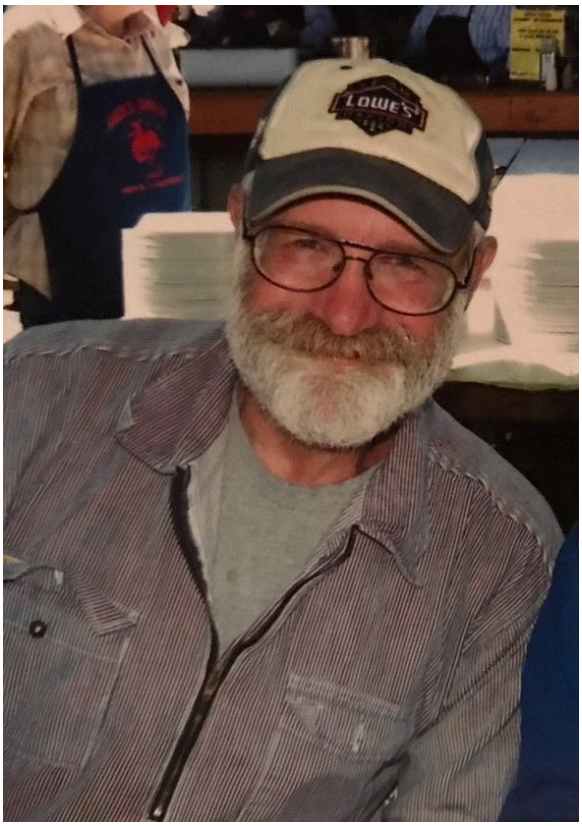
Del Norte Triplicate

OBITUARIES

Gregory Paul Johnson

June 4, 2025



Our brother, Gregory Paul Johnson, was born in Arcata, California, on January 28, 1952, and passed away unexpectedly in Crescent City, California, on February 4, 2025, the same day our mother passed six years ago.

Greg was the second child of six born to Paul and Toni Johnson and grew up in Orick, California. He attended Orick Elementary School and McKinleyville High School, and played the position of Guard on McKinleyville High's 1969 Football Championship Team, which was inducted into the 2005 MHS Hall of Fame.

After graduating in 1970, Greg joined the Navy and enlisted for 6 years, which included their 2-year electronics technician school. He sailed the Pacific on the U.S.S. Long Beach, with destinations that included the Philippines, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, and Malaysia. After being honorably discharged in 1976, Greg settled in Klamath, California, where he would remain for the rest of his life.

Greg loved riding motorcycles, and when he was in the Navy, he bought himself a Moto Guzzi 850. He enjoyed dirt-bike riding with friends Terry Smith, Mike Smith, Paul Leazer, Tim Johnson, and Delbert Rocha, Jr., to name a few. He also went to motocross races and watched his brother Brad win many trophies, usually 1st place.

Greg made his living working in the timber industry until retirement. In 1984, one of his legs was injured in a logging accident, and he was rushed to a hospital in Medford, Oregon. A little anecdote: after Greg was allowed visitors, Karen went first and said she was his sister; then Kim, Paulette, and Kathy all came to visit, all claiming to be his sister, and the hospital staff became suspicious. During his stay at the hospital, Karen and Mark visited him often, for which he was grateful.

In 1988, Greg and Peggy Sanderson welcomed their son, Sandy Paul Johnson. Peggy's other child, Marty Barbour, Jr., became a wonderful big brother to Sandy, whom Greg also treated like a son.

Greg was a lifelong Raiders fan and attended many games at the Oakland Coliseum, and when Sandy was older, he went along. Greg liked going to S.F. Giants games with Ben Webster and Rob Fassio, as well as family members. He also liked the Oakland Athletics and NASCAR. He enjoyed visiting with Tim Duncan in Orick. Greg had a passion for fishing and was very happy when he was steelhead fishing on Redwood Creek with Dad, Sandy, and brother-in-law, Bill; perch fishing with Brian McMillan, Billy Joe Allen, and brother-in-law PeeWee Gilliam; salmon fishing on the Klamath River with Marty, Ben and Super Dave DelPonte; and crabbing with Tom Dore. Whatever Greg caught, he always shared it with Mom and Dad. Greg was truly loved and will be truly missed.

Greg is survived by sisters Karen Clark (Mark) of Medford, OR, and Kathy Mitchell (Bill) of Clayton, CA; brother Brad Johnson (Cheryl) of McKinleyville, CA; stepson Marty Barbour Jr. (Sara) of Klamath, CA; as well as nieces, nephews, aunts, and numerous cousins.

Greg is preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Toni; his son Sandy; and his sisters, Paulette Gilliam and Kim Beck.

Greg's family would like to thank everyone that attended Greg's celebration of life that took place at the Willow Line Tap Room in Klamath on May 31st, 2025.