



## Everett Johnson

December 21, 1925 - June 8, 2005

Everett Austin "Sonny" Johnson was born on December 21, 1925 at Henning, Minnesota to Charles and Anna Johnson. He was united in marriage with Myrna Rierson at Bertha, Minnesota on March 3, 1946. Together they operated a farm in Eagle Valley Township. He lived his entire life in this area and had a love of nature and his surroundings. Sonny loved history and had an interest in the Civil War. He enjoyed putting the family genealogy together. Spending time doing yardwork and then relaxing in the gazebo enjoying all that god had blessed him with was a special joy. But his greatest love and joy were his family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Sonny passed away suddenly on Wednesday, June 8, 2005 while spending the day with Myrna as they had done for over 59 years. He will be remembered for his love and compassion for all the lives he touched. Sonny was preceded in death by his parents Charles and Anna; brother Laurel and sister Evelyn Rohwer; brother-in-laws Ed Smith, Charles Smith, Raymond Anderson, Erwin Rohwer and Lloyd Miller; sister-in-laws Jo Johnson and Cora Johnson; and nieces and nephews. He is survived by his loving wife and companion Myrna; sons Gary (Bev) of Eagle Bend, Gene of Sauk Rapids, Chuck (Teri) of Maple Grove and Bruce of Clearwater; daughters Karen (Steve) Irlbeck of St. Cloud, Kathy (Russ) VanHeel of Clarissa and Cheryl (Kiev) Motl of Sauk Rapids; 20 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren; brothers Clint (LouClare), Dan (Marcy) and Carroll, all of Eagle Bend; sisters Helen Anderson of Wadena, Violet Smith of Becker, Vangeline Otto of Williams and Maxine Miller of Hewitt;

and many nieces and nephews. Services were held on Saturday, June 11, 2005 at the Faith Lutheran Church in Eagle Bend with Reverend Cordell Strug and Reverend Mary Carol Strug presiding. Pallbearers were his grandchildren Dustin Johnson, Glendon Johnson, Jason Johnson, Ryan Johnson, Jarod Johnson, Todd Irlbeck, Justin Irlbeck, Trent Johnson and Chad VanHeel. Honorary Pallbearers were grandchildren Andy VanHeel, Chris VanHeel, Tyler Johnson, Mitchell Johnson, Blake Motl and Austin Motl. Interment was in the Hope Cemetery in Eagle Bend. [View this Videotribute](#)

# Tribute Wall

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“ *Myrna and Family:*

*We are so saddened by your great loss. The last few years we have visited with Sonny and Myrna with my Mom and Don, we have come to realize what special people they are. We always enjoyed it when Sonny and Myrna were at my Mom and Don's, and had many good visits. Sonny was a one of a kind, that loved life and was quite a conversationalist!*

*I know he will be deeply missed by my mom and Don, it is a great loss and our thought and prayers are with you and your family.*

*Love, Nancy and Dennis Lucas  
(Marcy Jonhson's Daughter)*

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**Whitney Strukel** - June 08, 2005 at 12:00 AM

“Grandpa, I love you. I always knew how proud you were of me. And I want you to know how proud I am of you. You were always there to support me, and show me your love.

*I remember as a child, when we would come to stay, you always told us stories. Little Black Sambo was my favorite. And then when we were done with that story we'd go have pancakes with Grandma. I could always count on you for a treat, too. I loved going to Agri-Valley with you and getting some ice cream...I think that's where I developed the love for Schwan's! And then there's your enthusiasm for cars: GM, of course. Tara doesn't like the fact that I'm obsessive about cars, but it's so much fun...and it always reminds me of you. You can bet that I'll be doing some test drives this summer in your honor! And we had great times taking trips to Duluth, the Black Hills, and Michigan. As you and Grandma have been saying recently, "Thanks for the memories."*

*What I'm really proud of and thank God for is the legacy you left behind: your family. Tara told me the other day the reason she wants a big family, is because she wants a big, beautiful, loving family like you and Grandma have. Your love for us and those around you, will only magnify. We all have you in our hearts and will take you with us wherever we go. We will live a life to make you proud. I am so proud to be your grandson. I know that if I follow your example of kindness, generosity, and love, your legacy will continue.*

*There's so much more that I could say, and boy do I have stories to tell now. I guess they're going to have to wait. I love you, Grandpa. I'll see you when I get to heaven.*

*Your grandson,  
Chad*

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**Chad Van Heel** - June 08, 2005 at 12:00 AM