



## Kent Johnson

July 31, 2020

Johnson, Mr. Kent, age 57, of Knoxville, TN passed away peacefully at his home, Friday, July 31, 2020 after battling cancer. He is the son of Dr. Joe and Mrs. Patricia Johnson. Kent was a 1981 graduate of Bearden High School. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in History at the University of Tennessee. Vocationally, he used his talents as an announcer for UT Track and Field and as a videographer for Knoxville Public Television. Kent was known to many in our community and in his online community for providing support to those struggling with mental health. He pursued and shared research on CTE related to concussions in youth sports. Kent possessed a brilliant mind and delighted in the discourse on topics of family, religion, politics, CTE, and music. Kent is survived by his parents, Joe and Pat Johnson; sister Kelly Johnson Harlin; brother-in law, Bill Harlin; nephews, Luke and Tucker Harlin. Special thanks to family friend, Vivian Madden; cousin, Jim Pinckley; UT Hospice; SCHAS caregivers Pam, Mary, Brenda, and Carvin for their attentiveness in his final days. The Johnson family will hold a private ceremony in Kent's honor. To celebrate Kent's memory, contributions may be made to the Friends of the Smokies, 3099 Winfield Dunn Pkwy #2, Kodak, TN 37764 or the UT Track and Field program, Brenda Lawson Athletic Center | 1551 Lake Loudoun Blvd. Knoxville, TN 37996 | (865) 974-1218 | TNFund@utk.edu . Online condolences may be sent to [www.rosemortuary.com](http://www.rosemortuary.com) . Arrangements provided by Rose Mortuary Mann Heritage Chapel.

# Comments

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“ I am very sorry for the loss of your son, Dr, and Mrs. Johnson. He will be very much missed.

Rose Marie Fructuoso

Rose Marie Fructuoso - August 14 at 12:42 AM

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“ To Kent's parents,

I am so very sorry you lost your son.

Kent was an extraordinary man. I wish his family to know how very much he was loved and respected by so many.

I also want you to know how much he helped other people.



Robin Markowitz - August 06 at 07:42 AM

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“ Dear Dr. Joe and Pat,

We are so very sorry for the loss of your son. I can't imagine the pain you must be feeling, but I know God will be with you both and all of the Johnson family. I graduated with Kent at Bearden and dad taught him history at UT. He is in a much better place.

David and Dr. Paul Pinckney

David Pinckney - August 05 at 08:33 PM



“ May care and love of those around you provide comfort and peace to get you through the days ahead. My most sincere condolences.

Martina Marty

Martina Marty - August 05 at 09:07 PM

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“ Joe and Pat:

We were saddened to learn of Kent's death. We pray you, as well as Kelly and her family, will be comforted by the memories of his life and by the grace of God.

Dewey and Frances Fogerson

Dewey Fogerson - August 05 at 03:37 PM

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“ Joe & Pat:

Sorry to learn of your son's death. May God grant you the strength and grace to endure your loss.

David & Rosalind Sharp

David E. Sharp - August 05 at 12:17 PM

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“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Kent Johnson.



August 05 at 10:28 AM

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“ My sincerest condolences to your family. My heart is hurting for the loss of this amazing man, so I know yours must be broken. He was a kind, compassionate, brilliant man, and he will be missed. I loved his political insights, and boy did he have Orange Satan's number. He became part of my tribe - those of us who dare to be openly liberal in many beliefs in the Bible Belt. His humor and genuine caring will be missed. Blessings, joy, and peace on your journey my friend. Namaste. Love, Lisa Snodgrass Kistler

Lisa Kistler - August 04 at 09:48 PM

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“ Having moved away from Knoxville fifty years ago I do not have memories of Kent for most of his life. My memories are of Kent as a child. I remember babysitting a wonderful little boy who would later be the ring bearer in my wedding. How I loved that little boy!  
Bill and I send our love and sympathy.  
Mary Janice

