



## C. (Jerry) Johnson

September 24, 1922 - July 5, 2003

C. Jerome Johnson was born to his parents Henry & Cornelia (Sundet) Johnson on September 24, 1922 in Fort Ransom, ND. He passed away after a short illness on July 5th in the Tri-County Hospital in Wadena. Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, July 8th at 11:00 AM in the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wadena. Visitation will be held on Monday evening from 4:00 - 8:00 at the Johnson Memorial Home in Wadena. Jerry was a 1940 graduate of Lisbon High School. In November 1942 he entered the US Army. After basic training he was sent to Washington State to work for Boeing Aircraft until 1943 when he was transferred for training at Stanford University. In 1943 he was transferred to the U of North Dakota - Grand Forks, for a program in Radio & Repair. He then served overseas in New Guinea and the Phillipines from 1943 to 1946. He was with the first unit to land on the Phillipines to establish radio contact prior to the invasion of the Phillipines. After returning from the war he enrolled at Valley City State University and eventually transferred to the Indiana Institute of Mortuary Sciences in Vincennes, Indiana, graduating in 1949. Once he received his mortuary science license in 1950 he began work at Hanson-Runsvold Funeral Home in Fargo. He was united in marriage to Helen Marlys Friskop on June 3, 1951 in rural DeLamere, ND. Jerry and Marlys moved to Waconia to work for the Yetzer Funeral Home for a short time before starting work at the Glende-Johnson Funeral Home in Fergus Falls in 1952. In 1957 he moved to Wadena to work for Red Bjerke at the Buttruff - Bjerke Funeral Home. In 1960, he

along with Albert Messer, purchased the funeral home from Red and renamed the business the Messer-Johnson Memorial Home. Albert passed away in 1973 and the funeral home name changed to its current name of the Johnson Memorial Home. Jerry was later joined in business by his two sons, Henry and Jon. Jerry retired from active work in funeral service in 1983 but continued to be involved with his sons in the business. In 2001 he was honored as a 50 year licensee by the Minnesota Department of Health - Mortuary Science Unit. He worked his last funeral service on Wednesday June 25th helping to care for a long time friend and fellow Lions Club member. Jerry was very active in his community. He served for a number of years on the OEO, Rural Minnesota CEP, Community Action Council board, was a 16 year member of the Wadena HRA board, served as President and received the Melvin Jones Award for the Wadena Lions Club, was a member of the VFW, the Elks Lodge and was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church - serving in several officer positions and committees. In 1997 he was honored as a Co-Grand Marshall for the Wadena June Jubilee parade in recognition for his many years of community service. Jerry was preceded in death by his parents; brother Henry and a sister Dorothy Mann. He is survived by his wife Marlys; daughter Cheryl (Mike) Kopacz of Hartford, WI; sons Henry (Pat) and Jon (Pat) both of Wadena and Tim (Jennell) of Silver Lake, MN; grandchildren Andrew, Molly, Scott, Katie, Aaron, Angie, Alissa & Samantha; brother Don (Becky) of Valley City; sisters Berniece Olson of San Diego and Eileen Albertson of St. Louis Park. Burial with full military honors, provided by the Elmer Goche Post 3922 VFW of Wadena, will take place in the Wadena Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorials are preferred to the Minnesota Foundation for Children.

# Tribute Wall

MK

“ *What a great guy~ He and the family were neighbors on Howard Avenue S.W. several years ago and I have pleasant memories of those days.*

---

**Mary Ellen Kollodge** - July 05, 2003 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ *I have known Jerry for many years and he was a wonderful friend and funeral director. I have been with him in dist. 9 for probably 47 years or so.*  
*I would like to be at the funeral service but I am conducting a funeral for Jade who is on vacation-- at the same time. Sorry about that.*  
*Very sorry to hear of his passing and will be thinking of the family.Love Milo and Marge Larson*

---

**Milo & Marge Larson** - July 05, 2003 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ *Jerry must have had a tremendous sense of humor. He raised Henry & Jon. He definately has rewards waiting in Heaven.*

*We love you guys.*

*Gregg & Gail*

---

**Gregg "Notso" & Gail Bright** - July 05, 2003 at 12:00 AM

EG

“ *Jon & Henry:*  
*Our deepest sympathy to you and your families. Our thoughts will be with you in the next several days.*

---

**Ernie & Linda Gieseke** - July 05, 2003 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.*

---

**John Mahn** - July 05, 2003 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ *We just had visited with Jerry a couple of weeks ago at the lake when he was selling the last of the furniture from the lake home. He was a great guy and we visited for over an hour about everything from soup to nuts and the different directions that funeral service was going. We were so surprised to hear about his death as he seemed just great the day that we visited. Our sympathy to your family during this time of sorrow.*

---

**gary & jean carlson** - July 05, 2003 at 12:00 AM

DN

“ *Jon and Henry, you know there is a special place in Heaven for your Dad.  
( what he must have had to put up with, with you two.) Kidding aside, I will be thinking about you and your family.  
I am terribly sorry.*

---

**Dan Naumann** - July 05, 2003 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *Dear Jon, Henry and family,*

*We were so sorry to hear about your father's death. Remember the promise: people who live in the Lord never see each other for the last time.*

*You are in our prayers.*

---

**Steve Wardrip, Kurt Johns & Staff** - July 05, 2003 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ Some people come into our lives and quickly go.  
Some people move our souls to dance.  
They awaken us to new understanding  
with the passing whisper of their wisdom.  
Some people make the sky more beautiful to gaze upon.  
They stay in our lives for awhile, leave footprints on our hearts  
And we are never, ever the same.

