



The following is a slightly edited obituary for Larry:

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Joseph Larry Johnson died Saturday, Jan. 14, 2006, at Lafayette General Medical Center just short of his 75th birthday.

Larry was born Feb. 3, 1931, in Jackson, Tenn. to Joseph Laurent and Madge Roberts Johnson. His father enjoyed several successful coaching years at Freed-Hardeman University and later at Lambuth College in Jackson, and was inducted in 1984 into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame. After he left the coaching profession for the business world, the family moved frequently and Larry attended schools in various Tennessee and Georgia cities. He graduated from high school in 1948 in Marietta, Ga. and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He married his high school sweetheart, Jane Shaw, and they resided in California until his discharge in 1951. Larry became a University of Texas Longhorn in 1954, graduated with a degree in Petroleum Engineering, and remained an ardent fan of Longhorn sports to the end of his life.

Larry pursued a career in the petroleum industry through various companies, culminating in the establishment of his own business, Johnson Manufacturing, Inc., which operated successfully in Lafayette for several years before it was dissolved due to health considerations.

Larry was a distinguished member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers, receiving a letter in October advising that he had been named to

the SPE Legion of Honor in recognition of his 50 years of active membership. He was a member of Asbury United Methodist Church, where he served as usher, Eucharistic Minister, Planning Committee member, and president of the Friendship Sunday School Class. Until recently he had been an avid golfer at Oakbourne Country Club. He will be sadly missed by his immediate family, his Asbury Methodist Church family, his golfing partners, a large circle of friends, and many business associates within the petroleum industry. Larry dearly loved his families, both old and new; his friends, both old and new; and his long-time co-workers and business associates. He also loved his church and his Lord and he tried to serve both.

Survivors include his wife of 3 1/2 wonderful years, Patricia Wood Johnson; two daughters, Mary Caroline Flynn, of Bothell, Wash. and Victoria Wallace, of Lafayette; one son, Thomas Johnson and wife, Elizabeth, of Lafayette; eight grandchildren, Cathy Soncrant, Scott Soncrant, Caitlin Flynn, Shannon Johnson, Thomas Johnson, Timothy Bean, Mathew Bean, Joseph Wallace; two great-grandchildren, Cayla and Sofia Soncrant; one sister, Lynn English and husband, Bill, of Swainsboro, Ga.; and the five children and nine grandchildren of his second wife, all of whom loved and admired him.

He was preceded in death by his first wife of 48 years, Jane Shaw Johnson; his parents, Laurent and Madge Johnson; and his brother, Robert Johnson, of Jackson, Tenn.

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I have a few words to add of my own.

I had the honor to be Larry's friend and oil industry associate for almost 20 years. Larry had a way of living life that made you want to be the best person that you could be. He was one of the most generous, supportive, productive and happy people I have ever known. He smile glistened, his wit was sharp, his laugh infectious and I shall miss him terribly. If anyone ever had a harsh word about him, they were wrong.