



## Johnny Harve Bingham

April 5, 1947 - January 12, 2025

Johnny Harve Bingham, age 77, left this life on the morning of January 12th, 2025, at home, after a brave battle with cancer. He was born April 5th, 1947, to L.E. and Irene Stribling Bingham in Reagan, TN. He was the oldest son in a sharecropping family that made their living in Reagan, Sardis, and Scotts Hill. He was a rough-and-tumble kid who busted another boy's lip on his first day of school for stealing his fruit, but he grew to be a tender-hearted man who would do anything he could to help others. He loved antique cars and fixed up several. When he frequented car shows or watched them on tv, he would typically say "I had one just like that!" to every other car. In his younger years, he was so into trading cars that his wife feared a different car might be waiting in the parking lot when she left work (It happened once!) He planted huge gardens and shared his vegetables with friends and family. He had a green thumb that kept his yard full of beautiful flowers. He appreciated the simple things in life like starting the day with a cup of coffee on the porch. He was a 1965 graduate of Sardis High School. He served 35 years in the Army National Guard (mostly in Henderson, Savannah, and Lexington) and retired as a first sergeant (E8.) He was a jack-of-all-trades with many jobs throughout his life including Holcomb Porter, Orkin, running a paper route, Goodyear, JC Penny Auto, Pyramid Life Insurance, Solutions Insurance, Johnson Controls, Speedy Lube, AmPharm, Save-A-Lot, and Industrial Paint Cleaning Services. He also started B&W Auto Sales with Randy White. He made lifelong friendships at every job. In his later years, he was known to wear colorful

suspenders and sport a Sam Elliot style mustache.

He was a devoted husband and father. He married his high school sweetheart, Debbie, in 1966 and took his vows very seriously. Debbie had many years of sickness. Johnny helped her through it all and eventually had to give her round-the-clock care. His love and dedication kept her alive and in good spirits far longer than medically thought possible. Johnny treated his nieces, nephews, and friends' children like they were his own. Joshua Welch and Melanie Millinder were two who especially had their Uncle Johnny's heart growing up. After Debbie's kidney transplant in 1987, the Bingham family was told they would never have children. In 1992, they were surprised with twins. The twins were early, and their son did not survive, but Johnny became the best dad to a Daddy's Girl he named Robyn Leigh. She was his little shadow, and he taught her to love classic cars, classic rock, coffee, camping, cultivating gardens, and camouflage. They probably rode a thousand miles on bicycles together.

He is survived by his daughter Robyn Schlichter and her husband Jeff, a brother: Danny (Sandy) Bingham, two sisters: Linda Cox and Martha Gail (William) Hayes, two aunts: Kathleen Halters and Helen Creasy, in-laws who were like siblings to him: Gene (Judy) Robertson, Phil (Anna) Robertson, and Edie (Barry) Stinnett, a lifelong friend who was like a sister, Pat Segoe, many cousins, beloved nieces and nephews, friends, and neighbors.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Debra Robertson Bingham, a niece, Daphne Simpson, and his infant son, Jonathan Gray Bingham.

In Oct 2022, after his wife died, Johnny decided to do something she had asked him to do for years. He quit smoking. Unfortunately, he discovered he had aggressive lung cancer in March 2024. The doctor said he had likely only

had cancer for three or four months, but it was already stage 4 and metastatic. He quickly went from independent and healthy to battling for his life. If he could go back in time, he would have smacked the cigarette out of that young army cadet's hand back in basic training. If you smoke, this is your sign to begin the process of quitting and talk to your doctor about lung screenings.

We know Heaven is a little brighter with Johnny there. He has probably already been making up for lost time with friends who went before him: drinking coffee on Warren Sego's back porch, fishing in Lanny Redding's pond, painting an antique car in Bruce Washburn's garage, riding around town with Noble Ray Duke, watching Christmas Vacation with Misty McPeake, catching up with all his national guard buddies, laughing with Susan Barber, and playing Rook with Bobby and Gail Roach or anyone else who will challenge him. The best moment has probably been seeing his wife walk again and meeting his son - a happy family reunion.

Visitation will be at Reeds Chapel in Lexington on Friday, January 17th from 4PM to 9PM and again on Saturday, January 18th from 10AM until the funeral. Funeral services will begin at 1PM on January 18th at Reeds Chapel in Lexington, TN. Burial will follow at Marls Bluff Cemetery in Sardis TN, with military honors. Matt Robertson and Jamie Smith will officiate.

Flowers are much appreciated as he beautified our world with them, but if you would prefer to make a donation to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Johnny's memory, he would also have loved that. Our family is very thankful for the wonderful medical staff we have met on this journey including those at Kirkland Cancer Center, Volunteer Home Care, TN Quality Care Hospice, and all our friends on A and B9 of Jackson Madison County General Hospital!

# Tribute Wall

JG

“ To Johnnys Family- My memory of Johnny: Johnny and I served together in the Tennessee National Guard- Our Battalion Commander thought It would be good training to send the Unit to South Dakota for winter training- To me, a waste of time and money- Our Commander sent the unit out to train in the field with the Temperature 30 below Zero- At the end of the week the Commander ordered us back to the barracks- I suppose, he seen the weather forecast- That weekend it went 95 degrees below Zero- I was in the staff barracks with the First Sergeant and etc. since I was in Supply- Oh my, it was so warm in our barracks- As I laid on my bunk I looked up and here come Johnny- He was looking for a warm quiet place to take a nap- He found a bunk sort of in the back of the barracks- Then fell he fell asleep in a heartbeat- Me, been a mischievous person that I was lol- I took some parachute cord and tied Johnny to the bunk for which he laid- He slept for about 2 or 3 hours the best I can recall- Oh Boy, when he woke up and he seen he was tied up to the bunk- He tried and tried and tried and finally he ask me to untie him- This was after he cooled off and all was good with Johnny- Of course, I know the family and his community will miss Johnny as I do-  
Helen Keller once said; "When it seems that our sorrow is too great to be borne, let us think of the great family of the heavy-hearted into which our grief has given us entrance. And inevitably, we will feel about us their arms, their sympathy, and their understanding.”

