



## Benjamin Branstner

November 4, 1941 - December 30, 2011

Benjamin John Branstner of Verndale passed away at the age of 70 years on December 30, 2011 at the Peaceful Valley Home in Hewitt. Private family services will be held at a later date. John was born on November 4, 1941 to August and Julia (Chase) Branstner in Bertha and grew up in Oak Valley Township, west of Hewitt. He was the fourteenth of fifteen children. He graduated from Bertha High School and moved to California where he worked as an electrician until 1984. After retirement, he returned to Minnesota, moving to his home in Verndale. In 2011, for health reasons, he moved to the Peaceful Valley Home in Hewitt where he was cared for by his nephew Ricky Mitchell and family. During his stay, he enjoyed spending time with his sister Ivis Mitchell who also is cared for at their home. John was a lifelong member of the IBEW and active with AA for the last 20 years. He loved to garden and was known to help anyone needing assistance, especially the elderly who lived in his apartment complex. He was known as a good neighbor, always ready to help and expected nothing but appreciation in return. He will be missed by all who knew him. John was preceded in death by his parents August and Julia; sisters Bernice Branstner, Judith Branstner, Marie Folkestad, Viola Hauser, and Pearl Ford; brother Loyd; and brothers-in-law Hermie Trosen, Gary Mitchell, Howard Folkestad, Eugene Hauser and Ben Krug. He is survived by his sisters Verlie (Alvin) Miller of Minneapolis, Nadine Krug of Woodland, CA, Alice Trosen of Verndale, Lila (Hugh) McFarlane of Minneapolis, Ivis Mitchell of Hewitt, Orpha (Larry) Carlson of Arizona, and

Ruby Hughes of Hutchinson, MN; brother Bill (Glenda) of Muldrow, OK; sister-in-law Elvira Branstner of Georgetown, CA; brother-in law Frank Ford of Aitkin, MN; and many nieces and nephews as well as great-nieces and nephews and great-great-nieces and nephews. Interment will be in the Oak Valley Cemetery at a later date.

# Tribute Wall

JJ

“ Uncle John you will always be remembered as a warm, sincere and compassionate soul...always putting others before you and never leaving anyone behind...your tender kind heart will always live in my heart. I love you uncle John...please take care of my mom your sister in heaven may you rest in peace.

Julie Jones - December 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ I will surely miss you uncle John. You are now with your mom and dad, brother and sisters. May you rest in peace.

Julie Jones - December 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ So sorry to hear about Ben (John) since we moved to Verndale I got to see him quite often. We always had a good visit about the Walker and Branstner families. I grew up out in Oak Valley with the Branstner, McQuay, Walker Marsh families. Knew Benny when he was in school, altho he was 7 years older, but I still remember riding the bus with him.  
Everyone in Verndale like him, especially in the housing where he lived. I guess he helped out the elderly ladies alot.  
Rest in peace dear Benjamin John.  
God's Blessing to your whole family for his loss. Sinerely, Sandy

Sandy (Walker) South - December 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ John was a man of few words, was very quick witted and had a good sense of humor. He loved gardening and giving away the bounty that God blessed him with. John loved cats and lived to take care of his furry friends. John will be missed greatly by his many friends in Verndale. He cared for those around him, running errands and serving them in whatever way he could. Good bye John I am sure you are tending the Lord's garden with your brother in law Hermie:)

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**Karen Trosen** - December 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DJ

“ Well, once an Electrician....always an Electrician...The Branstner Brothers all worked hard at their jobs. The tradition has been carried onto the next generation. When John lived out here in California, he would walk the two miles into town and then back to his trailer, and there he would invite Bruce and I and Jessica over for a great steak dinner with all the fixin's. He was a great cook. I know he cherished his Garden...he planted alot of seeds when he shared his blessings that came from his garden. He is now in a great place right alongside my brother John and with his brother Loyd, my Dad and with their sister's Marie, Viola and Pearl, Judy and Bernice and their Mom and Dad all sitting around the table sharing their own Harvest and laughing and joking with that Branstner smile.  
Love ya..your niece Debra

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**Debra Branstner Johnson** - December 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Uncle John was like a big brother to me! He was there for me when I started first grade at Hewitt and watched over me whenever I would visit him. I often followed him to visit Marlo or Fritz and Madge about a mile away cutting through the pastures -- it would be dark and cold but I always felt safe and stayed warm because John walked fast and expected me to keep up. In my mind, Uncle John was not afraid of anything so I was never afraid!

John loved to garden and was always helping people. When I'd visit him in Verndale John would take me to his garden. I think he gave most of his vegetables away -- he cared so much about others. He was "a good neighbor"!

Rest in Peace Uncle! I love you.

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**Morris Miller** - December 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ I met "John" one day while he was tending his garden...and what a great one it was!!! He told me his garden secrets, and soon ours was "pretty Good" for newcomers he said. John was always friendly and told me stories about his childhood. He allowed me to read about him in a book that his Sister had written about him and the family. If you didn't read the book, I'll tell you, we were privileged to know the man. He was special in a hundred ways. Rest In Peace John. I'll always think of you when I see the green in the rainbow.

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**Sally Schaffhausen** - December 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM