



Walter Wendell Laquan Johnson

May 13, 1966 - February 3, 2026

Born on May 13, 1966, at St. Luke's Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. Walter Wendell Johnson, affectionately known as “Smooth”, entered this world with a quiet strength and determination that would define the course of his life. Raised in a close-knit family, he grew into a man of resilience, loyalty, and deep love for those around him. He graduated from Barringer High School in 1984, carrying with him lifelong friendships and a strong sense of purpose.

He was first introduced to church life at Temple Baptist Church, where he attended in his early years. In November 2025, he made a personal and meaningful decision to recommit his life to Christ — a moment that reflected growth, reflection, and spiritual renewal.

Athletic and driven, Smooth pursued his love for football and proudly played semi-professionally with the Newburgh Raiders. After a 1992 game, he made the life-changing decision to move to Florida from New Jersey, opening a new and meaningful chapter in his journey.

As a hardworking and dependable provider, he built a steady career as a trucking contractor, earning the respect of others through his reliability and strong work ethic. Throughout his life, he received many awards and achieved many accomplishments — each a testament to his determination and excellence.

Beyond his professional life, Smooth's passions told the fuller story of who he was. He was a die-hard fan of the Dallas Cowboys — loyal through every season. He was an avid bowler and found brotherhood and purpose in the biking community as President and Founder of Sports Riders of Orlando, building not just a club, but a lasting community rooted in camaraderie and pride.

One of the greatest reflections of his heart was his devotion to family. In a powerful act of love and sacrifice, he chose part-time employment so he could work around the home health nursing team to care for his bed-bound cousin Tony. He remained by Tony's side with steadfast commitment until Tony's passing in late 2025.

He was preceded in death by his father, Walter Hairston; his mother, Margie Ryles; his eldest brother, Brian Hairston; and his grandmother, Annie L. Cropps.

He leaves to cherish his memory his: beloved daughters, Wendi Jackson (Frank) and Bria Johnson; and his treasured grandchildren, Jayce, Priest, and Brielle. His legacy lives on through them — in their strength, their laughter, and their love. He also leaves behind: his siblings, Gloria Dean Johnson, Larry Johnson, Tanya Hairston, and Howard Jermaine Hairston (Cecile); and a host of aunts and cousins.

Smooth lived with loyalty. He loved through action. He showed up when it mattered most. Whether cheering for his Cowboys, riding with his brothers, or caring faithfully for family, Smooth made his presence known. He leaves behind not just memories, but a standard — of commitment, resilience, and heart. And those who love him will carry that strength forward in his honor.

Cemetery Details

Edgewood-Greenwood Cemetery ~ Apopka

141 South Edgewood Drive
Apopka, FL 32703

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 21. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
927 South Central Avenue
Apopka, FL 32703

Service

FEB 21. 11:00 AM (ET)

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
927 South Central Avenue
Apopka, FL 32703

Tribute Wall

LA

“ I am so sorry for the shock and grief you're experiencing right now. May everyone find peace in the love and memories shared with Wendell (Dell). Sending everyone strength and love as we all navigate this loss. Sending prayers for peace and solace for your entire family and friends.

Lillie Atkins-Israel - May 13 at 12:16 PM

TF

“ For twenty-five plus years Smooth was more than a bowling teammate and tournament partner, he was like a brother. Wendell brought much joy and laughter on Monday nights for well over two decades. The weekly Dallas Cowboys talk about what they did right and wrong. Smooth was just a remarkable person, human being with a big personality who loved and cared about people. The team and bowling alley will miss you. The lanes will not be the same without you, my brother. Your legacy lives on in every strike we make in your honor. Dallas Cowboys for life. Rest easy.... Smooth

Tony Fluker - February 19 at 07:59 PM

PJ

“ Having Smooth as my neighbor, words can't define how much he cared about his neighbors especially my mom. Always asking is she was ok, did she need anything, making sure wanted for nothing. Smooth you will be missed. Glad to have had you for a neighbor and a friend for over 20 years.

PJ Jackson - February 17 at 05:24 PM

LJ

“ Smooth was adamant about the Dallas Cowboys and nothing could convince him to change that. He was always a happy person who always showed his humorous passion for others, he will be missed greatly



Louis Jackson - February 11 at 05:13 PM

TK

Smooth my brother from another Mother, you will truly be missed. I appreciate all the knowledge you gave me in this biker world. Take ur rest my brother.

Taro Jones aka Kickstand - February 21 at 02:14 AM