephen was a friend whom I worked with in Louisville, Kentucky. I am thankful that I had the chance to know him and I will miss my friend. My thoughts and prayers are with the Johnson family.

Love

Gina Meiklereid



Gina Meiklereid - June 12, 2023 at 12:58 AM

JA

“ Well stated and loving obituary, obviously written by Megan. So sorry for your loss, as well as the rest of the Johnson family. I never met Stephen, but grew up with and was close to Denise and Steve Bob and Marceline. Wishing you all only fond and beautiful memories of your son, grandson and brother.

John Anderson

Eugene, Oregon

John Anderson - April 21, 2023 at 02:22 PM

GG

“ I did not know Steven, but I know his lovely Mother. I respect her obituary post and her truth as a Mother. When a parent can speak of a much loved son and share his addiction problems, She exemplifies her love for him, while sharing his story with others. She does not want his life to be in vain. Rest in Peace Steven. You are home. Gigi Gerlach

Gigi Getlach - March 31, 2023 at 06:29 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Stephen Johnson.*



March 31, 2023 at 10:56 AM



“ *I am so very sorry for your son's passing but I truly appreciate the obituary that you wrote for him. We lost our son Jonathan on September 23, 2022. He also lost the battle with addiction, he was a very loved father, son, brother and friend to many. Wanted you to know that we will be thinking of you and your family during this time. Praying!*

*Joe and Phyllis Thacker
Chesapeake, Oh*

Joseph and Phyllis Thacker - March 30, 2023 at 05:50 PM



“ *57 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Henson and Kitchen Mortuary and Cremation Services - March 30, 2023 at 02:58 PM

DO

“ *To the entire Johnson Family: We are so very sorry to hear of your loss. What precious "Stevie stories" we remember from our time working with his grandmother Marceline at HEHS. He is blessed to have been part of your loving family. We will hold you close at heart during the coming days.*
Ron & Diane Oliver



Diana/Ron Oliver - March 30, 2023 at 01:08 PM