



Richard V. Johnson

August 17, 1934 - November 9, 2022

Richard “Dick” Verne Johnson, spirited, competitive, big-hearted, and silver tongued, passed into eternal life on November 9, 2022, surrounded by his loving family at the Sanford Medical Center in Sioux Falls, SD.

Friends and family are invited to join in a Celebration of Life Mass on Friday, November 25, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Storm Lake. A luncheon will be held following the mass in the St. Joseph Parish Center from 12-1:00 p.m. Visitation and fellowship will continue from 1-3:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. Burial will be held in the St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery following the visitation at 3:00 p.m. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of arrangements.

Dick was known for many things over his 88 years; some we can include here and some best left for Poker Night. He did ordinary things that made for an extraordinary life.

Dick had two life-long love affairs: his wife, Patricia, of 67 years with whom he had five children, 14 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren...and sports.

Dick was a natural athlete, playing football, basketball, baseball, and track at Scranton High School in Scranton, Iowa where he graduated in 1952. If there was a sporting event going on, he had a hand in it somewhere, whether that

was serving as a high school football official and basketball referee or keeping stats or the clock at St. Mary's basketball games and Buena Vista University football games. Dick was a great golfer and played up until his death. If he wasn't playing sports, he was watching sports, especially his beloved Iowa Hawkeye football team while 'coaching' from his rocker. His spirited voice could also be heard from the stands as he cheered on his children and grandchildren at their events.

Dick's competitive nature spilled over into nearly every aspect of his life, especially when playing cards where he could often be heard saying, "This hand is sh*t!" only to win every time. He enjoyed hunting with family and was a sharpshooter, often taking only five shells and landing three targets. He also loved sharing hunting tips: "It's not hard. Just shoot it!"

If a helping hand was needed, Dick had four to give and was very involved in his community. He was in the Naval Reserve, served as a volunteer firefighter for 10 years in Storm Lake, was a 4th degree Knight of Columbus serving as the Grand Knight where he helped in the building of the Storm Lake KC Hall, was an active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, and served as a leader for a Search youth group. No request was too extreme or bizarre - he even lent a hand in picking up a body for his friend in the funeral home business. And, when some high school seniors unwittingly recruited him to be their driver for prom, he diligently accepted - and surprised them by showing up driving an ambulance.

Dick never knew a stranger. He also rarely used their real names. If he couldn't remember or pronounce a name, he just provided a new one. Some favorites were 'nosepicker,' 'turkey' or 'festus.' He ran the PA system at his grandson's high school baseball games and gave each player their own nickname, making it interesting to keep stats. Despite this, his joyful spirit made him incredibly likeable. He had a knack for making people feel

comfortable, greeting them with his million-watt smile, arms wide open and big belly laugh.

His silver-tongued nature helped him excel at sales (and cards) at the Vernon Company for over 50 years where he sold 'pens and pencils' and retired in 2020. Dick rejected technology like cell phones because 'who needs one when you're dropping in?' Need directions? No problem. Just keep driving around until you get where you're going.

Dick was a teacher at heart, always sharing pearls of wisdom with his children and grandchildren like how to check the oil in the car, how to bait a hook, how to swing a golf club, and just how to be kind. A deep man of faith, he said to live for God first, spouse second and family third. His wisdom often attracted young people to the house where he served as a father figure to them.

He is survived by his loving wife, Pat of Storm Lake, Iowa; daughter: Terry (Jim) Foell of Storm Lake, Iowa; son: Kelly (Karyn) Johnson of Hamlin, New York; daughter: Angie (Andy) Mumma of Adel, Iowa; daughter: Sara (Greg) Payne of Clive, Iowa; and daughter-in-law: Kristin Johnson of Evergreen, Colorado; 14 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Gerald and Ruth (Mathias) Johnson; brother: Beryl; sister: Genevieve; brother: Dale; son: Chad and great-granddaughters: Madison and Hailey Foell.

