



James Johnson

January 1, 2023

James "JJ" Johnson, 80, of Fort Collins, passed away January 1, 2023. A memorial mass will begin at 11:30a.m., Saturday, January 7, 2023 at St. John XXIII in Fort Collins.

JJ was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1942 to Bill and Mary Johnson. He graduated from De Andreis High School in 1960 and earned a bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from Washington University in 1973, MBA from Colorado State University in 1984 and PhD from Colorado State University in 1995.

He married Sharon Gebauer, his grade school sweetheart in 1962. Over their 60-year marriage, they lived and raised their family in Missouri and Colorado.

At the beginning of his career, JJ was a lineman at Southwestern Bell, working his way into management roles. In 1973, the family moved to Broomfield, Colorado for a 2-year project with AT&T Bell Labs. He and Sharon loved it there so much that they decided to stay until his retirement from AT&T in 1989 as the Vice President of Corporate Education.

Upon retirement, he completed his PhD, and began his second career and an educator at Front Range Community College, Regis University, and Colorado State University; and a consultant at Prosci.

JJ was an active longtime member of St. John XXIII Catholic Church in Ft. Collins. As a life-long learner and educator, he also enjoyed, boating, skiing, and being a grandpa.

He is survived by his wife Sharon, sons Jim, Mark (and Sharon), Dave (and Camie), and Tim (and Denise); ten grandchildren Jori, Bill, Greg, Christopher, DJ, Julia, Courtney, Carter, Cameron, and Dane; two great grandchildren, Amelia and Syllas; and his sister Jane and brother Tim.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Alzheimer's Association at [alz.org](https://act.alz.org/site/Donation2?idb=2138734496&50962.donation=form1&df_id=50962&FR_ID=16266&mfc_pref=T&PROXY_ID=785106&PROXY_TYPE=22), or you may donate directly to Team JJ via their Alzheimer's Association page (https://act.alz.org/site/Donation2?idb=2138734496&50962.donation=form1&df_id=50962&FR_ID=16266&mfc_pref=T&PROXY_ID=785106&PROXY_TYPE=22)

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

JAN 7. 11:30 AM (MT)

St. John XXIII
1220 University Avenue
Fort Collins, CO 80521

Tribute Wall



“ I'm so sorry that I'm late in giving my condolences. I just found out that JJ passed away in January so to say it was a shock is an understatement. I was blessed to work with JJ for many years at Prosci. Since I moved and he retired, I have missed hearing him say, "Honey, I'm home" everytime he walked through those door. It always put a smile on my face. He was one of the kindest people I have ever had the privilege to know. I can only imagine how lonely it must be for Sharon and the rest of his famly to be without him by their side at this time. I'm sure that when they are all together again, there will be much celebration and laughter. Next time we all have the chance to see him, I bet he will welcome us with, "Honey, You're home!"

Kathy Spencer

Kathy Spencer - May 25, 2023 at 02:24 PM



“ We first met JJ at Regis University in 1990 when I was working on my graduate degree and he was an instructor. Years later we got together over a campfire and shared stories and memories among friends.

Prayers to Sharon and family members.

God Bless.

-Tony & Janet Seahorn

Tony Seahorn - January 19, 2023 at 04:38 PM

JH

“ JJ always smiled first; never could beat him at that. Always astounded me how he could make people feel good about themselves and teach them at the same time. I learned how to judge less and smile more, supervise less and help more - all by just being around JJ. I can't remember a single time that JJ did not enter a room without saying "JJ here, ready for action; how can I help." On reflection, I am humbled because I cannot remember a time when I entered a room and did not start by giving orders. Gentle and kind souls teach us all, and JJ leaves that legacy for me to ponder and his family to cherish. A time or two early in our relationship, I was frustrated with JJ because he would give examples that I'm not sure were even true, and teach the courses slightly different than I envisioned. That frustration was short lived. A group of training managers analyzed the student feedback from multiple instructors over several months, including mine, and hands down JJ received the highest marks from his students - they simply loved him. I did too.

Jeff Hiatt - January 07, 2023 at 01:22 PM

CO

“ 2 files added to the album *Fun Times with the Ottos*

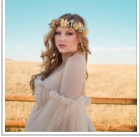


CONRAD OTTO - January 06, 2023 at 04:18 PM

LG

“ So sorry for your loss Sharon! JJ was such a sweet, loving, faithful man! You will be in my thoughts & prayers. In case you don't remember me - we used to be adoration prayer buddies:) May God give you his peace & comfort at this time & always!!!

Laura Goeltl - January 06, 2023 at 03:47 PM



“ To Grandpa:

I've been spending all week trying to find the words on how to say goodbye to you, but I can't seem to find the words that encapsulate you. Your sense of humor, your stories, your smile, your personality, you. You're the type of person that someone gets the honor to know once in a lifetime and I'm lucky to have gotten to have you in mine. I strive to live my life the way you did, with love and courage, and best of all, a laugh along the way. I want a love like you and grandma had, where you respected and honored each other for over 6 decades. A love that thrived, one that had 4 beautiful children, and 10 amazing grandchildren. A love that survived Alzheimer's disease, a love that knew who grandma was and that you loved and adored her until the very end. I want a love like the one you would tell me about growing up, a love that you met in high school and knew you wanted to marry on your very first date. A love story for the ages. I want your courage to be myself unconditionally, in every single situation. Your courage to teach, to grow, to never stop learning. Your courage to respect every person you met, and love them with open arms. Your courage to travel and explore, and when you were staying home, your courage to welcome everyone into your home like it was their own. I want your laughter and humor. I want to some day be able to tell my grandkids I'll let them look at a dollar if they bring me a beer. I want to be able to say "Pull my finger" to anyone but you and have them laugh. I want to smile everyday like you did, make memories that I can recall decades later. Oh how I wish I could hear your laugh one last time. How do I say goodbye to a beautiful soul like that? The answer is: I can't. So I'll settle for 'until I see you again'. I love you.

