



## Raymond Johnson

December 1, 1920 - January 3, 2010

Raymond Sherman Johnson was born December 1, 1920 to Sever E. and Mary (Henningsgaard) Johnson in Osakis, MN. He passed away January 3, 2010, at age 89, at Fair Oaks Lodge in Wadena. Ray was baptized at Salem Lutheran Church in Osakis and confirmed at Calvary Lutheran in Little Sauk. He attended school in Sauk Centre and later Teacher's Training, eventually teaching in rural schools in Todd and Stearns Counties. In August 1942 he joined the U.S. Army serving as a Corporal in the Army Air Corp with the 374th Air Service Squadron. He was stationed at Kelly Field in Texas and served overseas in Australia, New Guinea, and other South Sea islands, until his honorable discharge in December 1945. Ray was united in marriage with Eva Strobeck on August 14, 1946, until her death 2 weeks later on August 29, 1946, due to polio. Ray and Leona Hope Anderson were married on May 31, 1953 in Osakis. His livelihood was as a salesman beginning with Coast-to-Coast in Sauk Center, insurance, and for the US Chamber of Commerce in 1960, until his retirement in 1980. In his later years Ray drove for Bob Thompson's Auto Auction in New York Mills. He was a member of the VFW, sang in the church choir, and played clarinet in the school and American Legion bands. His interests and hobbies included music, gardening, camping, working on cars, riding motorcycles, caring for his pets, telling jokes and WW II stories. He especially loved spending time with his family. Raymond was preceded in death by his first wife, Eva; his parents; brothers James, Jerome, and Orville; and sisters Marion, Sylvia, and Lillian. He is survived by his

loving wife, Leona; son Kurt (Gail) of Andover; daughters Kristin (Mick) Scott of Pequot Lakes, Julie (Mike) Lawrence of Park Rapids, and Jean (Bill) Beck of Coon Rapids; grandchildren Alex Johnson, Mike, Angie (Pete Olson), Becky, Jake, and Jenny Scott, Elliot, Megan, and Mindy Lawrence, and Anders and Aaron Beck; great-granddaughters Hailey, Ella and Malena; and sister Gloria (Robert) Bofferding of Minnetonka. Memorial services were held at 2:00 p.m. on January 9, 2010 in the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wadena, with Pastors Rob Nelson and Rachel Stout officiating. Honorary pallbearers were all of Ray's grandchildren. Interment will be in the Wadena Cemetery.

# Tribute Wall

SO

“ I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your Dad. It is so hard to let them go but I know you have peace knowing his suffering has ended and he is truly in a better place. Traveling such a journey is no easy task, but you have handled it with such grace and true love in your heart. I am sure your Dad felt that then and he still does now! May God hold you close in the coming days and fill your heart with wonderful memories as you celebrate your Dad. I am unable to get to Wadena to see you, but will hold you close in thought and prayer.

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**Shannon (Schlecht) O'Keefe** - January 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DI

“ Dear Leona and cousins,  
I have such great memories of Orvyll and Ray writing one another crazy letters and telling funny stories. Orvyll would call me (from Florida) whenever he received a letter from "Raymond" and then proceed to read the funny parts to me LONG DISTANCE! They enjoyed their relationship as brothers while on the earth and I know they are REALLY having a great time now as well! We will miss them both but only for a little while. I'm sure they will greet us with open arms when we see them again! I am so grateful for the knowledge that families are forever!  
Love and Kisses, Janet

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**Dick and Janet Izzo** - January 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ Dear Lee and Family - I was sad to see Ray's obituary. Ray was always a gentleman when he came to the Library. I enjoyed chatting with him on those occasions...He had a good sense of humor and was upbeat and cheerful... May God bless you during the coming days without Ray in your lives. Cis

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**Cicely Johnson** - January 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ To : Lee , Kurt, Kris, Julie , Jean , And Families, We are sure sorry to hear about Ray passing away. I have been a close friend of Kurt's since the early 70's and sure have enjoyed visiting with Ray over the years. He was always glad to see us guys. He always gave us good advice about our cars. It was so fun to listen to his humor and life stories! I will surely miss him! You will all be in our thoughts and prayers. May the Lord Jesus Comfort you.

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**Dave and Sue Guse** - January 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Jean and family, I want to extend my sympathy to you and your family. I had been reading your comments on facebook so kind of followed what was going on around Christmas. It's been over three years since my dad passed away and I think of him everyday and know that he is still with me. I wish you strength and peace at this difficult time.

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**Michelle (Olson) Christiansen** - January 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ We would like to express our sincere sympathy to the Ray Johnson Family. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this difficult time. To Kurt, my friend since our high school days, it was a joy getting to know your Dad...talking about old cars and motorcycles. He always had a story to tell! He will be missed.

*Bart*

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**Bart and Janet Bushinger** - January 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Our deepest sympathy to your family during this difficult time.

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**Bruce and Erin Beck** - January 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DO

“ Our sincere sympathies on the death of Ray. Clariene, Orris and Ruebin join us in those thoughts as well. Hope to see all of you Saturday.

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**Dennis and Judy Olson** - January 03, 2010 at 12:00 AM