



Gerald "Gerry" Johnson

July 1, 1942 - December 26, 2023

Gerald "Gerry" Johnson, 81, of Spencer passed away on Tuesday, December 26, 2023, at Sanford USD Medical Center and Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD. A celebration of life will be held from 1-5 p.m. on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at the Brandon VFW in Brandon, SD. Graveside Military Rites will be held at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, May 18, 2024, in the Riverside Cemetery on Spencer, IA, conducted by the Glen Pederson American Legion Post #1 and the Clay County VFW Post #3159 both of Spencer, IA. Following the graveside services, there will be a Celebration of Life Service held at Plaza Mexico in Spencer. Arrangements are under the direction of the Robinson Funeral Home in Spirit Lake. Online condolences may be left at www.spiritlakefuneralhome.com

Gerry was born on July 1, 1942, to Vernon and Jessie (Engelkes) Johnson in Sibley, IA. Gerry served his country right out of high school. He enlisted in the US Air Force and served for 28 years in the Air Force & Air National Guard. Gerry was a proud Vietnam veteran. After his honorable discharge, he reenlisted in the Air National Guard where he continued to serve his country. Gerry continued his career working as an Aircraft Mechanic. Gerry loved serving on the crew of the B-17 Flying Fortress out of Oshkosh Wisconsin. They sold rides, tours and traveled all over the U.S. and did a few air shows. Gerry was united in marriage to Shirley Bechler on October 20, 1961. To this union two children were born, Kimberly and Joseph. She preceded him in death. Gerry was later married to Katherine Boggess on August 14, 1987, in

Sioux Falls, SD.

Gerald loved to fish, hunt, cook and barbecue. He enjoyed working on and showing off his Volkswagen's. He also enjoyed creating different BBQ sauces for family and friends. His sauces were so good that Smokin' Jakes in the lakes area hired him to professionally make their sauces for the restaurant. He enjoyed meeting all his buddies for morning coffees, going out for lunch, and hanging out at the Barber Shop telling stories. He enjoyed having summer BBQs and inviting all his friends and family. He was a member of the Black Knights Car Club and the Porsche Club of America. In his free time, he volunteered his time to driving Vets to their appointments and helped organize the honor flights that took Vets to DC. He proudly got to be on one of those flights.

He was passionate about old cars, collecting guns and watching old westerns. Gerald was a good friend to many and always made new friends wherever he went. He was the best dad anyone could ask for and he was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and proud to be a great grandfather who loved his family very much.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife Katy Johnson of Spencer, IA; daughter Kimberly (Rodney) Hanson of Crooks, SD and their children Hunter Hanson of Crooks, SD and Taylor Hanson of Sioux Falls, SD; son Joseph (Kiana) Johnson of Primghar, IA and their children Sam (Shelby) Johnson of Seney, IA, Alivia (Kevin) Grothaus of Royal, IA and Sutton Johnson of Primghar, IA; and a great grandson Henry Grothaus, Royal, IA; brother Dwight Johnson of OK; sisters Lori (Loren) Bosma of Sibley, IA and Valerie (John) Janssen of Sibley, IA.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Marlene, brother Larry, infant sister Marcella and grand dog Gracie.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

APR 13. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Brandon VFW
321 Main Ave
Brandon, SD 57005

Graveside Service

MAY 18. 1:00 PM (CT)

Riverside Cemetery
1701 W 4th Street
Spencer, IA 51301

Celebration of Life

MAY 18. 1:30 PM (CT)

Plaza Mexico
15 11th Street
Spencer, IA 51301

Tribute Wall

BO

“ *The darker the night, the brighter the stars. The deeper the grief, the closer is God. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family Kim.*

Bonnie - May 18, 2024 at 08:22 AM

PG

“ *Thoughts and prayers to Katy and family. May you find comfort and peace.*



Pat Guerttman - April 18, 2024 at 02:35 PM

PA

“ *Phil and Ellen Killey, Scottsdale, AZ. purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Gerald "Gerry" Johnson.*



Phil and Ellen Killey, Scottsdale, AZ. - April 07, 2024 at 11:36 AM

PK

“ *Kim and the Johnson Family*
Ellen and I absolutely loved your father! Gerry loved life and all he knew in his life, and we all loved him right back. Gerry was a total professional who took pride in making the SDANG the best of the best any way you measure it, but always had fun doing it and made it fun for all of us. Gerry was the epitome of why the Guard is a family organization. We miss you Gerry.

Phil and Ellen Killey
Scottsdale, AZ

Phil & Ellen Killey - April 07, 2024 at 10:58 AM

RE

“ *Katie and family sorry to hear of Terry's passing keeping you in my prayers. Renae Rierson*

Renae - January 21, 2024 at 01:51 PM

SH

“ *Meet Gery through the love of Volkswagens..became a good friend. So sad to hear of his passing. RIP BUDDY!*

Steve Hall - January 18, 2024 at 06:47 PM

JG

“ *Janet Gray lit a candle in memory of Gerald "Gerry" Johnson*



Janet Gray - January 04, 2024 at 07:26 PM

JG

Prayers for Gerry's family and friends. My husband Larry worked with Gerry at the Guard and on the B-17 tour. Larry has fun memories of times they shared at work and on tour. May your sweet memories and love for Gerry bring his family smiles, comfort and strength. Larry and Janet Gray

Janet Gray - January 04, 2024 at 07:30 PM

BM

“ *Bob and Karen Meester gosh , so surprised to see the bad news. We were Bigelow knights and friends forever. As we retired to okoboji we were able to run across each other and the last time at Menards in Spencer last summer. Bigelow fun and family history was again laughed so much. His parents and siblings in my fuel business are great memories. You have our dearest sympathies*