In lieu of flowers, Dick would think it's appropriate to do an unexpected act of kindness in his name, just be sure to use a nickname. Memorial contributions may be sent to the family for a fund designated to a yet-to-be-determined charity. To share a memory of Dick or a condolence to his family, please visit h

<https://www.fratzkejensen.com/obituaries/Richard-Johnson-192/#!/TributeWall>.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery

1238 600th St.
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Previous Events

Memorial Mass

NOV **25**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church -- Storm Lake
320 Seneca Street
Storm Lake, IA

Luncheon

NOV **25**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

St. Joseph Parish Center
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Visitation

NOV **25**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

St. Joseph Parish Center
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Burial

NOV **25**. 3:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery
1238 600th St.
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Tribute Wall

BL

“ How many great times was I lucky enough to have with Dick Johnson, too many to count. Whether it was golfing, hunting, or just hanging around, Dick was always 'on' and gave you a vibe that he sincerely cared about you and was interested in where you were and what you were doing. He was great at taking information in, processing it, and coming out with great thoughts and advice. I'll never forget the kindness he showed me at a young age allowing me to play golf with him and the other guys in his group. Great man, great friend.

Brian Linnan

Brian Dennis Linnan - December 17, 2022 at 02:46 PM

SP

Thank you, Brian! You warm our hearts with your comments. He loved you, too.

Sara Payne - February 02, 2023 at 10:30 AM

KM

“ Our condolences to the entire Johnson family. Dick will be greatly missed by family, the Storm Lake community and St. Mary's. May he rest in peace.

Kevin & Julie McKinney

Kevin & Julie McKinney - November 25, 2022 at 11:13 AM



SS

“ *My Dad and I enjoyed Dick’s visit to our insurance agency for many years. He always had great gift ideas for our customers and always offered quality products. We loved the sports talks and insights and he was like so so right about much of it. We did have to take the Cyclone side of things to make things interesting. Hope he’s playing a heavenly golf course right now. He will fit in with the best of them.*
Steve Smith. Marcus IA

Stephen Smith - November 21, 2022 at 04:50 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard V. Johnson.*



November 21, 2022 at 12:09 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Richard V. Johnson.*



November 20, 2022 at 08:32 PM

PB

“ I have been honored to have Dick and Pat as my godparents for 53 years! Chad and I were born on the same day, and our mothers shared the same hospital room. So it just made sense that the Johnsons would be my godparents. Every year, from the time we were born until our 18th birthday, Chad and I celebrated together. We would alternate years at each other's houses. So many fun memories of those parties and other shared events. I'll never forget our 18th birthday -- we all celebrated with a nice dinner at the Carlson House in Sac City. Chad and I were so excited to finally be "adults" and so grateful to be surrounded by such wonderful role models. Dick, of course, was known for his shenanigans, and that dinner was no exception. As we were waiting for our meals to arrive, a server walked by with food for another table... Dick being the prankster he was, slyly reached over and swiped an ear of corn from one of the plates. We all cracked up!! That was such a perfect example of Dick's sense of humor. He was a great role model -- so committed to family and church, so thoughtful and giving to everyone around him, such a wonderful supporter of St. Mary's athletics, and the world's greatest giver of hugs!! I will miss those hugs and his smile and bright spirit. Heaven is lucky to have both him and Chad, and I can see them pulling pranks on the other angels up there. All my love to the Johnson family, especially my godmother, Pat!!



Paula Burns - November 20, 2022 at 01:16 PM

TF

Paula, you warm my heart with your memories!

Terry Foell - November 23, 2022 at 11:05 AM

TK

“ My sympathies to the family. Who ever wrote up the Obituary did an AWESOME JOB!!! I was blessed to meet Dick and his "silver tongue " lol quite a few times as he sold all kinds of customized business gifts to my father, Jim Krier, for his customers with Jim Krier Repair from Remsen Iowa. Dick was an amazing man and very well described in the write up!!!

