

Rodney L. Johnson

March 27, 1960 - March 25, 2024

Rodney Lee Johnson, age 63, passed away at his home in Newell Iowa on March 25, 2024 surrounded by his wife and daughters, following a 3 year battle with metastatic kidney cancer. Our hearts are broken. He was ushered to heaven with love and we rejoice that he is now with our Lord, we will be reunited one day.

Funeral services will take place Friday, March 29, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. at the Nain Lutheran Church in Newell, Iowa. Burial will be in the Newell Cemetery. Visitation will be held Thursday, March 28, 2024 from 4-7:00 p.m. at the Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in STORM LAKE. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Newell Fire Department, Nain Lutheran Church in Newell, or the Newell Municipal Pool Fundraiser. Donations to the Pool Fundraiser may be mailed to: City Hall, PO BOX 35, Newell, IA 50568 or by using the following link: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/newell-pool-fundraiser>. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Rod was born on March 27 1960, on his dad's birthday, to Eula Gayle Jensen Johnson Petersen and Allen Johnson of Newell Iowa. He was welcomed home by brothers Mike and Layne, Jay and Jim would be born later, Rod was the middle child.

Rod was proud to be a life-time member of Nain Lutheran Church being baptized and confirmed there. He served on the Council, as Council President, an usher, a Sunday School Teacher and other various committees. He loved performing for the "Tonight at Nain" dinner theaters and singing in the choir.

Rod graduated from Newell-Providence High School in 1978. He entered the workforce doing various jobs until he was hired by DFS in Newell. Rod was employed there for 20 years, leaving to manage the Feed Mill (Landus) in Larrabee Iowa for the next 17 years until he retired due to his health.

Rodney married Diane on May 25 of 1984. They were blessed with three amazing, beautiful daughters; Jessica, Angela and Trisha. They also had two foreign exchange daughters from Germany, Helene and Jenny and bonus daughter Keera of Utah. Rod and Diane loved being parents, attending their events, cheering them on and pushing them to be all they could be, even encouraging them to spread their wings and move to the East Coast. In 2023 they were blessed with their first granddaughter, Hazel, who quickly stole grandpa's heart. Rod also had his "town" grandchildren across the street and Keera's children who kept us entertained and well-loved, plus many treasured friends.

Community service was very important to Rod. In 1983 he joined the Newell Fire Department where he was an active member until his death, he served 41 years. He obtained the certification of FireFighter II and held various offices. He was an Emergency Medical Technician for 15 years, he was very skilled with the jaws of life and the pumper. Neither Rod nor Diane ever left Newell, being very proud of where they lived. Rod also served as Mayor for 2 terms and on the Newell Pride Committee for several years.

Rod loved to spend time with family and friends playing games and cards. He enjoyed working with his hands remodeling their home or building things, we

all believed he could fix anything! He enjoyed watching football and loved to run Newell-Fonda chains under those Friday night lights. He could often be found on the golf course hitting a round or in the club house enjoying a cold beer. Rod loved traveling, he scratched a trip to Denmark and Germany, visiting both German daughters, off this bucket list in June of 2023. Rod never liked to drive the same way twice which led to “Rod adventures” as the girls and Diane lovingly refer to them. Rod had a great sense of humor, we will miss his chuckle and the way he teased us.

Left to cherish every memory are his wife, Diane of 40 years; Children: Jessica (Olivia) Johnson of Boston Massachusetts; Angela of Brooklyn, New York and Trisha Johnson of Newell, Iowa; Granddaughter: Hazel of Boston, Massachusetts; brothers; Mike (Patty) Lenexa, KS; Layne (Mary) of Conroe, TX; Jay (Gina) of Huxley, IA; Jim (Carolyn) of Houston, TX; Numerous Nieces and Nephews which uncle ‘Yod’ loved deeply; His Petersen Brothers and Sisters: Debbe Bircher Orlando, FL; Patricia (Dennis) Arnold of Iowa City, IA; Greg (Kim) of Garner, NC; Brothers-in-Law: Doug (Sandy) Franzmeier of Storm Lake, IA; Dennis Franzmeier; and Father-in-law: Merle (Judy) Franzmeier of Palmer, IA..

Rod was welcomed to heaven by his paternal and maternal grandparents; mother: Eula Petersen; father: Allen Johnson; step father: Howard Petersen; step brother: Howard Petersen; Mother in Law: Leah Franzmeier; other family members and friends.

