



Jefferson Lee Johnson

November 24, 1978 - October 15, 2024

Jefferson Lee Johnson, 45 took his sunset ride on his champion horse on Tuesday, October 15th 2024. Affectionally known as Lee, he was born on November 24th 1978 at the old Belize Hospital in Belize City, Belize to Johnny and Netty Johnson.

Lee moved with the family at a very young age to Carrizo Springs, Texas and grew up there. It was there in Carrizo Springs where he realized his true love for horses. Lee joined the Dimmit County Youth Rodeo Club and immediately started competing in horse related sports. After middle school, Lee's parents moved back to Belize where he attended Muffles High School. Adjusting and making many friends, Lee is remembered for his great outlook on life, his humor, his love of animals, infectious smile and adventurous spirit, but most of all his love of family and friends. After High School Lee moved back to his beloved Texas to attend college and that is where he found his life's passion, Show Jumping. Lee started training and jumping horses in the Beaumont area and his growth took him all over parts of East and Central Texas. As his career progressed, Lee challenged himself more and more. These challenges and successes took him out of his beloved Texas to Tennessee. In Tennessee is where Lee met the love of his life, Laura Gillespie and the two remained life partners. They made their home on the Tennessee/Alabama border in Athens, Alabama. At this time is where Lee really refined his skills as an excellent horse trainer and equestrian competitor. His competitions took him all over the United States and has produced many champion horses. In August of 2022,

his training and competitive skills were featured in Horse magazine (a national publication) for his great work. Though a very successful horseman and far from his home and family, Lee always kept in touch, sharing his successes and enjoying news from home. He and Laura traveled and saw many parts of the country, but Lee always claimed his favorite was his Texas. He enjoyed coming home to family events, especially those of his nieces and nephews. Lee is preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his partner Laura Gillespie of Athens, Alabama. 3 brothers and sisters in law; Dennis and Virginia Johnson of Montgomery, Texas; Ben and Amber Johnson of Beaumont, Texas; and Jimmy and Karina Johnson of College Station, Texas. Nieces; Kelsey Johnson, Abby Johnson, Minerva Olson, Victoria Johnson, Isabella Boules, Daryl Johnson, Olivia Johnson, Leah Osborne, Georgia Osborne and Bella Osborne. Nephews; Ryan Johnson, James Johnson, Reagan Johnson, Chilam Johnson. Austin Johnson and Zachary Johnson. Numerous friends, cousins and family

There will be a Celebration of Life visitation and praying of the Rosary on Saturday, October 26th at 1pm followed by a celebration of life Mass at 1:30 pm at St. Mary's Catholic Church at 8227 County Road 205, Plantersville, Texas 77363. Interment will follow at the Old Historic Cemetery in Montgomery, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to The Netty Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund. This scholarship was founded by Lee and his brothers in honor of their mother to provide scholarships for under privileged high school students in Belize. <https://theschoolbagfoundation.org/netty-johnson-scholarship/> You may leave written condolences to his family at www.shmfh.com

Cemetery Details

New Montgomery Cemetery

Old Plantersville Road & 105 West
Montgomery, TX 77356

Previous Events

Rosary

OCT **26**. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
8227 County Rd 205
Plantersville, TX 77363
(936) 894-2223

Mass

OCT **26**. 1:30 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
8227 County Rd 205
Plantersville, TX 77363
(936) 894-2223

Tribute Wall

TH

“ I took some lessons from Lee. He was fearless and could not understand that I was nothing but fear. He was a good, fun teacher! And handsome! Prayers for his family, friends and loved ones! He was so confident and loved horses! He will be missed in the horse world!

Trish Harmon - November 03, 2024 at 04:38 PM

NC

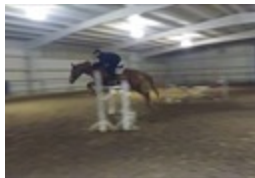
“ Nickie Clutts lit a candle in memory of Jefferson Lee Johnson



Nickie clutts - November 03, 2024 at 10:20 AM

KC

“ Lee was an incredible person, phenomenal horseman and trainer, wonderful friend - he will never be forgotten - he is gone in mortal body only, his spirit will live on! I know he will continue to look out over so many that he mentored and trained - both horses and people. Victory Alliance Ranch in Huntsville AL and Kolyakoldobika aka Khaos will treasure you always!



Karen M Chillcott - November 03, 2024 at 09:47 AM

TD

“ Horse people will understand when I say that Lee was a true horseman. To Lee, may each ride be better than the last.

Tana D - November 03, 2024 at 09:11 AM

JJ

“ James J. purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of Jefferson Lee Johnson.



James J. - October 24, 2024 at 10:33 AM

JJ

“ James J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jefferson Lee Johnson.

James J. - October 24, 2024 at 10:33 AM

DJ

“The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena...”
Theodore Roosevelt.

From the rodeo arenas of Southwest Texas as a kid and the corrals of Tiger Creek Ranch in Belize as a teenaged boy, to the most famous and competitive showjumping, hunting, and dressage arenas in the USA as a young adult and for the rest of his (way too short) life, Lee was most at home in the arena. That's where all the action is and that was where Lee excelled. Lee's passion and devotion combined with his mastery of horsemanship made for very smooth, effortless looking, and exciting rides.

The great showjumping trainer Cal Tipton (Olympics horse trainer) once remarked to me, with a smile on his face as he was watching his protégé Lee gracefully making his way around a showjumping arena in Estes Park, CO, "Watching Lee ride is like watching a beautiful waterfall. It just keeps flowing." That's exactly how Lee rode.

While a very handsome young man, Lee looked even better on a horse!

Many will forever remember his enthusiasm and selfless help toward others who wanted to ride. Lee gave a lot of his time to many who were interested in horses. All who knew Lee are heartbroken and devastated at his passing, sadly knowing that there is now a void which may never be filled.

Every ride I do for the rest of my life will be to honour you Lee...the best man and horseman I have known.

I loved you dearly and I will love your memory forever. Rest in Peace My Brother.

Dennis

Dennis Johnson - October 21, 2024 at 07:48 PM

KC

What a beautiful tribute - and so true - he will never be forgotten and memories of him and my horse treasured forever.

Karen Chillcott - November 03, 2024 at 09:51 AM