



Bruce Johnston

September 14, 2020

Bruce Johnston, 67, of Carneys Point, NJ, passed peacefully into heaven on September 14, 2020. Bruce was the third son born to Clarence and Thelma (née Smith) Johnston. Bruce is survived by his father Clarence, wife Sandra, daughters Kelly Johnston and Kari Kille, son-in-law Patrick Kille, three grandchildren: Owen, Rory and Madeline Kille, brothers James (Gloria), and John (Lynne), numerous nieces and nephews, and great-nieces and nephews. Bruce was predeceased by his mother, Thelma Johnston.

Bruce's loves were Family, God, Flying and Farming. Bruce joined the Delaware Army National Guard (DEANG) in 1972 at the age of 19. He later became employed full-time by the DEANG and worked there for nearly 41 years until his retirement at the end of 2012. Bruce served in the following roles with the DEANG throughout his years of service working with airplanes and helicopters, retiring at the rank of CW5 (Chief Warrant Officer 5): helicopter mechanic, crew chief, aircraft maintenance inspector, test pilot, maintenance test flight evaluator, instructor pilot, pilot and detachment commander.

Bruce was known to volunteer for deployments, hoping that he could spare other soldiers with young families the difficulty of separation and risk. Bruce's concern for the needs of others was always at the forefront of his mind. Continuing in his desire to serve others, following his retirement from the

Army, Bruce began flying for local companies providing medevac services. Most recently, he was a member of the JeffStat4 crew based in Woodbine. Bruce also enjoyed flying his plane in his spare time, landing on the grass airstrip he created on the family farm and taking family members and anyone else who wanted to go for airplane rides.

Bruce's talents were many and diverse. To his family and the many people he regularly helped, he could do just about anything with great proficiency. Bruce was the perpetual teacher, always willing to share his knowledge and experience on a myriad of subjects with others. Bruce could always be found working on a project when he was not working. He enjoyed maintaining the family farm with his father Clarence, helping others in any way he could, and serving as a volunteer for Meals on Wheels.

Graveside service, open to the public, will be held on Saturday, September 19, 2020, at 10:00am at the Lawnside Cemetery in Woodstown, NJ.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations may to be made to Meals on Wheels of Salem County: Meals on Wheels of Salem County, 90 Market Street, Salem, NJ 08079.

Cemetery Details

Lawnside Cemetery

Rt. 40
Woodstown, NJ 08098

Previous Events

Graveside

SEP **19**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Lawnside Cemetery
Rt. 40
Woodstown, NJ 08098

Tribute Wall

DD

“ To my friend,
We had many exciting times flying Hueys, Blackhawks, and the C12 over the past 35 years. During our deployment to Iraq we trained hard to prepare the crewmembers for the combat tour. You pushed all of us. You wanted everyone to be the very best. They were, and everyone made it home safely.
You were always ready, always there. You never asked any of us to do anything that you would not do yourself. That is the sign of a true leader.
We are all still feeling the shock and sorrow of your passing. But deep down inside we know that you are still here with us teaching, mentoring, and pushing us to be the very best.
Army Aviation “Above the Best”

David Dale - September 25, 2020 at 11:00 PM

NC

“ My husband Bob and I both served with Bruce in the DE National Guard. We were always impressed with his professionalism, expertise, and his kind manner. I remember asking him many questions about electronics and he always took the time to answer them for me. I remember doing autorotations in the Huey with Bruce, always a thrill. He will be missed for the kind gentleman he always was with everyone. May God welcome Bruce and comfort his family during this difficult time. Our prayers are with you.



Nancy Conner - September 20, 2020 at 10:39 AM

SL

“ I have known Bruce for my entire career as an aviation mechanic. I worked with him at keystone medflight and med-trans. Bruce was not only an amazing pilot and coworker but also an incredible person who taught me not only about aviation but about life. He would talk to me when I was stressed or pressed to get the job done. He was always there with me washing the helicopter while I worked on it. There were quite a few times where I would call Bruce and have him meet me at the trailer or out in the hangar for someone to bounce troubleshooting ideas off of. Or sometimes it was to threaten to take his Leatherman away. He was truly an inspiration, mentor, and friend. I will miss him and will be placing the card I received at his funeral today in my go bag and he will take a last flight across the country with me to Las Vegas and back in the helicopter I maintain and then it will be placed on my toolbox so he will always be working with me.

To his family my deepest condolences and know that I will do my best to keep his working spirit alive.

*Miss you Bruce,
Stephanie Land*

Stephanie Land - September 19, 2020 at 01:10 PM

SB

“ So sorry for your loss. God Bless you and your family.
Suzanne Burdsall

Suzanne Burdsall - September 18, 2020 at 11:23 PM

MS

“ To the Johnston Family:

Deep condolences as I share your loss of a wonderful human being, professional aviator, soldier and most of all a bonafide friend. Bruce worked for/with me at Keystone Med-Flight and was very loyal, honest, professional and reliable..which I am sure you know. I will miss our chats, catching up and telling stories that made us laugh outloud. I could always ask Bruce for feedback..as you know he was less than shy to challenge and help solve the problem, any problem.