Tom Krier - November 19, 2022 at 06:57 PM

IH

“ Dear Pat and family we send our sincere sympathy and hugs in your loss of Dick. What a man and friend he was. Loved his hugs, smiles, and sales wisdom. We share many fun times filled with laughter and winks along with his flavored language. :) Many Vernon trips and meetings that we shared. We were blessed to have called him our friend. I am thankful I was able to work with him for 31 years at the Vernon Company. Ileen and Rod Hanson, Atalissa, IA

Ileen & Rod Hanson - November 17, 2022 at 02:22 PM

A(

“ Pat and family. Many memories go all the way back to growing up in Storm Lake, but most recently I enjoyed seeing all of you in church when I was home to visit. I loved seeing Dick walk past us coming back from communion with a big smile and a wink. He will be greatly missed. Such a great guy.

Amy Hurley (Andrews) - November 15, 2022 at 11:58 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard V. Johnson.*



November 15, 2022 at 04:54 PM



“ *Pat and family we send along our love and sympathy to you all! We'll miss his smile and wave seen on his daily trek to the mailbox! Watch for our memorial given in memory of Richard V. "ZACH" Johnson. ❤️ Craig and Nancy Fratzke*

craig fratzke - November 15, 2022 at 12:11 PM



“ *Bob Baschke lit a candle in memory of Richard Johnson*



Bob Baschke - November 15, 2022 at 09:11 AM



“ *Cheryl DeMan lit a candle in memory of Richard Johnson*



Cheryl DeMan - November 15, 2022 at 07:38 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard V. Johnson.*



November 14, 2022 at 09:47 PM



“ *Mark Candy Galbraith lit a candle in memory of Richard Johnson*



Mark & Candy Galbraith - November 14, 2022 at 08:25 PM



“ *Grace Neuroth-Casson lit a candle in memory of Richard Johnson*



Grace Neuroth-Casson - November 14, 2022 at 03:37 PM

PG

“ A CANDLE HAS BEEN LIT IN MEMORY OF A FRIEND, DICK JOHNSON. HE & PAT SAT BEHIND ME IN CHURCH MOST SAT. NIGHTS. I WILL MISS HIS PRESENCE. TO PAT, HIS DEAR WIFE & ALL HIS FAMILY OUR SYMPATHY & PRAYERS. MAY DICK RIP.



JOY, PEACE & LOVE, LARY & PATTY GUNVILLE & TINA DAVID, DONNA, DAWN & DALE HINNERS & FAMILIES

PATTY GUNVILLE - November 14, 2022 at 03:31 PM

JA

“ My condolences to Pat and the entire Johnson Family. Loved the way he always had a smile and was appreciative of customers doing business with him. I think many of us called him, instead of him trying to sell us something. Joe Aube

Joe Aube - November 14, 2022 at 11:32 AM

MT

“ I will miss his wry smile and quick little compliments. He always made me feel like a million bucks❤️

Mary Timko - November 14, 2022 at 08:50 AM

WT

“ Wilbur Karen Triplett lit a candle in memory of Richard Johnson



Wilbur and Karen Triplett - November 14, 2022 at 07:28 AM

TP

“ *thomas prchal lit a candle in memory of Richard Johnson*



thomas prchal - November 13, 2022 at 09:38 PM

JD

“ *John Connie Demers lit a candle in memory of Richard Johnson*



John and Connie Demers - November 12, 2022 at 08:31 PM

SN

“ *Our condolences to Pat and the entire Johnson Family. Your family was a great example for other St. Mary's families. We enjoyed many good times at the KC events over the years.*

Steve took poker lessons from Dick for several years...at a nominal fee! He was a great sportsman, win or lose! Lots of great memories.

Steve & Sheila Neuroth

Steve Neuroth - November 12, 2022 at 01:39 PM

TP

“ *thomas prchal lit a candle in memory of Richard Johnson*



thomas prchal - November 12, 2022 at 09:31 AM

TC

“ *Tim/Pegi Cavanaugh lit a candle in memory of Richard Johnson*



Tim/Pegi Cavanaugh - November 12, 2022 at 08:13 AM



“ *Dick was well known by everyone use to buy Advertising speciality from him. R.I.P*

Steph Mickelson - November 11, 2022 at 02:12 PM



“ *Steph Mickelson lit a candle in memory of Richard Johnson*



Steph Mickelson - November 11, 2022 at 02:10 PM