Rod would drop anything to help a friend or a stranger in need, especially when that pager went off. He will be missed by many, we were all blessed to know and love him.

Cemetery Details

Newell Cemetery

E. Jensen St.
Newell, IA 50568

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 28. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Storm Lake
1615 W Milwaukee Ave,
Storm Lake, IA 50588
(712) 732-1911
jensenfuneralhomes@gmail.com
<https://www.fratzkejensen.com>

Funeral Service

MAR 29. 10:30 AM (CT)

Nain Lutheran Church -- Newell iowa
441 W Jensen St
Newell, IA 50568

Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Rodney L. Johnson*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - March 28, 2024 at 01:51 PM

MP

“ *Monica Petersen lit a candle in memory of Rodney Johnson*



Monica L Petersen - March 31, 2024 at 04:24 PM

JC

“ It was sad to hear that Rod has departed us but leaves behind a legacy filled with love for his family and friends. I’m impressed how dedicated Rod was to the Newell community including the Fire Department and the work he did as Mayor.

I personally have many memories as kids playing football, shooting BB guns and scouts. One summer my mom placed an ad in the Newell Mirror listing “Two eager boys want summer odd jobs.” Rod and I were about 12 or 13 years old and landed a couple glamorous jobs picking up rocks in the fields. After the first week we each earned ten dollars which we spent it quickly at the dime store on candy.

It was good to see Rod at our 40th class reunion. It is now hard to imagine this town without him.

*Jim Cavanaugh
Class of '78*

Jim Cavanaugh - March 28, 2024 at 10:24 PM

Terra
Sheehan-
Sievers

“ Terra Sheehan-Sievers sent a virtual gift in memory of Rodney Johnson



Terra Sheehan-Sievers - March 28, 2024 at 07:23 PM

Terra Sheehan-Sievers

“ I can't ever remember Rod without an infectious smile on his face, when I would see him.



Terra Sheehan-Sievers - March 28, 2024 at 07:22 PM

FH

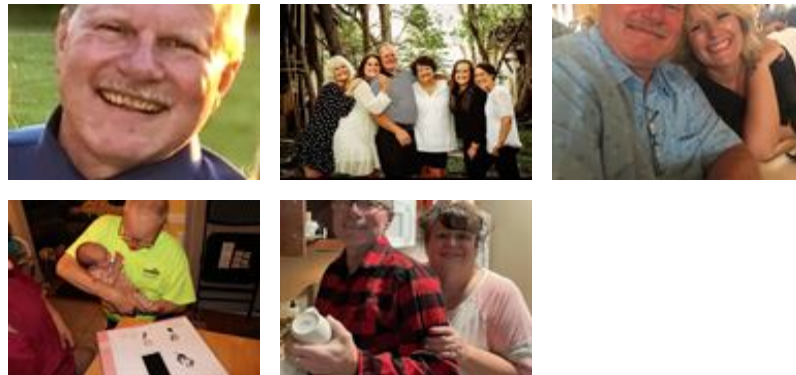
“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - March 28, 2024 at 04:43 PM



“ 491 files added to the album LifeTributes



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - March 28, 2024 at 01:32 PM

VS

“ Vicki S. purchased the Cardinal Memorial Garden Stone for the family of Rodney L. Johnson.



Vicki S. - March 28, 2024 at 01:21 PM

VS

“ Vicki Sorbe lit a candle in memory of Rodney Johnson



Vicki Sorbe - March 28, 2024 at 12:43 PM

CS

“ Rest in peace young man rest in peace



Charlie “tuna” Schnirring - March 28, 2024 at 12:19 PM

RS

“ Randy Marilyn Schmitt lit a candle in memory of Rodney Johnson



Randy and Marilyn Schmitt - March 28, 2024 at 11:22 AM

DF

“ Drew, Mary, Shannon, Emily and families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rodney L. Johnson.

Drew, Mary, Shannon, Emily and families - March 28, 2024 at 10:15 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rodney L. Johnson.



