GLORY

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during a Veterans Day program held at Somerset Community College.

Johnson explained his own reasons to serve – and to continue to serve during difficult times – throughout his 29-year career.

Often his reasons to serve were presented with a lighthearted story, such as the time he and the men he was leading ended up hiding out from gunfire in a goat pasture.

But other stories, such as that of Sergeant Freeman Gardner, were far too serious.

Earlier in his talk, Johnson said that he had learned during a deployment in Honduras that he, as a second lieutenant, needed to take the advice of his non-commissioned officers.

However, he later told the story of when he was leading a group in Iraq, and they were supposed to be conducting a raid on a neighborhood.

"This was a mission that had to happen real quick," Johnson said.

The company commander had gone up to him and said he needed more time.

Johnson related: "I said, 'Sorry, brother, you gotta roll. We don't have the time.' And he says, 'Sir, I don't have a plan. I don't know about the enemy.' And I looked at him and said, 'Captain Jones, roll.'"

That's when Sergeant Gardner, who was a communications officer and not someone who needed to fight, volunteered to go out and help clear the area.

Gardner was killed when a roadside bomb went off, Johnson said.

"When you say goodbye," Johnson said, "Everybody gets around the soldier, and to say goodbye … I kissed his forehead. And I look up, and I see that company commander looking at me like he wants to kill me. And I didn't blame him. In my mind, I said, 'I caused this.'

"… It's something I live with now, to be real," Johnson said. "The fact that Freeman died that day, I carry that with me for the rest of my life."

Gardner's mother sent Johnson a letter after her son's death, and Johnson noted that she ended that letter by saying, "Thank you for your service."

"She thanked me," he said, sounding incredulous.

"I reach out to (the mother) all the time, on the anniversary (of his death), and she says the same thing every time. So, what I want to say is, the cost of war? It's not all glory."

On a slightly lighter note — although the story didn't start that way — Johnson also told the crowd about the time he shot General David Petraeus.

"It wasn't me," he explained, "It was one of my, soldiers … But I say that I shot him because, also, as I learned over time, I'm responsible for everything that happens within my command."

Johnson said that the battalion was finishing up a live-ammunition training exercise when one of his men tripped and his gun went off. Petraeus was struck in the chest, causing what Johnson described as a "sucking chest wound," and had to be evacuated out.

"I'm glad that he lived, but I knew that I was going to get fired," Johnson said.

Once Petraeus recovered, he asked to see Johnson, and Johnson said he was already mentally preparing to find a new job.

"He's shuffling his papers, and, you know, I'm sitting there sweating," Johnson said. "He says, 'You know, Captain Johnson, there's a rumor going around the battalion. The rumor is that they were actually shooting at you and hit me. That (speaks) volumes for your lack of leadership, your lack of marksmanship…' And I'm sitting there going, 'What the heck is going on here?' He says, 'Lighten up, Fred. Live up to your potential, and pass on a second chance.'"

Johnson went on to say, "Somebody that has that kind of leadership, you'll do anything for. And there was no way in heck that I was gonna get out of the military until I paid that debt back. How do you pay a debt back?"

Also as part of the program, the audience heard from Jon Roberts, the head of the Habitat for Humanity of Pulaski County's Veteran Task Force, who invited people to volunteer at their new Purple Heart Village, which will see four new homes built for veterans and their families.

"It will take over 4,800 unique volunteer hours for us to complete the current project," Roberts said.

Six hundred of those hours were recently completed by around 100 SCC faculty and students, when those volunteers participated in the KCTCS Week of Service, Roberts said.

"What we were able to accomplish in a week's time saved our veteran homeowners just tons of money, and it's a direct benefit that goes straight to those veterans," he said.



SCC Chancellor and CEO Dr. Carey Castle addresses the crowd at the college's Veterans Day Celebration while Assistant Professor of Political Science James Taylor looks on. Castle was recognized for his U.S. Air Force service. | CARLA SLAVEY

Homes like those built by Habitat for Humanity help to "tackle the affordability crisis that faces so many veterans in Pulaski County, primarily those who are living on fixed incomes such as VA (benefits), disability, or Social Security as their primary source of income," Roberts said.

"It's just simple arithmetic," he added. "If a veteran is drawing $1,800 a month through the VA, they cannot afford $1000 a month in rent."

The program also saw SCC Chancellor and CEO Dr. Carey Castle honored for both his service to the college and his service to the country, as Assistant Professor of Political Science James Taylor told the crowd that Castle served 26 years in the U.S. Air Force.

Castle received a certificate, which he accepted humbly.

"There are so many people in this room who have done so much for this country, in the area that they served in, the branch they served in," he said. "I feel kind of like this is way, way overboard to what I did. I appreciate everything that you've done."

ORDINANCE NUMBER 26-19

Whereas the continuous use of motorcycles and recreational ATVs (and other nonwork or nonwork machinery) on inappropriately sized residential lots (or the combination thereof) cause an unreasonable nuisance to nearby property owners due to noise and dust.

