



Russell G. Johnson

December 27, 1932 - October 13, 2018

The Celebration of Life Open House for Russell G. Johnson of Verndale will be held Tuesday, October 23, from 3:00 until 6:00 p.m. at the Johnson-Schuller Chapel in Wadena.

Russell, age 85, passed away, unexpectedly of natural causes, on October 13, 2018, at his home in rural Verndale, MN.

Russell was born to John Russell and Florence Elizabeth (Grover) Johnson on December 27, 1932 in Ellsworth, WI, and lived the majority of his life in Minnesota. Before graduating high school he joined the US Air Force in 1950 and served during the Korean Conflict until his honorable discharge in 1954.

Russell was united in marriage with Mary F. Harris. They later separated ways.

Russell was a generous, fun-loving man. He, along with their mother, raised their kids to be respectful and hard-working people. He found a livelihood in a warehouse shipping and receiving department. In his time away from work, Russ appreciated and closely observed the outdoors, and especially enjoyed hunting.

Preceding Russ in death were his parents John and Florence; step-mother

Winifred (Stockins) Johnson; and sisters Patricia Seng and Lois Eikos.

Russ is survived by his children Robert (Brenda) Johnson of Farmington, Nancy (Eric) Erickson of New Auburn, WI, Diane (James) Greer of Baxter, TN and Debra (Mark Roeser) Johnson of Shakopee, MN; six grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren; sisters Jane (Ralph) Matson and Mary (Eric) Hansen; and many nieces and nephews.

Burial will be in 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

Celebration of Life

OCT **23**. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Johnson-Schuller Chapel
205 4th Street Southwest
Wadena, MN 56482
(218) 631-3632

Tribute Wall



“ *Schuller Family Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Russell G. Johnson*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - October 17, 2018 at 03:54 PM

DG

Thank you. You did a very nice job.

Diane J Greer - October 17, 2018 at 08:12 PM



Thank you for sharing a photo of Russ and me together while in the Air Force at Riverside, California. Russ and I shared some experiences in Montana before the military, too. I shall remember him warmly, he was also a good friend. My condolences to the family. Cousin Bill Johnson

Jean Johnson - October 19, 2018 at 05:03 PM

DH

That was a wonderful video. Thank you

darcy hanson - October 21, 2018 at 12:20 PM

JP

That was a very nice look back at the family memories. With a tear in my eye it made a smile. Thank you

Jane Pfeiffer - October 27, 2018 at 09:29 AM

TK

“ Ted and Sue Kotlowski purchased the *Pretty Plea* se for the family of Russell G. Johnson.



Ted and Sue Kotlowski - October 22, 2018 at 03:11 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - October 22, 2018 at 10:06 AM

KH

“ Kathy H. purchased the *Basket Full of Wishes* for the family of Russell G. Johnson.



Kathy H. - October 20, 2018 at 12:01 PM

MN

“ 1 file added to the album *Life Tributes*



Molly Nelson - October 19, 2018 at 07:34 PM

DG

Love this

Diane J Greer - October 22, 2018 at 09:55 AM



“ *Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Russell G. Johnson.*



October 19, 2018 at 04:57 PM

LB

“ *So sorry to hear about the loss of your dad, Bob. You and your family have my deepest condolences.*
Laura Bolz

Laura Bolz - October 18, 2018 at 10:29 AM

DG

Thank you Ms. Laura

Diane J Greer - October 22, 2018 at 09:58 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Russell G. Johnson.*



October 18, 2018 at 09:45 AM

CO

“ *I am sorry for your loss .*



Colleen - October 17, 2018 at 11:57 PM



“ *47 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - October 17, 2018 at 02:40 PM

AA

“ *Arllys Andrews lit a candle in memory of
Russell G. Johnson*



Arllys Andrews - October 17, 2018 at 02:22 PM

ST

“ I am sorry for your loss. I knew Russ for many years and enjoyed chatting with him. God bless you and comfort you.
Sylvia Wulf Tappe



Sylvia Tappe - October 16, 2018 at 09:14 PM

DG

Thank you Ms. Sylvia

Diane J Greer - October 16, 2018 at 09:00 PM



“ Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of Russell G. Johnson.