Godspeed to the family...we shared many a story of caring for our aging parents.

Mike Slattery

Michael Slattery - September 18, 2020 at 02:02 PM

SC

“ Kelly,

I am so very sorry to hear about your father's passing. He was so very young and his life was full and beautiful. These will be beautiful memories for you and your family to remember always and forever.

My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during these difficult times.

Susan Carducci

Susan Carducci - September 18, 2020 at 01:53 PM

TR

“ *The Gilligan's :Sean, Melissa,Cameron, Ryan&Shane purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Bruce Johnston.*



The Gilligan's :Sean, Melissa,Cameron, Ryan&Shane -
September 18, 2020 at 01:07 PM

DF

“ *Dear Sandy and family, I was shocked to read of Bruce's passing. Praying for peace for your family. Sadly, Debbie Fredo and family.*

Debbie Fredo - September 18, 2020 at 08:36 AM

AH

“ *I know where Bruce is now because I know he knew and trusted in Jesus Christ. so he is now rejoicing with his Lord and Savior. He and his Mom and Dad were examples of real Christian love. The lives he touched, like mine, treasure the memory of Bruce. Aleasa Hogate*

Aleasa Hogate - September 18, 2020 at 07:43 AM

RR

“ *Rest In Peace Bruce. Condolences to the Johnston family. I worked with him at MidAtlantic MedEvac and JeffSTAT. He was the first pilot I met when I showed up. A Mentor, confidant, and friend, Bruce had my upmost admiration and respect. Every day he came to work, he looked for ways to make things better for everyone. Sending thoughts of Peace and Love. Ron Richards*

Ron Richards - September 18, 2020 at 07:29 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bruce Johnston.*



September 17, 2020 at 05:00 PM



“ *To the family, I worked with Bruce at Medevac. Unfortunately I cannot attend on Saturday to pay my respects. My family sends our deepest condolences to your family. Bruce was a great man and always put our safety first. It was a pleasure flying with him and as a fellow veteran, we are thankful for his years of devoted service to our country. He was caring and always asked how my family was doing. God bless everyone in this difficult time. Jim Boyer and family*

Jim Boyer - September 17, 2020 at 04:30 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bruce Johnston.*



September 17, 2020 at 04:24 PM

GS

“ Rest in Peace my friend. Your commitment and dedication to the Soldiers of the Delaware Army National Guard, and all of the Army Aviation family, will never be forgotten. We all know you're in a better place today sporting that confident smile you always had, flying higher than ever before, well above those big white clouds that you always enjoyed soaring through. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of your family and friends.... CSM Gregory Symes

Gregory Symes - September 17, 2020 at 02:15 PM

TF

“ Kelly,
I am so sorry for the loss of your precious father. The transitioning of a parent is very hard because they are the first individuals who give us unconditional love that carry us throughout our lives. May that love, care and all the special moments you and your father shared sustain you at this time. According to the printed obituary, your father lived a full, beautiful life, and I am sure that beauty was spread to all who loved and knew him. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this time. Always remember, earth has no sorrow, that Heaven cannot heal.

Terry Fortson

Theresa Fortson - September 17, 2020 at 12:51 PM

EL

“ What a shock to see the obituary of my friend Bruce. Bruce and I go back to school days. The dirt bike riding thru the neighboring fields and the crazy car projects we and the local farm boys got into will never be forgotten. Our prayers are with the family in your loss. Bruce was the most giving friend I have ever had the privilege of knowing. RIP brother.

Ed Lenig - September 17, 2020 at 12:10 PM

DS

“ Kelly,
I am sorry for the loss of your father. May you find peace and comfort in all the wonderful memories shared with him. May he rest in eternal peace.
Dolly Speranza

Dolly Speranza - September 17, 2020 at 12:02 PM

JM

“ Rest in peace brave warrior. Gone but never forgotten. Thank you for keeping us safe flying. A good person and very knowledgeable.
Joe McNair

Joe McNair - September 17, 2020 at 10:55 AM

TB

“ Bruce and I go back to the early 70s when we were both mechanics at the Army Aviation Support Facility. Bruce was very meticulous and attention to details was foremost. We had some good times and some challenging times, but we all got through them together. Our career paths separated but our connection never did. This can be said for all aviators. Above the Best!

Tom Blakeley

TOM BLAKELEY - September 17, 2020 at 10:32 AM

RB

“ When I heard that Bruce had passed, it just took the air out of me. I flew a lot of hours with Bruce in the 70's and 80's. I will miss that infectious smile of his. R I P

Ron Bainbridge - September 17, 2020 at 09:41 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Bruce Johnston.*



September 17, 2020 at 08:42 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Bruce Johnston.*



September 16, 2020 at 06:04 PM



“ *During the last several years I have known Bruce I was always impressed with his work ethic, his willingness to help people and just his general kindness. He was the most decent man I have ever known and will be greatly missed. Condolences to all family members. It gives comfort to know he is forever with the Lord.
Carl Holmstrom*

Carl Holmstrom - September 16, 2020 at 02:01 PM