March 28, 2024 at 10:15 AM

DW

“ Dar Will lit a candle in memory of Rodney Johnson



Dar Will - March 28, 2024 at 07:42 AM

JF

“ jo fulks lit a candle in memory of Rodney Johnson



jo fulks - March 27, 2024 at 09:10 PM

PG

“ *Diane, Jessie, Angie and Trisha, always remember that those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day... unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear. Thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*Patti Grote
Susie Kirby*

Patti Grote - March 27, 2024 at 08:15 PM

KP

“ *Kimberly P. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rodney L. Johnson.*

Kimberly P. - March 27, 2024 at 07:01 PM

BT

“ *Bob Connie Taylor lit a candle in memory of Rodney Johnson*



Bob & Connie Taylor - March 27, 2024 at 06:42 PM

HU

“ *Huseman lit a candle in memory of Rodney Johnson*



Huseman - March 27, 2024 at 05:54 PM

NK

“ Nathan, Chloe and Elijah Kier planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rodney L. Johnson.

Nathan, Chloe and Elijah Kier - March 27, 2024 at 04:00 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rodney L. Johnson.



March 27, 2024 at 04:00 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rodney L. Johnson.



March 27, 2024 at 03:55 PM

TY

“ The Petersen family loves you. purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Rodney L. Johnson.



The Petersen family loves you. - March 27, 2024 at 02:33 PM

KP

“ *Karla Gary Pickhinke lit a candle in memory of Rodney Johnson*



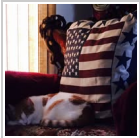
Karla & Gary Pickhinke - March 27, 2024 at 02:18 PM



“ *Sandy Robinson lit a candle in memory of Rodney Johnson*



Sandy Robinson - March 27, 2024 at 01:55 PM



“ *Rod had a beautiful soul. He will be missed by so many. My deepest condolences to the family.*



Suana Wessendorf - March 27, 2024 at 01:25 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rodney L. Johnson.*



March 27, 2024 at 12:49 PM

JH

“ My memories of Rod go way back. We were in the same Sunday school class at Nain, and he was my folk dance partner when we were elementary school-aged. He sure enjoyed flinging us girls around, especially when we danced "Little Man in a Fix!" I can't think of anybody more enthusiastic about dancing around the Christmas tree to "Nu har vi jul igen" than Rod and his brothers--the floor in the old gym hall shook as they stomped and sang. Those were the days!! :)

Julianne Haahr - March 27, 2024 at 10:58 AM

JH

“ *Julianne Haahr lit a candle in memory of Rodney Johnson*



Julianne Haahr - March 27, 2024 at 10:47 AM

SB

“ *Scott Bodholdt lit a candle in memory of Rodney Johnson*



Scott Bodholdt - March 27, 2024 at 08:20 AM

JF

“ *Jo Fulks lit a candle in memory of Rodney Johnson*



Jo Fulks - March 26, 2024 at 11:22 PM

GB

“ *Gene Pat Barnett sent a virtual gift in memory of Rodney Johnson*



Gene and Pat Barnett - March 26, 2024 at 09:55 PM

RW

“ *Ruth Westergaard lit a candle in memory of Rodney Johnson*



Ruth Westergaard - March 26, 2024 at 07:59 PM

BR

“ *Bev Reis lit a candle in memory of Rodney Johnson*



Bev Reis - March 26, 2024 at 07:57 PM

CC

“ Chris cave purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Rodney L. Johnson.



Chris cave - March 26, 2024 at 06:57 PM

LS

“ Leigh Schultz lit a candle in memory of Rodney Johnson



Leigh Schultz - March 26, 2024 at 05:47 PM

LC

“ Diane & girls--we all will miss Rod. May you find some comfort knowing he no longer is suffering. Love you all. Bill & Lana



Lana Crilly - March 26, 2024 at 04:41 PM

AS

“ Jess, Angie, Trisha - I am so sorry for your loss! Your dad was one of a kind, I always remember his big smile.

Alaina Shaffer - March 26, 2024 at 04:28 PM

JH

“ JASON&SHAWN HOLTGREWE lit a candle
in memory of Rodney Johnson



JASON&SHAWN HOLTGREWE - March 26, 2024 at 04:25 PM

ML

“ Rod, you will always be my best friend. From crib mates to classmates, I will never forget you and all the memories we made together. If you saw a Lyman boy, there was sure to be a Johnson boy close by. Playing ball, golfing, painting bleachers, walking beans or just riding around. I will miss you, my friend. RIP brother. Love you.

Mike Lyman - March 26, 2024 at 02:44 PM

RW

“ roberta wise lit a candle in memory of Rodney Johnson



roberta wise - March 26, 2024 at 02:08 PM