Mary Janice Luzier - August 04 at 10:22 AM

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“ My condolences to Kent's family. You must have done something very right, very good, because Kent was an extraordinary thinker, a true Enlightenment thinker, in an age filled with superficial and nonsensical commentary. He could be searingly honest, a warrior for rational truth. Yet he was also a sensitive guy, a good person, a compassionate person. I know he thought very highly of the character of his father (his mother, too, I am sure), and he drew on all sources: his intellect, his heart, his experience. Kent will be terribly, terribly missed. The world does seem darker without him. I am so grateful i was able to follow him for so long on social media. Thank you, Kent.

Kathryn Ruud - August 03 at 11:09 PM

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“ Uncle Joe, Aunt Pat, Kelly and Bill - Kent was one of the most intelligent people I've ever met. His knowledge of politics, history and Knoxville were fascinating. Listening to him tell old stories about Knoxville history and legends could keep one spellbound. My prayers go out to each of you. He will be dearly missed. -Jim Pinckley

Jim Pinckley - August 03 at 06:27 PM



“ My condolences to the family. I only cared for him one night, but he made an impression. He was a kind soul. Praying for peace.  
Sharlene, SCHAS

Sharlene - August 03 at 07:09 PM

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“ Deepest sympathy.  
  
Martha Williamson

Martha Williamson - August 03 at 04:55 PM

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“ I never knew you, but I know your son Bob. And if you raised a son that is as Godly of a man as he then you must've been a grate man. I look forward to meeting you one day in Heaven where we can rejoice together! My condolences to your family, and may they fine peace in Christ! Melvin & Candi Wright

**Melvin T. Wright** - August 03 at 10:47 AM

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“ Dear Dr. Joe and Pat, I am so very sorry for the loss of your son. I can't imagine the pain you must be feeling, but I know God will be with you both and all of the Johnson family! Kent isn't here on earth, but he will always be with you in your hearts and memories. May God bless you all. Robin Haefs

**Robin Haefs** - August 03 at 10:09 AM

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“ Joe, Pat and Kelly, I am so sad for Kent's passing and my heart goes out to you all. I have terrific memories of us as kids and have admired his wit and passion as we connected through social channels as adults. Condolences ton behalf of me and my father. My mom passed away in 2016. Love to all. Dana Coleman, Nashville

**Dana Coleman** - August 03 at 09:16 AM



“ Dr Joe, Pat and Kelly,  
We are so saddened by the loss of Kent , your son and brother.  
Our prayers are that you would feel the love and support of friends and God's peace that passes all understanding now and in the days ahead.  
Love, Melinda and Joe Connell

**Melinda Connell** - August 03 at 11:51 AM

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“ Joe & Pat so sorry for the loss of your son. Our prayers are with you! Chris & Joyce Crisp

**Joyce Crisp** - August 03 at 09:16 AM

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“ Joe and Pat  
Sorry to hear of Kent's passing. Pease be with you.  
Monty and Mary Montgomery

**monty montgomery** - August 03 at 07:27 AM



“ Dear Joe and Pay my heart is so sad for you. I send prayers for your comfort and peace and may you be especially close in God's arms.

**Sherry Fisher Tarwater** - August 03 at 11:35 AM

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“ To our dear Johnson family....we are saddened at the loss of Kent. We send you our prayers and hugs.

The Harringtons

**Norma M Harrington** - August 03 at 07:00 AM

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“ I admired Kent greatly and shared an online friendship with him over the past several years. He was one of the most influential reporters and voices in the online community regarding health and safety concerns related to youth and high school football.

His commitment and passion was a voice for good, and his research and reporting of injuries was used in national media stories. He really did make the world better, and I hope he was proud of that.

My prayers are with his family and loved ones. Kent was a good man and I will miss seeing his smart and insightful words.

**Jim Hoffman** - August 03 at 12:15 AM



“ I was one of Kent's high school English teachers. He was a brilliant and fine young man.