-Courtney (Granddaughter)

Courtney Johnson - January 05, 2023 at 10:35 PM

CO

“ I met JJ at the Phone Company in St. Louis in January of 1970. He was newly promoted from a technician job to management in an engineering district. I was one year out of college and just coming back from Air Force basic training in the Air National Guard. He had hands-on experience and I was “wet behind the ears” to say the least. We went to lunch together that first day and were sizing each other up. As the weeks, months and years went by it became clear that we shared a similar goofy sense of humor. When JJ and his family moved to Colorado, we visited nearly every year. He treated our son and daughter as if they were his own and they loved him like a friendly uncle. I’ve never had an older brother, but JJ was like the brother I never had. We argued, worked together, and laughed together. Wow did we laugh. His laughter was contagious and sometimes we laughed so hard I had to roll around on the floor and hold my sides. JJ could always see the humor in just about any event and never hesitated to point it out, often in ways you weren’t expecting. Always looking for the positive side of any situation, he never met a person he couldn’t work with. He also never hesitated to help someone who needed some assistance. JJ was the best of friends. I and my family will miss him dearly.

Conrad Otto - January 05, 2023 at 04:26 PM

CO

“ 10 files added to the album Fun Times with the Ottos



Conrad Otto - January 05, 2023 at 04:24 PM

DR

“ JJ Johnson was my colleague, mentor, and friend at Prosci. He was either the first or second Master Instructor at Prosci (depends on who you are talking to). JJ was the consummate storyteller - combining his religious training, his corporate experience, and his love of learning to weave engaging, insightful tales. JJ loved his wife, Sharon, and his family, especially his grandchildren (Where in the world is JJ?). He was also one of the most gentle, caring human beings that I ever met. I will miss his smiles, his tales, and his love of life.

D Scott Ross - January 05, 2023 at 02:14 PM



“ My daughter and I had the pleasure of meeting JJ recently. We were visiting with my parents when he came to join us. We had a lovely time visiting and all of us sat in rapt attention as my daughter told us all about the Artemis rocket launch and efforts to learn more about the moon. I'm not at all surprised to read that JJ was a lifetime learner and teacher. What a remarkable man. Sending my deepest condolences to the family for your loss.

Ann Biegelsen - January 04, 2023 at 11:29 PM

KE

“ I am saddened to read of JJ’s passing. JJ was my Mentor through my MSM degree program at Regis. I will never forget the first day of our Mentoring Group classes and JJ giving us the percentages of students who finish classes but fail to finish the final project (thesis). It was a ridiculously high number, and I recall thinking why would someone put in all that work and not finish. Well, 6 years later, 4 years after I had finished my classes, I decided to go back and finish as JJ’s words always stuck with me. When I went in to sign up for the final Professional Presentation class, to my great surprise and luck, JJ was the instructor. He knew I had already worked on my final project as he helped me a couple times along the way. JJ helped expedite my project paper and was at my final presentation to complete my degree. JJ was such a huge support to his students, and I loved listening to his experiences from the “real world” of work. Thank you, JJ, and God bless JJ’s family.
Kevin Edinger

Kevin Edinger - January 04, 2023 at 05:12 PM

SH

“ I met JJ when he joined the WADSO (West African Development Support Organization) board when we were helping Fr. Marcel and then Fr. Francis to get their projects up and running. I will always remember his very “up and optimistic can do” attitude and very friendly and faithful nature. He was instrumental in helping our board get organized and fund raising started. He was a wonderful inspiration for all of us.

Steve Henry - January 04, 2023 at 04:49 PM

CL

“ JJ was one of the kindest and caring men I have ever known. He was our neighbor and friend for twelve years and a continuing host or visitor to our homes in the over twenty years since. JJ made us laugh until we cried and loved us like we were family. We cherish every memory and we will miss him dearly. Thank you Jim for all you have given. Sharon and your family will continue to be a part of ours and we will support them as you would in this time of sadness. Love you lots!

Cathy Love

Friend

January 4, 2023

Showing 1 - 1 of 1 results

Cathy Love - January 04, 2023 at 03:42 PM

TC

“ I am saddened by the death of a dear friend and colleague. I first met JJ when he taught me at Regis University. I learned much from JJ. He supported my work with restorative justice and encouraged me to create a website, which I did (www.rstorativejustice.com). That website led to the creation of a nonprofit organization, Restorative Justice Education (RJEEd). RJEEd is flourishing today. Also JJ was the person who supported my application to the PhD in education program at CSU. Thanks to JJ I was accepted into the program and later graduated.

So I am grateful to JJ for the professional success I enjoy today.

More importantly, I am grateful for his friendship.

JJ, may the Lord bless you and keep you and give you peace.

Tom Cavanagh

Tom Cavanagh - January 04, 2023 at 02:11 PM