



Allen W Johnston

May 16, 2010

Mr. A.W. "Bill" Johnston of Pawleys Island, SC died on Sunday, May 16, 2010. He was born August 21, 1925 in Brunswick, MD. son of the late William and Hazel (Ambrose) Johnston. He is survived by his only love and wife of 64 years, Shirley Bell of Pittsburgh, PA. and four children: Sherry Mitchell (Wayne) Avon, IN, Marilyn Agnew and William Johnston of Murrells Inlet, SC and David Johnston of Hixson, TN, eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. In the spring of his graduation year - Brunswick High School 1943 - he tried out for the Baltimore Orioles and was farmed out to the interstate league as catcher, but the war changed his plans. During World War II he served in the Marine Corps 1st Division 7th Regiment fighting in the battles at Peleliu and Okinawa as a demolition specialist. At the end of the war, he participated in the repatriation of the Japanese from North China. Bill played baseball for the 7th Regiment who later went on to win what they called The Little World Series where his catcher's mitt and big bat were standouts. His railroad career started with the B&O and he rose through the ranks serving as General Manager-Eastern Region in Baltimore, MD; Manager of the Washington Terminal Co. at Union Station, Washington, DC; General Manager-Western Region in Cincinnati, OH and General Manager-Central Region in Pittsburgh, PA. During that period, he represented the railroad industry on the Presidential Emergency Board on the arbitration of the railroad "firemen off" issue and also on the Presidential Board on the "shop craft" issues. He was selected to lobby state legislators for the repeal of the

full crew laws in the states of Ohio and Indiana and after several years, on all three counts, the railroads were successful. In January 1979, The Association of American Railroads Board of Directors elected him as Vice President of Operations and Maintenance representing the railroad industry on operating and safety issues, including the successful lobbying of congress for the elimination of cabooses on Class 1 Railroads. He retired from that position in August 1988 and relocated from Fairfax, VA to Litchfield, SC in September 1989. He has been a consultant to the Federal Railroad Administration on the Triad Missile Defense System (rail, sea, air) for the military. An active member of St. Paul's Waccamaw Community United Methodist Church, he has also has served in many community positions including President of the Litchfield Country Club POA, President of the Waccamaw Neck Council and Director of the Midway Fire and Rescue Board including four years as Chairman. He was also on The Board of Directors of the Washington Terminal Company, a subsidiary of Amtrak. He was awarded the honor of Distinguished Citizen for 1983 by his home town of Brunswick, MD. He was a member of the following lodges and organizations: The Masonic Lodge (62 years), The Scottish Rite, The Syrian Shriners, The First Marine Division, The China Marine Association, Past Commandant of the Grand Strand Detachment #873, Military Order of the Marine Corps Devil Dogs, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, National Rifle Association, Association of American Railroad Superintendents, Charter Member of The World War II Memorial, Washington, DC, National Republican Party, South Carolina State and Georgetown County Republican Parties, Railway Engineering Association and the National Defense Transportation Association. A memorial service will be held at St. Paul's Waccamaw United Methodist Church, Pawleys Island, South Carolina 11:00 AM. Saturday, May 22, 2010. Donations may be made to the Shriners Hospitals for Children. Sign a guestbook at www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com Goldfinch Funeral Home, Beach Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

Tribute Wall



“ Please accept my condolences to all the family. We have lost a great man and a much admired railroader.##imported-begin##Mark Popovich##imported-end##

May 24, 2010 at 10:27 AM



“ Although I never had the pleasure of knowing "Bill", as we worked in different parts of the combined railroads, I am sure he would have been a great person to have worked for and with. Our Condolences to the family for your great loss.##imported-begin##Harry and Pat Rodman##imported-end##

May 22, 2010 at 09:45 AM



“ As a Labor Represeetnative in Washngton, DC I worked with "Bill". played golf and enjoyed the wonderful relationship with this fine man. He was a credit to the industry and a fine masonic brother to many whonon knew him. "Bill" will be missed by his family.##imported-begin##August W. "Whitey" Westphal##imported-end##

May 22, 2010 at 09:06 AM



“ Deepest sympathy and condolencefaxing intel to the family.##imported-begin##Herbert Ray Samples##imported-end##

May 22, 2010 at 04:02 AM



“ The phrase, "the greatest generation" most certainly applies to Bill Johnston. An unsung hero who took on some of the toughest challenges in life and did it with a smile and a positive attitude, knew how to set an example and motivate others. He will be missed by so many whose lives he touched.##imported-begin##Janet Greenwald##imported-end##

May 22, 2010 at 12:56 AM



“ A dear WW II buddy, neighbor and friend, we will miss you and extend only love to his family. Shirley knows of the fun times we shared.##imported-begin##Bill & Meb Graves##imported-end##

May 21, 2010 at 09:29 PM



“ Mrs. Johnston - On behalf of the RABO Club, I extend our sincere sympathy on the passing of your husband Bill. Our members will remember him and your family in our prayers. Bill was a great railroader and is fondly remembered by his retired railroad friends. Glyndon L. Bailey President, RABO Club##imported-begin##Glyndon L. Bailey##imported-end##