**Judy Arnold** - August 05 at 12:11 AM

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“ Kent was a great man, and this news hurts. He taught me so much about football and the brain, but more than that he taught me about making a difference when making a difference was not easy. Rest in peace, Kent.

**Greg Ransom** - August 02 at 11:19 PM

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“ Joe & Pat, I was shocked today to learn of Kent's passing. He was one of my favorite people. I think fondly of our many hikes together and our work together at WSJK-TV. He could do it all in TV from camerawork, writing and on-camera talent. He even substituted for me as Willy Monkey during a fundraising period. I was jealous. He was wilder than me!

We now live near Charleston, S.C and I have thought of our times together when he helped me chaperone my son and some of his friends at paintball wars in Union County.

He was a true brilliant one-of-kind friend.

My condolences to you both.

Toby Sharpe

**Toby Sharpe** - August 02 at 02:31 PM



“ Dr Joe and Pat. We just learned of your son's passing. Please know that we are so sorry and sending prayers for you and family. Nancy and Dale Overton

**Nancy Overton Trustee Emerti 1990-1996** - August 02 at 09:00 PM

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“ Rest in peace, Kent. You have had a profound impact on my life and so many others who had the pleasure of knowing you! You definitely will be missed. Rest In Peace until we all meet again on the other side

Lisa Parton RMA

**Lisa Parton** - August 01 at 07:25 PM

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“ We met on FB and I'm so glad we did as we basically had the same sense of humor. He was an exceptional person and I admired his honesty with his struggles and yet, kept his sense of humor. Smart, Articulate and Vulnerable... I will miss his candor and talking with him. Peace to Kent and family <3

**bunny missbrenner** - August 01 at 06:28 PM

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“ Kent was a virtual friend of mine. He had a brilliant mind and vast knowledge in many areas. What he wrote was thoughtful and most often thought provoking. I will miss his posts on Facebook. I mourn his passing. My sympathies to his family.

**Pat Blain Nelson** - August 01 at 05:30 PM



“ Kent was a classmate at Bearden High School. We often "competed" for academic achievement even if not knowingly. He was someone I respected even though we didn't really each other well until this last year of his life. I was visiting another mutual friend, Christine Adams, last year and she arranged for us to catch up with Kent after all these years (almost 40) and that is where the real "friendship" began. Kent was one to challenge us, to not sit comfortably with the uncomfortable. You could not be his friend and be unchanged. I am very grateful to his, albeit brief, input into my life. Very glad I finally got to know him beneath the surface.

**Sharon Robinson** - August 01 at 11:06 PM



“ I pray That you should know no further sorrow. My heart aches for you.

**David York** - August 02 at 08:05 AM



“ Prayers for the Johnson/Harlin family. Kent was such a wonderful young man. I know you will miss him. I called Mom and Dad today to tell them. We are all sending virtual hugs and love.

Know that West TN and Middle TN friends are praying for you all.

Temple Crain Stevenson, Floyd and Joann Crain

**Temple Stevenson** - August 02 at 02:08 PM



“ Thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this time of loss. There are many fond memories of Kent and his ability to think deeply, laugh, and enjoy simple things. May God's peace be upon you. With love from Al and Linda Behel

**Al Behel** - August 02 at 02:23 PM



“ Pat and Joe: Diane and I were so sorry to hear of Kent's passing. While we did not know him very well, you are two of our favorite people, and we extend our sincerest sympathies to you.

**Tom Ballard** - August 02 at 07:31 PM



“ I had the pleasure of working with Kent on ETPBS' Scholars Bowl. He was a kind, intelligent person who was always a professional. I am very sorry to learn of his death. My sympathies to you all, Dr. Johnson.

**Diana Morgan** - August 03 at 08:44 AM



“ My heart goes out to you both in this time of grief and I pray that the memories of your son and what a good man he was sustain you and bring you solace.

**Caula Beyl** - August 03 at 01:33 PM