Whereas the difference between recreational use and using vehicles or equipment with a work purpose is whether a work task (including but not limited to mowing, cutting woody vegetation, hauling) or otherwise tending to the land or its improvements.

Whereas the City of Somerset has been asked by its citizens to place restrictions on the activity which causes the nuisance and does not restrict the use of land.

Now Therefore, be it Ordained by the City of Somerset Common Council;

It shall be a prima facia nuisance subject to the enforcement and penalties found in Ordinances 14-06 and 17-01 when a landowner uses motorcycles, recreational ATVs, (or any other non-work vehicle or non-work machinery) continuously and regularly so as to create the following conditions:

1. A path or track evidenced in the mud, dirt, or ground cover (including grass, mulch, or pavement), and,
2. Any noise that can be heard from any point on a neighboring residential property, or causes dust or any other "thing" to land on or touch a neighboring residential property.

The following schedule for fines resulting from a violation or multiple violations are set as follows:

1st offense: WARNING

2nd offense: $100

3rd offense: $200

4th and subsequent offense: $400

FIRST READING: OCTOBER 12, 2026

SECOND READING: OCTOBER 26, 2026

APPROVED: _____
ALAN KECK, MAYOR OF SOMERSET

ATTEST: _____
NICK BRADLEY, CITY CLERK

PUBLIC NOTICE

• Estate of Beatrice Taylor, 3816 Castlewood Court Somerset, KY 42503. Ladawn Russell appointed Administrator on 10/01/2026, claims to be filed by 04/01/2027. Attorney, Lewis Davis, 401 S Main St Somerset, KY 42501. 26-P-490

• Estate of Mary Elizabeth Maggard, 26 Cedar Hill Ln. Somerset, KY 42503. John Nelson Maggard appointed Administrator on 10/01/26, claims to be filed by 04/01/2027. Attorney, Lewis Davis, 401 S Main St Somerset, KY 42501. 26-P-493

• The estate of Jesse Tutt Flynn, 3701 Heather Way Somerset, KY 42503. Norma Flynn appointed Executor on 10/01/26, claims to be filed by 04/01/26. Attorney, Heidi Powers, PO BOX 30 Somerset, KY 42502. 26-P-496

• The estate of Adam Roark, 209 Dogwood Ln Somerset, KY 42503. Danielle Roark appointed Administratrix on 10/01/26, claims to be filed by 04/01/27. Attorney Ryan Biggerstaff, 836 Euclid Ave. Suite 320 Lexington, KY 40502. 26-P-499

• The estate of Randall Lee Eakins, 3553 Highway 235 Nancy, KY 42544. Debra Haislip appointed Executrix on 10/13/26, claims to be filed by 04/13/27. Attorney, Melissa A. Stewart, 326 S Broadway Lexington, KY 40508. 26-P-515

• The estate of Christine Champlin Adams, 5 Hillandale Place Somerset, KY 42501. John B. Adams appointed Executor on 10/13/26, claims to be filed by 04/13/27. Attorney, Molly Gamble Williams, 400 West Marker St Ste 200 Louisville, KY 40202. 26-P-528

• The estate of Sherri Mitko, 9405 Lower Line Creek Dr. Somerset, KY 42503. Chris Mitko appointed administrator on 10/13/26, claims to be filed by 04/13/27. Attorney, Jeffrey Scott Lawless, PO BOX 1827 Somerset, KY 42502. 26-P-525

• The estate of Karen L. Casedy, 11 Harmony Dr Somerset, KY 42503. Michael K. Casedy appointed Executor on 10/13/26, claims to be filed by 04/13/27. Attorney, Jeffrey Scott Lawless, PO Box 1827 Somerset, KY 42502. 26-P-393

• The estate of Stephen Wall, 5449 Hwy 934 Somerset, KY 42503. Dinah Wall appointed Administratrix on 10/13/26, claims to be filed by 04/13/27. Attorney, Jeffrey Scott Lawless, PO BOX 1827 Somerset, KY 42502. 26-P-404

• The estate of Charles Hamilton, 145 Tower Circle Dr. Somerset, KY 42503. Timothy Sparkman and Makayla Sparkman appointed co-administrators on 10/13/26, claims to be filed by 04/13/27. Attorney, Clayton A. Stringer, 48 Public Sq Somerset, KY 42502. 26-P-503

• The estate of Christine E Frye, 61 Day Meadow Dr Somerset, KY 42503. Judy A. Coner appointed Executrix on 10/13/26, claims to be filed by 04/13/27. Attorney, Donald L. Wilkerson, PO BOX 716 Somerset, KY 42502. 26-P-509

• The estate of Patricia Louise Wilson, 444 Water Cliff Dr Somerset, KY 42503. Paul Anderson appointed administrator on 10/13/26, claims to be filed by 04/13/27. Attorney, Michael Fore, PO BOX 726 Richmond, KY 40475. 26-P-511

