



## Vera Johnson

April 14, 1926 - September 21, 2011

Vera Ann (Mielke) Johnson of Wadena, and formerly of Elbow Lake, was born on April 14, 1926 to Ida (Truog) and Edward Mielke in Little Falls, MN. She passed away on September 21, 2011, at the age of 85, at her home of 37 years in Wadena. Vera graduated from Swanville High School and continued her education at Northwestern School of Nursing. On August 14, 1947, Vera Mielke and Robert Bennett Johnson were united in marriage in Minneapolis. She worked as a nurse in community hospitals while raising their family in Denison, Iowa; Wayne, Nebraska; Elbow Lake and Wadena, Minnesota. In retirement Vera and husband Bob loved to travel around the area and were able to match that love by working for the 2000 US Census and TriState Auto. Vera lived a life of service to others demonstrated by her activities in the Tri-County Hospital Auxiliary, American Legion Auxiliary, VFW Auxiliary, Tri-County Hospital Hospice, Meals on Wheels, LWML, and St. John Lutheran Church. She found time to pursue her interests of golf, travel, reading, knitting, crocheting and playing Bridge. Vera was preceded in death by her husband Robert; parents Ida and Edward; brother Dale; and sister Genevieve Gallaher. She is survived by children Robert Bennett (Mary) Johnson, Jr. of River Falls, WI, Ann (Humberto) Ornelas of Lakewood, Co, Kurt (Linda) Johnson of Carnation, WA, and Kristin (Tom) Stoebig of Plymouth; nine grandchildren, and sister Betty Cuchna of Little Falls. Funeral services were held on September 27, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church in Wadena with Pastor Stephen Meltzer officiating. Pallbearers were Zachary Ornelas, Erik

Johnson, Neil Johnson, Michael Ornelas, Andrew Stoebig, Benjamin Stoebig, Bennett Johnson, Ty Johnson, and Mikayla Johnson. Burial was in Wadena Cemetery.

# Tribute Wall

CS

“*Kristin, I just wanted you to know you have been in my thoughts the last few days, especially Tuesday. Lisa has told me how kind and loving you have been to your mom.....and I am not the slightest bit surprised to hear of your love and devotion. Wishing you peace,*  
*Chris Sarkinen, Zachary Lane School.*”

---

**Chris Sarkinen** - September 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BC

“*Dear Aunt Vera,*

*Back in 1982 you and Uncle Bob showed up at North elementary school in Staples and surprised a young boy on Grandparents day. He was sitting alone as his grandparents had passed away or were too far away. That day really solidified a lifelong loving relationship that I will always cherish. You were the perfect example of love and discipline. Your laugh was quick to come and brightened the room. You showed me how valuable volunteering is and how important loving your neighbor is in this world. I am so glad God prepared a place for you and Uncle Bob. We will meet again. Love, Brian.*”

---

**Brian Caquelin** - September 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SE

“*My sympathies to Ann and all of her family. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*”

---

**Sheryl Eddings** - September 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LK

“ Vera has been a wonderful neighbor through the years. She was our cat sitter - they absolutely loved her. Leo kept her driveway plowed during the winter months - a good and fun arrangement! We will truly miss seeing her in the yard and visiting with her.

---

**Leo & Sharon Kempf** - September 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RT

“ Vera was quite the lady. She will be missed greatly and thought of often. She was a blessing to all who knew her.

---

**Rich and Becky Trosen** - September 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ TO THE FAMILY OF "MOMMA J", IT IS VERY SAD TO ME TO HAVE LOST A FILL IN MOTHER LIKE VERA. SHE HAS BEEN, AND ALWAYS WILL BE LIKE A MOTHER TO ME. EVER SINCE YOUR FAMILY MOVED TO WADENA AND WE BECAME NEIGHBORS, SHE ALWAYS LOOKED AFTER ME. AFTER I RETURNED FROM THE NAVY, OUR FRIENDSHIP PICKED UP RIGHT WHERE IT LEFT OFF. EVERY YEAR BEFORE THE CHURCH FALL FESTIVAL, SHE WOULD MAKE SURE I GOT A PIECE OF HER SOUR CREAM RAISIN PIE BEFORE ANYONE ELSE COULD BUY IT UP. EVERY SUNDAY IN CHURCH AFTER SHE TOOK COMMUNION, SHE WOULD WALK BY AND PUT HER HAND ON MY SHOULDER...I WILL FEEL HER WITH ME EVERY TIME I TAKE COMMUNION NOW. I KNOW SHE WILL BE WITH ME. SHE WILL ALWAYS BE IN MY HEART AND I WILL TAKE HER STRENGTH AND LOVE FOR GOD WITH ME THROUGHOUT THE REST OF MY LIFE.

MY BLESSING AND PRAYERS GO WITH YOUR FAMILIES AT THIS HARD STEP IN LIFE. REMEMBER WE ALL WITH BE BACK WITH THEM SOMEDAY IN HEAVEN. I'M SURE THAT MY DAD, ED, AND HER ARE LAUGHING AND TEASING EACH OTHER RIGHT NOW. GOD'S BLESSING!  
LOVE YA, PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH! LYNNE

---

Lynne "Pip" Piepkorn - September 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ So sorry for your loss, wish we could be with you at this time. Would love to see everyone. Bob and Vera are together again.

Love to all,  
Mom Bev, Charlie, Bev, Sean, Amy, Kylie, and Tanner

---

Charlie, Bev, and Mom Bev - September 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Vera's death. The Johnsons were neighbors of ours when I was growing up in Wayne, Nebraska in the early 1960s. Vera was one of the kindest mothers of all my friends. When I went to college in Minnesota, she and Bob, who had moved back to Minnesota--their home state-- drove over to meet my parents and me. I will always remember two things that she did and said at that evening. First, she told me, "Tommy, just remember your first year is always the hardest." I remembered that advice and it got me through my freshman year. The second thing happened the same evening just before all of us were ready to go out for supper. My 4-year old sister fell into the motel swimming pool with all of us standing nearby. Without thinking twice Vera, who was all dressed up for the evening, dove in and pulled her out. That kind of spontaneous, natural kindness and empathy really made a lasting impact on me. She really had a mother's love. I know her family will miss her very much, but I'm also sure there will be a nice homecoming for her in the heavenly homeland. She took her faith very seriously and that, too, made nice impression on me. Tom McDermott

---

Rev. Tom McDermott - September 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Dear Johnson family,

*I am saddened to hear of your mother's passing but I am blessed to have had such a nice visit with her at Edith Lang's birthday party just over a month ago.*

*God bless you all and Vera's memory!*

*With love and light...Dianne*

---

Dianne Kube Herman - September 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ VERA WAS AN AWESOME GAL. I WORKED WITH HER AT MID STATE AUTO AUCTION IN NEW YORK MILLS. SHE WAS AN INSPIRATION TO ALL. I WILL MISS HER SMILING FACE.

---

**Deb Rudolph** - September 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM