



Keith Michael Johnston

August 15, 2025

Keith Michael Johnston, 50, of Spring Grove, VA, passed away on Friday, August 15, 2025. Keith was a devoted husband to his wife Mary (Beth) Cooper Johnston, a loyal friend, and dedicated public servant. His legacy of love, laughter, and service will continue to inspire all who knew him.

In addition to his wife, Keith is survived by his father-in-law and best friend Joseph “Eddie” Cooper and his wife Therese; father-in-law, John Vogt; brother-in-law, Adam Cooper and his wife Elizabeth, and niece Addison Cooper. Although his immediate family was small, Keith’s circle of love was wide, and he leaves behind many extended family members and dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Earl E. Johnston; brother, Kirk J. Johnston; and mother-in-law, Robin B. Vogt.

Keith proudly served his country in the United States Navy before continuing his life of service with the Portsmouth Police Department, where he retired as a Lieutenant after 25 years of service. His career reflected his deep sense of duty and his commitment to protecting others.

Keith was a man of quiet strength and boundless heart. He shared his life with his wife, Beth, his true companion and steadfast partner. Together, they built a life full of love, adventure, laughter, and the kind of shenanigans that made

every day brighter.

Beyond his work, Keith adored animals and found joy in the outdoors. Whether caring for his pets, exploring the natural world, or finding peace in the open air, he carried with him a deep respect of all living things and an appreciation for life's simple beauty.

Keith will be remembered for his integrity, his devotion to service, and the warmth he shared with those fortunate enough to know him. Most of all, he will be remembered by Beth for his enduring love, faithfulness, support, and dedication. His presence will be deeply missed, but his love and example will remain forever cherished.

A funeral to honor Keith will be held at Loving Funeral Home in Portsmouth on September 5, 2025, at 11:30am, with burial to follow at the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk. A reception will immediately follow the committal service.

In lieu of flowers, and in honor of Keith's memory, the family kindly requests donations to Disputanta Animal Hospital for the continued care of his beloved pets Oak, Scrap, Yeti, Scotch and Sake, or to Surry County Animal Shelter.

Cemetery Details

Albert G. Horton Veteran Cemetery

5310 Milners Road
Suffolk, VA 23434

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

SEP 5. 11:30 AM (ET)

Loving Funeral Home Churchland Chapel
3225 Academy Ave
Portsmouth, VA 23703

Tribute Wall

DL

“ Devery L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Keith Michael Johnston.

Devery L. - September 04, 2025 at 06:42 PM

SP

“ Speaker Don Scott, Mellanda & Peyton purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Keith Michael Johnston.



Speaker Don Scott, Mellanda & Peyton - August 31, 2025 at 11:10 PM

DW

“ I only met Keith once, but I could tell from that one meeting how kind, compassionate, and sweet he was. He also seemed to have a good sense of humor, and a special love for Beth. My sincere condolences go out to Beth and all of their family. Beth will always have another guardian angel looking out for her ❤️ We love you, Beth

Dianne Whitlock and family

Dianne T. Whitlock - August 25, 2025 at 04:25 PM

DB

“ You have our deepest condolences, we are Keith's cousins Debbie and Donna and my mother was his Aunt Sylvia his dad's sister, who spent lots of time with Keith and his family in Canada and Florida. From the Binns family Deborah 'Debbie', Donna, Christopher, Antoine and Allyn 'Tookie'

Deborah Binns-Robinson - August 22, 2025 at 09:59 AM

BE

Thank y'all so much! Keith would often talk about his Aunt Sylvia and Aunt Grace.

Beth - August 22, 2025 at 01:17 PM

MS

I am so sorry to hear this Beth. Keith was a very special person. I worked with him for several years in uniform patrol and my most fondest memories were his laughter. It was very contagious. He made me smile all the time and I will miss him very much. Rest in peace my friend.

Mary Shields - August 23, 2025 at 06:11 PM

KB

“ Beth, I am so very sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Kendra Burghard - August 21, 2025 at 08:49 PM

JC

“ KJ was my son-in-law and my best friend. We fished, traveled, horseraces...took a couple cruises Nascar races..and loved to go to lunch at Rosies....
Will miss him everyday..



Joseph Cooper - August 21, 2025 at 03:52 PM

DA

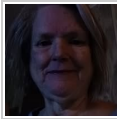
“ Dear Beth, I am so sorry to hear about your dear Keith's passing. My late Mom, Uncle Earl's oldest sister Grace Johnston Aubrey, would have been deeply saddened as well. I am truly grateful to cousin Arnold for letting us know. We will be keeping you and all the family in our prayers and thoughts. God bless and keep you.

Daurene Aunrey - August 21, 2025 at 03:51 PM

BE

Thank you so much Daurene. Keith talked often of his Aunt Grace and many wonderful childhood memories of her.

Beth - August 21, 2025 at 07:45 PM



My heart hurts for you, many prayers for your loss. Linda Crook

Linda Crook - September 03, 2025 at 08:57 PM

TT

“ T. T. Tanner lit a candle in memory of Keith Michael Johnston



T. T. Tanner - August 21, 2025 at 02:48 PM

JV

“ A fine young man gone way too soon. I could not have asked for a better son- in -law and I will miss him so much. RIP shipmate.

John vogt - August 21, 2025 at 11:34 AM

BE

“ Boobah! 💔

Beth - August 21, 2025 at 11:10 AM