• The estate of Bobby Gene Sullivian, 411 W Lakeshore Dr Burnside, KY 42519. Ribert Patrick Sullivan appointed administrator on 10/13/26, claims to be filed by 04/13/27. Attorney, Shawna M. Vanhook, 48 Public Sq Somerset, KY 42501. 26-P-508

• The estate of James Lewis Price, 380 Thunder Rd Somerset, KY 42503. Claudette Rose Prather appointed Executrix on 10/20/26, claims to be filed by 04/20/27. 26-P-495

• The estate of Bryan Earl Combs, 91 Lakepointe Dr. Somerset, KY 42503. Kim E Combs appointed Executrix on 10/20/26, claims to be filed by 04/20/27. Attorney, Susan Ham, 106 W Columbia St Somerset, KY 42501. 26-P-524

• The estate of Kathy L. Berens, 251 Neighborly Way Somerset, KY 42503. Melissa Lancaster appointed Executrix on 10/20/26, claims to be filed by 04/20/27. Attorney, Jeffrey Scott Lawless, PO BOX 1827 Somerset, KY 42502. 26-P-531

• The estate of Betty Gibson, 15191 N Hwy 1247 Eubank, KY 42567. Diane Perkins and Jo Ann York appointed co-executors on 10/20/26, claims to be filed by 04/20/27. Attorney, Clayton A Stringer, 48 Public Sq Somerset, KY 42502. 26-P-521

• The estate of Leo Ronald Bingham, 320 W Fairview Rd Eubank, KY 42567. Shirley Jean Bingham appointed administratrix on 10/20/26, claims to be filed by 04/20/27. Attorney, Molly K. Hardy, 250 Belmont Ave Suite 4, Somerset, KY 42501. 26-P-522

• The estate of Cecilia Anne Richardson, 244 Frog Hollow Court Science Hill, KY 42553. James Christopher Richardson, Jr and John Byron Richardson appointed co-Executors on 10/20/26, claims to be filed by 04/20/27. Attorney, Molly K. Hardy, 250 Belmont Ave Suite 4, Somerset, KY 42501. 26-P-487

• The estate of Orleanais Fairchild, 125 Old Highway 27 Loop 5 Burnside, KY 42519. Mavis Ellen Alley appointed Executor on 10/20/26, claims to be filed by 04/20/27. Attorney, Molly K. Hardy, 250 Belmont Ave Suite 4, Somerset, KY 42501. 26-P-481

• The estate of Jerry P. Forbes, 4191 Mark Welborn Rd Somerset, KY 42501. Emily Wilson appointed Executrix on 10/20/26, claims to be filed by 04/20/27. Attorney, John Pruitt, PO BOX 30 Somerset, KY 42502. 26-P-533

• The estate of Jerry Lynn Scrimager, 3816 Highway 761 Nancy, KY 42544. Lojuanna VanHook appointed administratrix on 10/22/26, claims to be filed by 04/22/27. Attorney, Ryan D. Morrow, PO BOX 1827 Somerset, KY 42502. 26-P-542

• The estate of John Jordan Patterson, 67 Camry Dr. Somerset, KY 42503. Johnny Patterson appointed administrator on 10/22/26, claims to be filed by 04/22/27. Attorney, Ralph D. Gibson, 304 W Columbia St Somerset, KY 42501. 26-P-497

• The estate of Whitney Dunlap, 25 Thunder Mountain Rd Somerset, KY 42501. Kelly Shouse appointed administratrix on 10/27/26, claims to be filed by 04/27/27. Attorney, Jill Haste, PO BOX 388 Somerset, KY 42502. 26-P-545

• The estate of Mayvie Kelene Denney, 845 Floyd Switch Estesburg Rd Eubank, KY 42567. Joshua Ellis Denney appointed Executor on 10/27/26, claims to be filed by 04/27/27. Attorney Lewis Davis, 401 S Main St Somerset, KY 42501. 26-P-530

• The estate of Darrell Winfield Cloud, 2560 Clearfork Rd Eubank, KY 42567. Desiree Michelle Cloud appointed administratrix on 10/29/26, claims to be filed by 04/29/27. Attorney, Molly K. Hardy, 250 Belmont Ave Suite 4, Somerset, KY 42501. 26-P-547

• The estate of Judy Ruth Dalton, 145 Tower Circle Somerset, KY 42503. Amy Epperson and Scott Vito appointed co-executors on 10/29/26, claims to be filed by 04/29/27. Attorney, Molly Hardy, 250 Belmont Ave, Suite 4, Somerset, KY 42501. 26-P-548

• The estate of Grethia Colleen Jeffries, 120 Oakleaf Ln Somerset, KY 42503. Lynnette Burdine appointed Executrix on 10/29/26, claims to be filed by 04/29/27. Attorney, Jill Haste, PO BOX 388 Somerset, KY 42502. 26-P-552