October 16, 2018 at 08:04 PM

LA

“ Linda (Matson) Anacker lit a candle in memory of Russell G. Johnson



Linda (Matson) Anacker - October 16, 2018 at 07:47 PM

JW

“ *Jill Westra lit a candle in memory of Russell G. Johnson*



Jill westra - October 16, 2018 at 09:14 AM

JW

“ *I always enjoyed seeing Russell come in to get his prescriptions filled! Always " hi Jill, how are you doing"... always so happy never down. I will never forget his big smile and big wave! I loved your story you wrote about him and and your mom. That was the best upbringing a kid could have had. Our family was the same! My sympathies are with all of you! He's having a good time up in heaven! Love jJill*

Jill westra - October 16, 2018 at 08:22 AM

“ I am Russ Johnson's 3rd child, Diane.

Here are my appreciations, memories and things I rejoice about having my dad as a father.

First of all, he was an Air Force veteran of the Korean War. I am proud he served for our great country and I greatly appreciate that service.

Next I thank him for teaching me to respect, love and enjoy nature & wildlife. He was always quick to point out ... " there's a deer" or "see that wild asparagus" ...

We children learned of different kinds of trees and birds. He would even tell us which type of cow grazed in the field... "That's a Guernsey - they were bred as a milk cow".

Among other things, I am an avid waterfall "chaser" and I believe it came straight from dad (and mom). My first memory of these beautiful waterway formations was of Minnehaha and later Gooseberry Falls.

We were raised poor to middle class in salary but raised rich in love. We had bikes from tax returns and Christmas brought us one or 2 "big" presents....with the biggest gift of all...learning the art of sharing. Each child got \$5.00 to spend at the "dime store". We were taught how to spend a dollar on each sibling and parent for exchange on Christmas day. It was magical.

Although we weren't rich we had vacations of camping at places like Hay Lake and Father Hennepin. We experienced wolves howling and saw areas where there was an Indian excavation in process.

We went on hikes or fishing. I can't tell you how many times dad got my fishing line pulled back out of a tree overhead. I am still amazed to think of the amount of things he managed to fit in a 1967 Chevy wagon. (family of 6, tent, cooler, cots, camp stools, 1 extra friend and even a dog hahaha) I am still a regular camper and even backpack the Appalachia Trail from having these wonders incorporated in my life.

Later we took a big trip across the United States. That gave us kids a great "route 66" life experience of old highways and motor inns. We learned the state capitals and information about the states as we drove. Final destination was Disney Land. Here I learned a

lesson for later in life. Appreciate those around you over the park rides. You see, dad would take a movie of the rides to share with others (he was use to us all being there) ... years later I would say "look there goes Debbie" but she was just a passing glance. Now when I'm caught up that way I remember dad and remind myself to stop videoing the ride and enjoy the people of the moment. But credit to him, is he was thinking of sharing with the folks back home that would never make it to Disney. He was definitely a sharing person.

Dad worked for years on the night shift at May Company to support his family. He always came home singing a song. I promise you if any of us kids here a piece of some of his tunes, we instantly think of him.

Although I hated how far he was from his nearest child, I am thankful that dad stayed healthy enough to live and die in the area (and on the property) he loved. He used to visit me before he retired...But once he got retired and moved "up north" he never wanted to leave his home. He would say " I don't have to go anywhere, I'm always on vacation now". It is wonderful that he didnt have a stroke or Alzheimer's disease. No pain or suffering or nursing homes for dad. He lived where he was happy until the end. If your children's success is a legacy of the parenting you did....then dad (and mom) did well indeed. All of his children are drug-free, own their own homes and have great work ethics.

Good job dad. We are none of us perfect and there is pain and joy in any family. I would even say I struggled with some of your strickness and puzzled over your not being the "card-sending" type. But I believe you were part of what made the best of me.

I pray you soar with the angels....Onward Christian Soldiers. Love You Forever.

Diane J Greer - October 15, 2018 at 06:21 AM

DG

Thank you Ms. Helen.

Diane J Greer - October 15, 2018 at 12:25 PM

HA

I don't think I knew your dad, but what a beautiful tribute to him. You must have loved him very much

Helen Allee - October 15, 2018 at 12:56 PM

ST

Thank you for sharing that with us, Diane. It explains a lot of who he was. Bless you and yours. Keep the legacy going.

Sylvia Tappe - October 23, 2018 at 02:03 PM