Bob & Karen Meester - January 02, 2024 at 06:36 PM

MN

“ *Katy and family..so sorry for your loss.thoughts and prayers to you all...Michelle Nielsen*

Michelle nielsen - January 02, 2024 at 09:53 AM

RR

“ *I believe I may have enjoyed knowing Gerry longer than most. Gerry and I grew up in Border Towns. Iowa and Minnesota. Gerry from Bigelow Minnesota and myself from Sibley Iowa. You could say we were once rivals. We were both 18 when we enlisted into the Air Force. In 1978 Gerry and I were once again reunited at the South Dakota Air National Guard. Both now proud Air Technicians. What a guy Gerry was. He's a legend. No doubt about it. Gerry's Legacy will live on for all who knew him.*

Ron Roos

Ron Roos - January 01, 2024 at 09:48 PM

DO

“ Kim and Joe’s family, our condolences for your lose of “Gerry”. Some of my best memories of working on the flight line was with Gerry. He also did a great job of raising you kids into young adults. Best memory was Gerry and George always going around and around about their sports teams. Making a long story short was George taking Gerry’s prized Viking coffee cup and throwing it against the wall, smashing it after their bantering. George found a replica of his favorite cup, that’s what he smashed. Fireworks, but you could see they loved each other when the smoke cleared. Flight line and Gerry were team players. A formula that made SDANG so successful.

David & Jan Osborn - January 01, 2024 at 08:01 PM

KW

“ Sending my sincere sympathies to the entire Johnson families! I've known Lori, Val and (did know) Marlene for many years around Bigelow and the Sibley area. May the Good Lord be with you all.
Karen Van Westen

Karen Van Westen - December 31, 2023 at 03:08 PM

WR

“ Words can't express our sympathy for you Kim and your family.He was one great friend and buddy. May God be with you. Bill and Phyllis Raska..

William Raska - December 31, 2023 at 02:31 PM

JV

“ John Kluever & Linda Versluis lit a candle in memory of Gerald "Gerry" Johnson



John Kluever & Linda Versluis - December 31, 2023 at 01:04 AM

CF

“ Kim and family sorry for your loss, he was a valued friend and a great guy to work with and be around. so glad to have seen him and talked to him one last time . Cliff and Peggy Foss

Cliff Foss - December 29, 2023 at 08:32 PM

PK

Kim and Family

Ellen and I share in your sorrow in the loss of your father. Gerry was a good man who cared about everyone he knew and showed it everyday by his actions. Your Dad exemplified why the South Dakota Air National Guard was and still is the best. Your Dad was a winner and his attitude permeated the rest of the unit making it a winner.

Kim, you are so much like your Dad and we love you just the way we loved your Dad and will miss him deeply, but know we'll see him again west of the sunset. Love always, Phil and Ellen

Phil Killey - December 30, 2023 at 10:29 AM

RL

I will always fondly remember all the great times I had with Gerry on Air Guard Deployments, with the A7, and in retirement with the Experimental Aircraft Association's B-17. Robert "Buck" Lien

Robert LIEN - January 03, 2024 at 06:27 PM

AW

“ *Kim, Rod and Family*
We want to express our heartfelt sympathy to you in the loss of Gerry!! We have many fond memories of him from working with him at the SD Air National Guard.
Our thoughts and prayers are with your family during this difficult time!!
Al and Mary Weinacht

Allan Weinacht - December 29, 2023 at 06:32 PM

LK

“ *Lela Kruse lit a candle in memory of Gerald "Gerry" Johnson*



Lela Kruse - December 29, 2023 at 06:23 PM

DW

“ *I met Gerry in 1978. He was the first person I got to know outside of my work area at Guards. He was high energy and full of life. I always enjoyed his humor. He will be missed. Denis Wolff*

Denis Wolff - December 29, 2023 at 05:56 PM

KL

“ *We are very sorry for your loss. I'm hopeful Gerry and Steve are up there having a laugh and working on the VWs.*

Karyn Labranche - December 29, 2023 at 03:28 PM

JC

“ Katy my heart goes out to you and your family. I always enjoyed my visits with Gerry about cars, usually at a convenient store pumping gas & getting looks because we took too long. lol!
May God wrap his arms around you and give you strength & peace.
Love you Jeanie Culver

Jeanie Culver - December 29, 2023 at 03:24 PM

RR

I extend my sincere condolences to the family of Gerry. He was an outstanding crew chief for A7 #931. I will always remember him as a great friend.
Ray Rauenhorst
Easton MN

ray rauenhorst - December 29, 2023 at 07:35 PM

JK

So sorry for your loss. Gerry was a great guy and full of life.

Jim Kelley - December 29, 2023 at 10:26 PM



“ Katie and family we are so so sorry for your loss. Prayers for you all.
Denny and Cindy Hahn



Cynthia Hahn - December 29, 2023 at 10:48 AM

KP

“ god bless you and your family==john & cathy kirschbaum

Kirschbaum, Catherine J & John P - December 29, 2023 at 08:53 AM

AS

“ Gerry was one of my favorites at Great Lakes Airlines! I would later run into him at different places in Spencer! Always a smile and kind word! He will be missed! Deepest Sympathy to Katie and all Gerry's family.

Anne Sween - December 28, 2023 at 08:59 PM

BF

“ Barry Forbes lit a candle in memory of Gerald "Gerry" Johnson



barry forbes - December 28, 2023 at 04:09 PM