



John Stephen Powell Jr.

July 13, 1936 - August 4, 2018

Coleman Funeral Home of Olive Branch

Mr. John Stephen Powell, Jr. succumbed to a brief but vicious battle with Alzheimer's disease on August 4, 2018, after a full and happy life of 82 years. A visitation will be held on Tuesday, August 7, 2018, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Coleman Funeral Home (6815 Parkview Blvd., Olive Branch, MS 38654). A funeral service will be held on Wednesday, August 8, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. in the Coleman Funeral chapel. Interment will follow at Pleasant Hill Cemetery on Pleasant Hill Road. Coleman Funeral Home of Olive Branch is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Powell, Jr. was born in Dumas, AR on July 13, 1936, during the Great Depression. He began his working life at age 13 when he ran two paper routes before starting school every day. Then he worked at a nearby dairy and other odd jobs after his school day ended to help support his mother and three sisters. At age 18, he married Shirley Padgett, and shortly thereafter he enlisted in the Air Force during the final stages of the Korean conflict. After his military service, he moved to Memphis where he began a 38-year career as an air traffic controller.

Mr. Powell moved to Mississippi and built a home for his family in Southaven. He loved horses and at one point had over twenty horses on his property. He

later moved back to Memphis, where he met, fell in love with, and later married Laura Crum. They moved east of Memphis and built a home and barn. A few years later they moved further east and built it all again. He loved to be outdoors, either working or simply enjoying the view, building a house or a barn, stretching fence, and watching the horses graze in the sun.

He leaves behind his two surviving sisters, Connie Powell Ferrell of Memphis, TN and Tommie Powell Harrison of Arlington, TN, his wife of 26 years, Laura Dunn Crum Powell of Pleasant Hill, MS, his children Steve Powell (Ginny) of Birmingham, AL, and Robbie Powell Key (Bob) of Pleasant Plains, AR, step-children Larry Crum (Stacey) of Lakeland, TN and Andrea Crum Sansone (Michael) of Memphis, grandchildren David Key (Kim) of Atlanta, GA, Tyler Powell (Krystal) of Wilmington, NC, Michal Beth Key Carter (JD) of Floral, AR, Margaret Adams Hill (Jason) of Hoover, AL, Larry Crum III of Lakeland, Mary Anne Powell of Birmingham, Noah Sansone of Memphis, and Valla Sansone of Memphis, and great-grandchildren Jack Powell and Addison Powell of Wilmington, NC.

Mr. Powell was preceded in death by his parents, John and Mary Powell.

He was cherished and adored in life, and he will be greatly missed.

Memorials and donations in his honor may be made to Methodist Hospice Residence at 6416 Quince Road, Memphis, TN, (901-818-2100), Oakland First Baptist Church, 8695 Highway 64, Somerville, TN 38068, or John's favorite charity, The Salvation Army (salvationarmy.org) .

Online condolences may be left on the Tribute Wall at www.colemanfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Pleasant Hill Cemetery

4046 Pleasant Hill Road
Olive Branch, MS 38654

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 7. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Coleman Funeral Home of Olive Branch
6815 Parkview Boulevard
Olive Branch, MS 38654
(662) 893-3900
info@colemanfuneralhome.com
<http://www.colemanfuneralhomeob.com>

Funeral Service

AUG 8. 11:00 AM (CT)

Coleman Funeral Home of Olive Branch
6815 Parkview Boulevard
Olive Branch, MS 38654
(662) 893-3900
info@colemanfuneralhome.com
<http://www.colemanfuneralhomeob.com>

Committal

AUG 8. 12:00 PM (CT)

Pleasant Hill Cemetery
4046 Pleasant Hill Road
Olive Branch, MS 38654

Tribute Wall

JW

“ Dear family of John Powell, I grieve with you and wish you peace in many happy memories of him. I was privileged to work with him at Memphis Air Traffic Control Center from 1989 until his retirement. Memphis is one of only 20 cities in the United States that has an ATC Center. Air Traffic Controllers today stand on the shoulders of controllers like John Powell. The job has a certain mystique and prestige that was built by controllers like John. With air traffic that was every bit as heavy and complex as today, but with significantly inferior radar and other technology, he did excellent work. His sense of humor relieved a lot of tension on the job. Air traffic controllers use their "operating initials" in controller to controller communications, and to this day, the initials JP mean a lot to many FAA employees in Memphis. It was an honor to know him, and he taught me a lot about ATC, as well as the proper way to swing a hammer! To the glory of God, may John Powell rest in peace. God bless you.

John Welborn - August 08, 2018 at 12:01 AM

ST

Thank you, John. What an unexpected treat it was to hear from you and so many other controllers as they shared their stories about my dad as well as sharing their love for him.

Steve - August 10, 2018 at 04:58 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Stephen Powell Jr..



August 07, 2018 at 09:51 PM

BH

“ J.P., you were one of the best.

RH

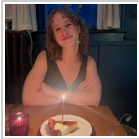
bob Harwood - August 07, 2018 at 07:36 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of John Stephen Powell Jr..



August 07, 2018 at 12:49 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Mary Anne Powell - August 06, 2018 at 10:15 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Life Tributes



Coleman Funeral Home - August 06, 2018 at 02:24 PM



“ 58 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Coleman Funeral Home - August 06, 2018 at 12:14 PM



“ *Heavenly and Harmony* was purchased for the family of *John Stephen Powell Jr.*



August 05, 2018 at 06:23 PM