Sincerely: Wayne Garner (Army Ret. Sergeant Major) (TNSG Ret. Command Sergeant Major)

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james wayne garner - January 17, 2025 at 08:40 PM

CS

“ Cuz, Class Mate, Friend, Johnny You Will Be Missed, Proud to have had the pleasure of having you as all three. Carolyn Middleton Smith

Carolyn Middleton Smith - January 17, 2025 at 02:14 PM

DD

“ Johnny was a good man and I was honored to have known him. I worked with him and Lanny Redding at Bankers Life & Casualty back in the 80's.

Dale Dodd - January 17, 2025 at 10:02 AM

JM

“ Johnny was one of the nicest people I've ever known. He was an honorable man and I am proud to have known him. He was my brother's (Lanny Redding's) best friend for life. Sending love to and prayers for all the family. May you feel the comfort and care of our Lord and all the love of family and friends. Rest in peace, Johnny.



Joyce Redding Mitchell - January 16, 2025 at 02:47 PM

TV

“ Teresa Ventura lit a candle in memory of Johnny Harve Bingham



Teresa Ventura - January 15, 2025 at 07:03 PM



“ Mike Alexander sent a virtual gift in memory of Johnny Harve Bingham



Mike Alexander - January 14, 2025 at 06:12 AM

SR

“ Shelia Roach lit a candle in memory of Johnny Harve Bingham



Shelia Roach - January 14, 2025 at 04:46 AM

SR

*I knew Johnny through his beautiful wife Debbie He was a wonderful person. I know he will be greatly missed*

Shelia Roach - January 14, 2025 at 04:48 AM

SR

*I knew Johnny through his beautiful wife Debbie. He was a sweet and wonderful person who will be greatly missed*

Shelia Roach - January 14, 2025 at 04:50 AM

SM

“ Sue McPeake lit a candle in memory of Johnny Harve Bingham



Sue McPeake - January 13, 2025 at 10:09 PM

NS

“ *Neasha Vineyard Smith lit a candle in memory of Johnny Harve Bingham*



Neasha Vineyard Smith - January 13, 2025 at 10:07 PM



“ *Johnny was one of my dad's most beloved friends. They were insurance partners for many years and close friends all their lives. Many fishing adventures and crazy stories were shared over 50+ years. He was a great man and I'm privileged to have known him. I'll miss you greatly Johnny.*

Andy Redding - January 13, 2025 at 09:14 PM

RC

“ *Johnny was a great man, he was dedicated to the Tennessee National Guard. He will be dearly missed.*

Russell Clayton - January 13, 2025 at 08:12 PM

MD

“ *Johnny became my best friend over the past 40 plus yrs. He will be greatly missed by so many. Heaven gained a VERY SPECIAL ANGEL and now he can rest. Love ya my friend.*



Marti Davis - January 13, 2025 at 07:37 PM

RO

“ Johnny was a great boss at Johnson controls. He was one of the few I honestly liked. Prayers for his family.

Ruby OGuinn - January 13, 2025 at 07:36 PM

JN

“ James Kientz And Nina lit a candle in memory of Johnny Harve Bingham



James Kientz and Nina - January 13, 2025 at 06:35 PM

TV

“ Teresa Ventura lit a candle in memory of Johnny Harve Bingham



Teresa Ventura - January 13, 2025 at 04:50 PM

TV

I worked with Johnny at Johnson control he was one of the best bosses you could ever have

Teresa Ventura - January 13, 2025 at 04:52 PM



“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Johnny Harve Bingham.



January 13, 2025 at 04:49 PM

PG

“ *Pamela Gayer lit a candle in memory of Johnny Harve Bingham*



**Pamela Gayer** - January 13, 2025 at 04:38 PM

DG

*Sad to see Johnny passed. He was one of my favorite people to visit when I went to TN.*

**Donna Gardner** - January 13, 2025 at 05:19 PM

WT

“ *Wiese USA - Jackson, TN purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Johnny Harve Bingham.*



**Wiese USA - Jackson, TN** - January 13, 2025 at 04:20 PM

BM

“ *Johnny was a special friend, went to school with him & Debbie. Worked with him at JCI and after we retired we had lunch at Reagan Cafe and talked about losing our spouses. He really loved his wife and daughter. He was one of the best.*



**Brenda Marr** - January 13, 2025 at 04:08 PM

GT

“ *Ginger Bowman Taylor lit a candle in memory of Johnny Harve Bingham*



**Ginger Bowman Taylor** - January 13, 2025 at 04:04 PM

SM

“ *Sandra Maness lit a candle in memory of Johnny Harve Bingham*



**Sandra Maness** - January 13, 2025 at 03:54 PM

GR

“ *Gina Roberts lit a candle in memory of Johnny Harve Bingham*



**Gina Roberts** - January 13, 2025 at 03:21 PM

DB

“ *Doris Buck lit a candle in memory of Johnny Harve Bingham*



**Doris Buck** - January 13, 2025 at 02:43 PM