May 21, 2010 at 09:10 PM



“ You couldn't know Bill and not love him. We were so fortunate to have him as a neighbor - We were so happy that he shared an oral history he did about his service in World War II. He was a hero in the Pacific as a marine and so proud of having been a marine and his service to his country. We sure could use more Bill Johnstons in this world - You will be missed.##imported-begin##Joan Dore##imported-end##

May 21, 2010 at 06:41 PM



“ I will miss Bill. We had many front yard and garage/driveway discussions of world problems and our solutions for them. Eventhough Bill was a political conservative and I am a political liberal we always found agreement on the problems and almost always agreed on the solution. We also lamented that our leaders coiuld not find the same common ground. Bill was a good neighbor, the best, caring. I was glad to be able to help Bill with some of his cancer related issues, since I had already been through them. I already miss that deep booming voice and the laughter. I know that his whole family will really miss him, especially Shirley, who he loved so much and worried about so much. I'll really miss Bill.##imported-begin##Darrel Dore'##imported-end##

May 21, 2010 at 05:22 PM



“ Shirley and Family, As you know Tom considered Bill a great friend and we enjoyed the many memories we have of the times we spent with both of you. Thinking of you and lifting you in prayer. Love Ov and Tom##imported-begin##Tom & Ovaline McArthur##imported-end##

May 21, 2010 at 12:58 PM



“ We love and we will miss you.##imported-begin##Kim Carter and kids##imported-end##

May 21, 2010 at 11:22 AM



“ Bill was a true gentleman and it was a pleasure knowing him. He was the epitome of why we refer to his generation as the greatest.##imported-begin##Mike Boland##imported-end##

May 20, 2010 at 11:31 PM



“ Our sympathy goes out to the family. Mr. Johnston was truly an amazing man, always kind, considerate and thinking of others. We loved seeing and talking with him as neighbors over the years. He will be greatly missed.##imported-begin##Randy & MaryBeck Eckard##imported-end##

May 20, 2010 at 09:16 PM



“ Bill was Board Chairman with Midway Fire Rescue when I came on board October 1995. In June of 2001, I was asked to apply for the vacant chief's position. I had told Bill that I probably wasn't going to apply. Well, one day he came into my office and bluntly said: wouldn't be nice to retire as a fire chief after all you have done here and in the fire service in Montgomery County, MD I leaned back in my chair, smiled and answered, yes it would be. I will miss a lot of things concerning Bill such as, talking about our military service, and having him stop by my office often to discuss how I, as well as the whole staff was doing.##imported-begin##Mr. & Mrs. Daniel H. Wetsel##imported-end##

May 20, 2010 at 10:59 AM



“ We were very fortunate to have Bill as a neighbor and friend. He will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with Dear Shirley and her Family. Bill, We Love You Dearly. May God watch over You and your Family. Hopefully somewhere in time we will meet again.##imported-begin##Frank, Dolly & Cheryl Kemple##imported-end##

May 20, 2010 at 10:17 AM



“ Godspeed Bill, You are a great marine and man. Thank you for the Marine Corps League. The Grand Strand Detachment has suffered a loss it will never overcome. See you on a street in heaven. Semper fi, Art Blenk##imported-begin##Art Blenk##imported-end##

May 20, 2010 at 08:01 AM



“ Mike and I would like to extend our condolences to Mrs. Shirley and her family for their loss. Bill was our former neighbor and a wonderful person. We won't forget him!##imported-begin##Lynn Wheeler##imported-end##

May 20, 2010 at 12:14 AM



“ We were sorry to hear of Bill's passing. He was truly a "Great Man" and will be missed greatly. Please accept our condolences. Bev & Joe##imported-begin##Joseph & Beverly Tempalsky##imported-end##

May 19, 2010 at 10:53 PM



“ I count it a very special honor to have worked with Bill when he served with distinction as Vice President of the Association of American Railroads and, even more importantly to me, to be able to count him as a friend. His selfless dedication to his country, his industry and his associates was unmatched in my experience. Bill was an ornament to the human race. May God grant him eternal peace, and for Shirley and his children, may He "temper the wind to the shorn lamb."###imported-begin##Bill Dempsey##imported-end##

May 19, 2010 at 09:09 PM



“ We are saddened to learn of the passing of Bill Johnston. We have missed seeing Bill and Shirley in church for the past few months. We always enjoyed our conversations with them and will have fond memories always. Our prayers are with Shirley at this sad time. Joel & Priscilla###imported-begin##Joel & Priscilla Swanson##imported-end##

May 19, 2010 at 05:13 PM



“ I met Bill just before i moved to south carolina at the american legion in murrells inlet. At that meeting I immediately knew I was meeting someone special. He made me feel so comfortable and eager to move here and join the MARINE CORPS LEAGUE Grand Strand Detachment. I moved here 3 years ago and because of Bill I am a member of the detachment. At our meetings Bills name comes up alot and he is very much admired and loved. We will miss you BILL. SEMPER FI AND FRATES ETERNI PAUL GROBSKI CPL USMC###imported-begin##paul grobski##imported-end##

May 19, 2010 at 05:06 PM



“ Shirley and family, We are so sorry for your loss. May God be with you at this most difficult time. Your family is in our prayers. Harriett and Bill Lakel###imported-begin##Bill Lakel###imported-end##

May 19, 2010 at 04:17 PM