



## Robert Lee Johnson

January 1, 1940 - April 9, 2018

The Celebration of Life memorial service for Robert Lee Johnson, of the Verndale and Blue Grass area, will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, April 16, 2018 at Hope Chapel outside of Verndale, with Reverend Neal Malcore presiding. Visitation will be held at the church on Monday from noon until the time of the service.

At home and with family at his side, Robert, age 78, passed away on April 9, 2018, under the gentle care of Knute Nelson Hospice.

Robert was born to Clifford Lee and Wilma (Shelton) Johnson on New Years Day in 1940, at Wing River Township, MN. He grew up in the Blue Grass area and attended School District 57 north of Verndale. Bob was united in marriage with Bertha May Patch on January 2, 1960, at Kelliher, MN.

They moved from International Falls, MN, to Wolf Point, MT, to follow Bob's dream of being a cowboy. Among other jobs, he worked as a bulk truck driver, as a gas station attendant, on road construction, and as a carpenter. He also worked for two years on the ambulance crew, was a foster care provider for 14 years, and provided a roller skating rink for the community. Bob was a jack-of-all trades! They moved back to the Johnson homestead in 1980, to care for Bob's dad and Bertha's parents. Bob found he loved farming! His hobbies included collecting HO train sets and was a natural at making most anything

from scratch. He also belonged to a CB Radio club.

Robert was preceded in death by his parents Clifford and Wilma; grandparents Fred and Nina Johnson, and Robert and Liz Shelton.

He will be missed by his loving wife, Bertha of Verndale; sons, Denver (Ellie) Johnson of Pillager and Merlyn (Rishell) Johnson of Verndale; daughter, Colleen Johnson of Bertha; 10 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren; along with a host of friends and neighbors.

Honorary urn bearers will be Jason, Eric, Darren, Justin and Zach Johnson

Burial will be held at a later date in the Wing River Union Cemetery, Wing River Township, MN.

# Cemetery Details

## Wing River Union Cemetery

Approximately 3 miles east of Bluegrass  
Wadena County  
Wadena County, MN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 16. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Hope Chapel  
18142 Co Rd 7  
Verndale, MN 56481

## Service

APR 16. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Hope Chapel  
18142 Co Rd 7  
Verndale, MN 56481

# Tribute Wall



“ I want to thank everyone for the support and for showing up at the funeral, and for sharing the stories and sharing food thank you our memories our forever and can't be taken away only only future changes who comes in our lives next.

Kimberlyn Holmer - April 17, 2018 at 05:59 PM

JE

“ J E lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Johnson



J E - April 13, 2018 at 08:29 PM

JE

“ so sad read this of my brother in law Bob and I always got along. do to family we didn't talk much but will always remember him for the kind person he was and the times I stayed at his home and the many phone calls we had. RIP my friend one day we meet again. I will soon come see your family. DR. J. E. kreps

J E - April 13, 2018 at 08:26 PM

DK

“ Dan Kern lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Johnson



Dan Kern - April 12, 2018 at 06:26 AM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Robert Lee Johnson.*



---

April 11, 2018 at 02:12 PM



“ *Robert was one of my best friends when I lived in Minnesota. As kids, Robert and I went swimming a lot in the Red Eye River, He will be greatly missed.*  
*Preacher Dave Anderson,*  
*President of Prayer Force One Ministries International of Oregon.*  
*My thoughts and prayers for the family.*



---

**Preacher Dave Anderson** - April 10, 2018 at 02:37 PM



“ *Brent Hahn Family lit a candle in memory of Robert Lee Johnson*



---

**Brent Hahn Family** - April 10, 2018 at 12:25 PM

BL

“ Prayers going out to all of you. I know it is devastating even when it is expected. I wish I was down there to help you guys but just know I am thinking of all of you. I know we are not a huggie family but please give Bertha a hug for me and we shall see all of you soon.

---

**Brenda (Trafton) Long** - April 09, 2018 at 04:47 PM

BL

I've been thinking a lot about Bob lately and all the memories of Mt. Train, horses. Going to Sydney with everyone to get a better signal for wrestling, gopher hunting and the horses. He was always there when someone needed help with something. Yes he was definitely a jack of all trades. I started to learn to drive in the fields by the house under his watchful eyes. Well I think they were watching me, never knew what he was thinking behind those dark glasses. Going to miss this stubborn, crabby, sweet guy.

---

**Brenda (Trafton) Long** - April 12, 2018 at 12:41 AM

KC

So saddened to hear of Bob's passing. Many a wonderful memories are in my heart of Bob and my grandfather.

---

**Keeta Clemens** - January 28, 2019 at 07:59 PM