



## Nels Johnson

April 23, 1931 - January 22, 2024

Nels Walter “Wally” Johnson, age 92, of Washta, Iowa died Monday, January 22, 2024 at Heartland Care Center in Marcus, Iowa.

Funeral services will take place Monday, January 29, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at United Methodist Church in Holstein, Iowa. Visitation will be held Sunday, January 28, 2024 from 5-7:00 p.m. at the CHURCH. There will be a Masonic Service at 7:00 p.m. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements. In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established.

On April 23, 1931, Nels Walter, fondly known as “Wally” was born to John Albert and Hilma Julianna (Carlson) Johnson in their farmhouse in Washta, Iowa, where he lived the remainder of his life. His parents immigrated from Sweden, making Wally a first generation American who cherished his Swedish roots and embraced his American heritage. He was baptized at Augustana Lutheran Church in Sioux City, Iowa. Growing up, Nels attended school at Fairview Country School, graduating from Holstein High School in 1949.

Nels was drafted into the United States Army where he served active duty from June 13, 1956 until March 12, 1958. Upon his discharge from active duty, on March 13, 1958, he was assigned to Charlie Battery in Cherokee, Iowa, where he attained the rank of First Sergeant for 18 years. His final two years

were spent at Headquarters in Sioux City, Iowa, retiring on March 1, 1978, as an E8 Master Sergeant.

On March 3, 1973, Nels was united in marriage to Joyce Carole Riessen at the United Methodist Church in Denison, Iowa. They were blessed with two children: Nancy and Steven.

Wally was a lifelong farmer where he thoroughly enjoyed feeding and raising cattle for many years. He supported conservation by being a SWCD Commissioner and Regional Director for CDI. He was a member of the United Methodist Church in Holstein, Iowa and had served as Chairman of the United Methodist Church in Washta, Iowa. Wally was also a member of the Little Sioux Masonic Lodge for over 71 years. He served as the Douglas Township Trustee/Clerk, FSA Board, Red Cross Board, and American Cancer Society. Additionally, he was a life-long Democrat, serving as Ida County chairman for many years. Any chance he got, he loved a game of cards whether it be with family or friends. On Friday nights, Wally enjoyed visiting the casino. He will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Survivors include his beloved wife of 50 years: Joyce C. Johnson of Washta, Iowa; children: Nancy Johnson of Storm Lake, Iowa; Steven Johnson of Washta, Iowa; grandchildren: Elli and Braxton Jensen; brother: Harry (JoAnn) Johnson; sister-in-law: Janet Hintz; brothers-in-law: Richard Riessen; Ray Arp; John (Annie) Rennie; nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Welcoming him into heaven are his parents: John and Hilma (Carlson) Johnson; sister: Thelma (Hap) Haenfler; siblings-in-law: Chet Hintz; Roland and Sandy Riessen; Judy (Ed Boll) Arp; Jeanine Rennie; Arlene Riessen; niece: Jeanie Schlinz; and nephew: Jim Haenfler.

# Cemetery Details

## Holstein Cemetery

Holstein, IA

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 28. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

United Methodist Church -- Holstein  
208 S. Kiel St.  
Holstein, IA 51025

## Masonic Service

JAN 28. 7:00 PM (CT)

United Methodist Church -- Holstein  
208 S. Kiel St.  
Holstein, IA 51025

## Funeral Service

JAN 29. 11:00 AM (CT)

United Methodist Church -- Holstein  
208 S. Kiel St.  
Holstein, IA 51025

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Nels Johnson*



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**Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home** - January 28, 2024 at 02:28 PM

TT

*Beautiful memorial pictures of a wonderful human being and his family. I have so many fun memories of them all at the Johnson-Carlson picnics. Teri Lindgren Thorstad, Atlanta GA*

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**Teresa Thorstad** - January 31, 2024 at 10:19 AM

DS

“ *Joyce and family, Please accept my profound sympathies on your loss. I served with and under 1Sgt Wally in Charlie Battery from 1970-1976. It was not a popular time to be in the military, many of us were compelled to be there because of the draft. 1st Sgt Johnson was strict and many did not understand that all he wanted was for us to do our duty, to be ready, and to be as safe as we could be if we were ever called up. I saw Wally a few times after discharge and he was always friendly and ready to talk. There is a special place for soldiers in heaven, rest in peace my friend. Another old soldier, SSgt David Susie, Ret.*

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**David Susie** - February 01, 2024 at 03:40 PM

SL

“ *My sincere condolences to Joyce & family on the passing of Nels.*

*Sue Larson-Bennett*

Sue Larson-Bennett - January 28, 2024 at 04:26 PM

FH

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - January 28, 2024 at 03:20 PM

TT

“ *The Bellarmine Softball Team purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Nels Johnson.*



The Bellarmine Softball Team - January 27, 2024 at 08:17 PM

JB

“ *So many memories of Wally and Joyce in church, neighborhood club, card parties, graduations, sporting events, church events. Always had a wonderful smile and just a true and genuinely wonderful man. God Bless all of you during this difficult time. He is Home with his Maker. Until we meet again Wally.*



janet beazley - January 27, 2024 at 04:42 PM

MF

“ We were so sorry to hear of the loss within your family circle. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time in your life. I knew him when I was a kid in high school. I was 6 years younger than Wally and he was always so good to me. Deepest sympathy to all of you, Mel and Carolyn Frahm

Mel and Carolyn Frahm - January 27, 2024 at 10:27 AM

FE

“ From Jeanie’s girls- Jen & Emily purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Nels Johnson.



From Jeanie’s girls- Jen & Emily - January 26, 2024 at 05:19 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Nels Johnson.



January 25, 2024 at 03:17 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Nels Johnson.



January 25, 2024 at 12:52 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Nels Johnson.*



January 25, 2024 at 12:07 PM



“ *Tltan Machinery - Kingsley crew purchased the S imply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Nels Johnson.*



**Tltan Machinery - Kingsley crew** - January 25, 2024 at 10:15 AM



“ *Heaven gained a wonderful soul yesterday. Wally was such a gentle, kind man of impeccable character who made you feel like you were the most important person in the world while he talked to you. My sincere condolences to his family, the family that he treasured. I know Wally is with his Lord now and we shall all see him again. May he rest in peace.*

**Ann Onnen** - January 23, 2024 at 10:25 PM



“ *My sympathy to you Joyce -Nancy -Steven - Elli and Braxton*



**Kay Marvin** - January 23, 2024 at 06:14 PM