

Donald Eugene Johnson

May 4, 1927 - January 17, 2018

Donald Johnson left this world and entered his heavenly home from San Antonio. He was born in Denver, Colorado and grew up in Wellington, Tx, a quintessential American small town where he made lifelong friends. He learned to play the trumpet in the Wellington Skyrocket band and earned a place in the Army Band during WWII. He was based in San Francisco where he performed in parades and concerts.

Don learned auto mechanics at his dad's car dealership, Johnson motors in Wellington. He also began trading and selling cars at age 14 and always found good deals and drove cool vehicles. He loved Hudson cars and a red 1954 Hudson was a family treasure for more than 25 years. Don founded the South Texas Hudson club and served as the first president of the club. He enjoyed traveling to state and national Hudson meets.

In his 30s Don began racing outboard motorboats. He also built and modified the engines for runabouts and hydroplanes. In 1957 and 1960 Don won world champion trophies as a boat racer. Traveling to weekend races all over Texas was a family affair.

In his 40s Don became a licensed pilot and bought a Cessna 180 airplane. This made family visits to the Texas panhandle to visit grandma much easier since the normal 7-hour trip could be made in the plane in 2 hours.

Don loved Southern gospel music and attended many concerts over the years. Special favorites were the Statesmen with Jake Hess and the Imperials with Armand Morales. He also enjoyed Ray Price and big band music and attended concerts by the Air Force band of the West until 2016.

Don's dad introduced him to golf in Wellington where they played on sand greens. He continued to play golf until he shot his age on every public course in San Antonio in his 70s.

Don owned and successfully managed a variety of businesses during his lifetime including a furniture rental business, a motel, a hamburger stands, a donut shop, a laundry and cleaners, a cafeteria and Texas Battery and Electric. He was a member of Lovera Baptist Church in San Antonio.

The family donated Mr. Johnson's last trumpet to the Wellington High School Skyrocket band.

After several years of declining health the family rejoices that he is healed, whole, and in heaven with Jesus and playing his trumpet in the heavenly band.

A graveside service was held in Wellington, Texas on Monday, February 19, 2018 where Mr. Johnson was buried next to his mother and father. Pastor Mark Smith of Wellington First Baptist Church officiated, and Adams Funeral Home in Wellington provided burial services.

Mr. Johnson was preceded in death by his parents, Matt and Edith Johnson, his sister, Mary Jane Simons, his wife Ardis Johnson, and his nephew Kyle Simons.

He is survived by his daughters Kathy Crane and Joni Adams (Mike), grandchildren Jana Mendoza, Nikki Masson (John), Brandon Adams and Stefani Holland (Justin), great grandchildren Callie, Connor and Cameron Masson, niece Julie Shillings (Jeff) and nephew Rob Simons and young golf friends Michelle and Flower Castillo.

Donations may be made to First Tee, 915 E. Mulberry, San Antonio, TX, 78212. (First Tee is a youth development organization that helps to shape the lives of young people from all walks of life teaching values like integrity, respect and perseverance through the game of golf.)





