



Joseph Lawrence Johnson

August 15, 1953 - June 1, 2022

Joseph Lawrence Johnson passed away peacefully at home on May 25, 2022.

Born August 15, 1953, he was the youngest of three children of Lawrence and Paulina (Polly) Johnson who resided in Tustin, Michigan where Joe grew up on a dairy farm.

Joe moved to Cadillac in 2010. He built a home on a property once owned by his maternal grandparents, Elmer and Mable Dassance.

Joe attended Pine River High School. He was good in sports. He was a runner, football and baseball player. He found his niche in baseball. He held the position of second baseman. He was a star player who caught the attention of the Cadillac Evening News in 1971 that reported "...Joe Johnson is the leader and new school record holder..."., "...Johnson led the Bucks with 34 stolen bases for the year...", "...Joe Johnson collected both of the Bucks hits...". His record number for stolen bases could had been more if not for "...their leading base-stealer, second baseman Joe Johnson, was knocked out of the rest of the season in the Bucks final district tournament game. Johnson collided with Grayling's first baseman and broke his collarbone... and they are going to miss his fast legs..." Joe's talent was recognized by the Chippewa Conference All Star All Conference who presented him with a certificate that stated "This is to certify that Joe Johnson of Pine River High School has been

named All Conference 1st Team in Baseball". He was also the homecoming king. After graduating from high school, Joe went to Ferris State College. He graduated in May 1974 with the degree of Associate in Applied Science in Electrical Power Technology.

After graduation, he proceeded to work with Underwriters Laboratories in Chicago as their Engineering Assistant for 2 years before returning to Michigan to help his father with the farm. When all was well with the farm, Joe gradually secured a job with Rexair LLC. He worked there for more than 30 years before retiring in 2015. He was their General Foreman who was loved and respected by his colleagues of all levels as well as those who knew him personally. Friends and family knew Joe to be a kind and generous soul who would give the shirt on his back and always put others needs before him.

In retirement, besides hunting and fishing, Joe's passion was landscaping, especially with trees and rocks. His skills in landscaping were amazing. His front yard looks beautiful with trees and old farm equipment ornaments; these are individually mounted on crushed stones and the trees are surrounded with rocks he discovered in the woods of his properties. In the woods, Joe cleared many trees to make an almost 2-mile path for his wife who loves taking her morning walks around the properties. He also made a small park with a smiley face on the hill overlooking his deer food plots. This park on the hill was Joe's sanctuary. He enjoyed watching the birds, deer, turkeys and even bears in his fields. On this hill, during one of her morning walks, his wife came across a unique rock on the ground and requested Joe to dig it out and place at the front yard. When it was dug out of the ground, it turned to be a huge 10-ton rock. Thus, it stayed on the hill. Joe, being the master of his art, mounted his grandfather's and father's name plaque on this rock; and on this rock Joe's name plaque will be there, too.

Joe is survived by his wife Jamilah, step-daughters, Jazzylla (Fritzgerald Jr),

New York/Singapore and Jazzymma (Fathullah), Singapore, step-granddaughter Alaia Imaani, Singapore; sister, Elaine M. Johnson, Traverse City, MI; brother-in-law, David L. (Susan) Taylor, Traverse City, MI; four nephews and nieces, Matthew (Jennifer) Taylor, Solvang, CA; Kristen (Matt) Myers, Traverse City, MI; Courtney (Conor) Sullivan, Birmingham, AL; and Adam (Keri)Hahn, Dewitt, MI. Also 5 great-nieces and great-nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence and Paulina Johnson, Tustin, MI; and sister, Cheryl Taylor, Traverse City, MI.

Joe is now in his heavenly home and will be sorely missed by all whose lives he has touched and left behind.

An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Tribute Wall

JJ

“ So saddened by the news of my buddy Joe's homegoing. Played a lot of sports together. Fished and hunted together. Lots of memories, but the one I'll remember is a night at Center Lake when Joe prayed to receive Jesus Christ as his Savior.
--Jim Johnson

Jim Johnson - June 18, 2022 at 09:23 PM

JJ

Thank you for sharing, Jim.

Jamilah Johnson - June 23, 2022 at 09:44 PM

DO

“ Although we were cousins, age separated us. (I'm 86) So I didn't get to know you too well. Mostly I remember you as a young kid. We would visit your parents occasionally. We are praying your family will be blessed by your life and be comforted by all the good memories Rest in peace.
Donna O'Dell

Donna O'Dell - June 06, 2022 at 08:01 AM

JJ

Thank you, Donna.

Jamilah Johnson - June 23, 2022 at 09:45 PM

MH

“ Although we never knew you in person, Your lovely wife told so much about you. It seems so wrong to lose young people. Jamilah, we've become friends and if there is anything Yvonne or I can do, please don't hesitate to call.

Mike & Yvonne Hatfield - June 02, 2022 at 08:16 PM

JJ

Thank you, Mike & Yvonne.

Jamilah Johnson - June 03, 2022 at 02:41 PM

JD

“ *So many fond memories through the years Joe. Hard to believe you're gone. I'll always remember the many great times we've had together. Teaching me your skills at hunting and shooting! You sat me in your favorite deer hunting spot and celebrated with me as I shot my first buck (with your rifle) I purchased that same rifle later which my son owns now. Our once in a lifetime elk hunt in Colorado. Hunting in the mountains was breathtaking in more ways than one! LOL!*

Being there and sharing your excitement as we propped our rifles against the horns of massive elk you shot! What a job getting that down from the mountain. Happy your father was there too! What a experience!

Our time in Chicago....that's all I'll say about that. 😊

The countless fishing trips, road trips and family events we shared. Though time had put a little distance in our paths you'll always remain the best friend I've ever had and I'll always savor the memories we shared.

Rest In Peace Joe Johnson.

James Dean

James Dean - June 02, 2022 at 09:10 AM

JJ

Thank for sharing, James Dean.

Jamilah Johnson - June 03, 2022 at 02:39 PM

HJ

“ As my mom and his mom were good friends, I remember many visits to their farm. When I was growing up he and my brother Eric, who was the same age, were good friends and spent a lot of time together. I remember watching them both play sports and respected him a lot. I think every time I've seen him he always had a smile on his face and a nice thing to say. A really good guy. I'm sorry to hear of his passing.

Herb Jennings - June 02, 2022 at 08:43 AM

N(

To the family of Joey Johnson - I remember being at the Kidder School where Joey, Cheryl, and Elaine attended. Such a nice family, and we had such fun in a one room School House. I remember that after I would get my assignments done, that the teacher, Reba Williams, would allow me to help the Kindergarten children with their school work. Also we had baseball time for our recess. I learned a lot about loving those around you on a day to day basis. Wish those times could be done now! So sorry for your loss. Nita Keller, Kitson

Nita (Keller)Kitson - June 02, 2022 at 10:38 AM

DS

I always called him "Joey," Married to one of his cousins, Mary Ann (Forsgren) Shaver, I first met Joey at the farm. He asked me if I'd like to help him do a little job at the barn. I thought i was in good shape until we put up a years' worth of hay in the loft. I was completely exhausted and Joey just laughed and continued at the same fast pace while my pace slowed more than considerably. We had some beer at the day's end and started a life long respect and a sort of long range friendship. We really got along and I'll really miss him on my trips to Cadillac. David Shaver, Colonel, Us Army, Retired, Crown Point, IN 46307

david shaver - June 02, 2022 at 04:15 PM

JJ

Thank you for sharing, Nita & David

Jamilah Johnson - June 03, 2022 at 02:42 PM



Thank you for sharing, Herb.

Jamilah Johnson - June 03, 2022 at 02:44 PM