



Lawrence Frank Johnsey Jr.

November 7, 1952 - May 11, 2026

Lawrence Frank Johnsey Jr., known affectionately as "Larry" or "Doodle," a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and a humble servant of the Lord, passed away peacefully on May 11, 2026, at the age of 73. Born on November 7, 1952, to Lawrence and Margie Johnsey, Larry grew up with a deep appreciation for hard work and family values. He attended Jones Valley High School before answering the call to serve his country. In 1971, he joined the United States Coast Guard, where he served with honor and distinction for four years.

A man of unwavering faith, Larry was a cornerstone of the First Baptist Church of Mount Olive for over 30 years. His devotion to his church was expressed not only through his presence in the pews but through his hands; he spent countless hours performing building maintenance, ensuring the house of the Lord was cared for with the same diligence he applied to every aspect of his life. For Larry, family was the greatest earthly treasure, held second only to his deep and personal relationship with his Lord and Savior. An avid outdoorsman, Larry found peace in nature. Whether he was hunting in the quiet woods or fishing on a still lake, he cherished the beauty of God's creation.

Larry is survived by his wife of 34 years, Grace; his sister Sandra (Terry) McGuire, his daughters Joy (Chris) Ballenger and Jill (Greg) Dykes, and step-son Brad (Jessica) Galloway. He was a proud grandfather to nine and a great-grandfather to three and also survived by a host of nieces and nephews. The family wishes to express their sincere appreciation to their niece, JoAnn Ingram, for her tireless love and support of Larry and Grace.

He was preceded in death by his parents and six of his siblings: Amos Boothe, Betty Armstrong, Mildred Morris, Jimmy Ray Boothe, Walter Johnsey, and Mary Lee McMillian, as well as numerous beloved extended family members and in-laws.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to the First Baptist Church of Mount Olive Building Fund, 4401 Mt. Olive Road, Mt. Olive, AL 35117. This contribution will honor Larry's memory by supporting the maintenance and growth of the church he loved and served so faithfully.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday May 13, 2026 from 5-7 pm at Gardendale Heritage Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at First Baptist Church Mount Olive on Thursday May 14, 2026 at 11:30 with burial to follow at Alabama National Cemetery in Montevallo at 2pm.

Cemetery Details

Alabama National Cemetery

3133 Hwy 119
Montevallo, AL 35115-8632
(205) 665-9039

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 13. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Gardendale Heritage Funeral Home
2214 Decatur Highway
Gardendale, AL 35071
(205) 631-8810
gardendalefuneralhome2@gmail.com

Funeral Service

MAY 14. 11:30 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church Mount Olive
3200 Mt. Olive Road
Mt. Olive, AL 35117

Burial

MAY 14. 2:00 PM (CT)

Alabama National Cemetery
3133 Hwy 119
Montevallo, AL 35115-8632
(205) 665-9039

Tribute Wall



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Lawrence Frank Johnsey Jr..*



May 13 at 05:02 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Lawrence Frank Johnsey Jr..

May 13 at 05:02 PM

MC

“ Growing up with an uncle only 16 months older than you was like having an older big brother. He was the best son, uncle, friend, brother and a man who loved his Mama more than life itself.

He never meet a stranger and truly loved and put his family first before himself always.

His reunion in Heaven is still going on with a celebration heard through the clouds. I can see PeeWee and Robin when Doodle got to them. Hugging and so happy to be together again.

His forever loving smile, encouraging words, and unconditional love will live forever in my heart. I love you, Doodle thank you for spending your life time with me and loving my family. You will be forever missed, til I see you again.



MaryJane Criddle Caudle - May 12 at 11:58 PM

PW

Yes doodle was meet with a lot of family in heaven

Patricia wallace - May 14 at 03:15 PM

SB

“ *best grandpa ever, it was never a dull moment around him! love you endlessly*



Sarah Ballenger - May 12 at 01:40 PM

RH

“ *Love you forever...my Momma was so happy to see her little brother!*



Rhonda McMillian Hockersmith - May 12 at 12:18 PM

ZG

“ *The most deserving of the title “grandpa”. I’ll love you forever. Thank you for all the life lessons you’ve taught me. Dedication, perseverance, how to love others no matter the circumstances and so much more.*



Zoey Galloway-granddaughter - May 12 at 11:51 AM