*Our hearts are with you and your family...*

---

**Suzanne Grace** - July 05, 2003 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Henry & Jon: My deepest sympathy for the loss of you father. He was always a pleasure to see at the North Dakota convention. I pray for God's peace for your family. I miss you guys.

---

**Robbie Smith** - July 05, 2003 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ Dear Henry and Jon, I am sorry to learn of your father's death. It is good that you were able to be with him at the end of his life. Like your father, my dad is still involved with me in our business, of which I'm very grateful. I remember meeting your father several years ago when I had the opportunity to be in Wadena, passing through town. Your community as well as your family will miss him greatly. Take care, guys. I hope to run into you at the convention or maybe the golf outing. Sincerely, Jim. PS I love your web site. Who did it for you and is it hard to maintain?

---

**Jim Abbott** - July 05, 2003 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ Jon & Henry we know you the best and want to tell you how much we share your loss. Jerry was such a caring person. We know he will be missed by you and your family but also by his many friends.

*Jim & Marion*

---

**Jim & Marion Lundquist** - July 05, 2003 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ Henry & Pat,  
Our prayers are with you.  
God Bless.  
Steve & Pat Bain

---

**Steve & Pat Bain** - July 05, 2003 at 12:00 AM

PP

“ Jon and Henry,  
We are sorry that we could not get away for your dad's visitation or funeral. We are thinking of you and your families at this difficult time.

---

**Pat and Sue Patton** - July 05, 2003 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ We are so very sorry about your great loss. We didn't know your dear father, but we do know he raised some fine children so he must've been a great and caring dad. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers. Our condolences to your whole family.

---

**Dean and Mary Atchison** - July 05, 2003 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ *Marlys, Henry, and Jon.*

*My sympathy to you and your families during this time of challenge and loss. I will always remember with fondness Jerome's smile, jokes, friendship and interest in what I was doing. The relationship our father's shared from growing up in Lisbon to there days in the funeral homes I know gave my dad great pleasure. It must have been great fun to see there sons graduate from mortuary school together as well.*

*From Matthew, Chapter 25, vs. 21, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master." Your dad was a faithful servant indeed, as he helped many families over his career. May God bless your families and easy your pain.*

---

**Scott Dahlstrom** - July 05, 2003 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. We will miss Jerry, especially on Sunday AM brunch at the Boondocks. However, we feel that we should rejoice now as he is serving with the Highest now. May that thought be of comfort now and forever. With our deepest sympathy, Vivian, Veronica and Michael Bondzin*

---

**Michael Bondzin** - July 05, 2003 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ *Sending our Sympathy. Jerry will be missed.*

---

**Roger & JoAnn Anderson** - July 05, 2003 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Although I was at Jerry's funeral I forgot to sign the guestbook and thought I would do it this way. I will always remember Jerry with a smile on his face. He always seemed so happy to me. I know my dad (Bernie) always enjoyed working with Jerry, (I think they both enjoyed lunch the best), but my dad would also say how Jerry would work hard and how they both seemed to be enjoying retirement!!!

*May God bless Jerry and your family. May He brighten the times when darkness seems to fill the air. He will guide us in our journey until we again see Jerry with God.*

*God bless  
Margit*

---

**Margit Schmelka** - July 05, 2003 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ *Jon, Henry and Family,*

*I just returned from vacation and am very sorry to hear of your father's passing.*

*Jerry leaves quite a legacy of caring, compassion and service. I wish for all of you that your memories of your dad will hold a special place in your hearts.*

*Please know that all of you are in my thoughts and prayers at this time.*

*My sympathy,*

*Karl Dobmeier*

---

**Karl Dobmeier** - July 05, 2003 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Jon, Henry, and family, we are all sorry to hear of your loss. May the Lord Jesus Christ comfort you greatly at this time, just as he as comforted us in our times of loss. We are praying for you.

*Love in Christ,  
Members of Redeemer and Immanuel.*

---

**Members of Redeemer & Immanuel Lutheran Churches** - July 05, 2003 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ Our deepest sympathy goes out to you and your family. We just heard about your loss today, as we were on vacation this last week. Please let us know if we can be any help or support to you. You have been such comfort and support to us and our family since we lost our son, Joshua. Thank you for that.

*We have always appreciated the service you provide those who are greiving when we have had a funeral at our church. The sensitivity and caring you show to the grieving families has always been appreciated by us, not to mention those you serve. We will be praying for all of you in the weeks and months ahead.*

*God Bless,  
William & Janette & Family*

---

**Rev. William & Janette Moeller** - July 05, 2003 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ Marlys, Henry, Jon and families, We extend our sympathy to you. Sorry we didn't get to the services. We didn't find out until the day of the service. Don had stop in and told us the week before what the doctors had found. God Bless!

---

**Jeff & Ruth Nathan** - July 05, 2003 at 12:00 AM

GG

“ We were friends all through school in Lisbon ND.  
We knew the entire Johnson family in Lisbon.  
Very sad to lose old friends. Our condolences to his family.

---

**Gene and Joyce Gauche** - July 05, 2003 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Henry -

*It seems like many years have passed since we were being scolded by your dad for the kind of mischief that young teenage boys are prone to get into. I guess that's because it has been many years - and if I remember correctly, we usually, if not always, had it coming. (I never had the heart to tell him that whatever it was that we did wrong was usually your idea.)*

*Kidding aside, you and Jon and your dad have been there for us over the years as we have said goodbye to our loved ones, so please accept this heartfelt thanks for that and know that we are grateful for life he led.*

---

**Dave Simmons** - July 05, 2003 at 12:00 AM