



## Paul Charles Johnson

January 8, 1932 - December 29, 2021

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Paul Charles Johnson (age 89) on December 29, 2021. He was a bright spark in this world with a brilliant mind and will be dearly missed. Paul was preceded in death by his high school sweetheart and first great love, Joan Kacynski Johnson, (wedded 34 years). After Joan's death, he was lucky to find love again with his second wife, Kathleen Kelleher Johnson (wedded 21 years). Paul is survived by his four children-Melanie Johnson, J.D., Lance Johnson, J.D. (daughter in-law Cindy Johnson and grandchildren Alex and Nikki Johnson), Melissa Johnson Cantrell, MBA, (son-in law Don Cantrell), and Kristi Johnson, J.D.

Paul was born on January 8, 1932, in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. He attended Lincoln High School and ultimately graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1952 with a degree in polymer chemistry. An avid Green Bay Packers fan, Paul cheered on the green and gold through the good and bad seasons. One of his highlights was when he attended the Super Bowl in 1997 when the Packers resoundingly beat the New England Patriots 35-21.

After college graduation, Paul took a job at Union Carbide in Niagara Falls, NY, where he developed adhesives for high temperature smelting electrodes. It was messy work. He was fond of telling the story of how they had a locker room to change into work clothes and back into street clothes at the end of the day.

Paul subsequently returned to Wisconsin and accepted a position where he conducted research for the Parker Pen Company in Janesville. He invented numerous developments that became iconic, e.g., the Parker Jotter pen (still sold today) and porous tips used in felt tip pens (ubiquitous).

Paul was lured away from Parker Pen by former U.S. Representative for Iowa's sixth congressional district and former CEO Berkley Bedell (1921-2019) to become Research Director at Berkley and Company headquartered in Spirit Lake, Iowa. Paul moved his family to a very small and beautiful Iowa town surrounded by five blue water lakes where he immersed himself in the process of creating innovative fishing lines, ski tow ropes, and fishing rods. He regularly enjoyed the many hunting and fishing opportunities found in the Iowa Great Lakes area.

Not one to settle down, after his retirement, Paul entered local politics where he served three terms as an elected Supervisor for the Dickinson County Board of Supervisors (2003-2018). As a Supervisor, Paul fiercely fought outside interests to protect the natural beauty of the Great Lakes' environment and ensured its citizens enjoyed a high quality of life. He took great pride when he oversaw the building of the new Dickinson County Courthouse, completed in 2009, impressively built under budget and on schedule.

Paul possessed a zest for life as well as a penchant for telling jokes with long introductions leading up to the punch line (it was always worth the wait). A painter. A world traveler. Paul hunted above the Arctic Circle, dove the seas with Jean Michelle Cousteau, scored a hole-in-one (twice!), and became a published author in *The Scientific Angler* (a seminal work in the application of technology to the sport of fishing). He was admitted to the Outdoor Writer's Guild and regularly wrote on fishing technologies.

Paul loved deeply and touched the lives of many. We take comfort in knowing that he is now at peace and surrounded by light.

A memorial service and celebration of life for Paul Johnson will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 18, 2022, at the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Milford. Burial will take place in the St. Margaret's Cemetery in Spirit Lake. Arrangements are under the direction of the Schuchert-Lentz Funeral Home in Spirit Lake. Online condolences and Paul's full obit can be reached at [www.spiritlakefuneralhome.com](http://www.spiritlakefuneralhome.com)

## Cemetery Details

### **St. Margaret's Cemetery**

Spirit Lake, IA 51360

## Previous Events

### **Celebration of Life**

JUN **18**. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church  
1301 Okoboji Ave.  
Milford, IA 51351

# Tribute Wall

PS

“ Paul became my duplicate bridge partner this Fall and what a nice partner he was! He had years of playing experience and was an excellent player. He helped me to really enjoy the game itself and not focus on the score results. His love for bridge and his positive personality made our Thursdays such fun. He will be missed by the bridge community of Iowa City. He was a kind, exceedingly bright, humble man. I'll remember his encouragement and love for bridge. I feel fortunate to have known him, if only briefly.  
Paula Sanan

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**Paula Sanan** - January 10, 2022 at 05:37 PM

SF

“ Steve And Dianne Franker lit a candle in memory of Paul Charles Johnson



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**Steve and Dianne Franker** - January 08, 2022 at 10:16 AM

CK

“ Paul was an enthusiastic participant in our Iowa City duplicate bridge games, in which he would play when he was visiting his daughter in the area. We were delighted when he moved to the area, and played in all of our weekly games. We so enjoyed having him with us, and will miss him dearly: his kindness, intelligence, wit, and so many other wonderful characteristics.

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**Carol Panzer & John Kempf** - January 05, 2022 at 06:44 PM

SC

“ Paul was our neighbor since 2002 in Okoboji. Always would visit with him and pet his dogs that he would take for walks twice a day. A very nice man. We missed him when he sold his house and moved a few years ago. Our prayers and thoughts are with his family!

Sue and Carl Crossgrove - January 05, 2022 at 02:19 PM

JS

“ My sincere condolences to Paul's family. I had the pleasure of working with Paul at Berkley and Company, and he was not only my supervisor, but he became a great mentor and friend. He was a gentle and kind man and always the professional. Rest In Peace, Paul.

Julie Scheib - January 03, 2022 at 07:07 AM

BH

“ I worked with Paul at Berkley/Pure Fishing and you couldn't find a more polite and respectful man. He was admired by many.



Barbara Haagenon - January 02, 2022 at 04:28 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Paul Charles Johnson.



December 31, 2021 at 06:52 PM



“ *It.s with great sadness I received the news of Paul.s death. A good and close friend for over 50 years. A close associate during our Berkley years and a close personal friendship after retirement..I recent years we had many discussions about politics and the state of the nation. I will my good friend.  
Betty and Bob Sneitzer.*

**Betty Sneitzer** - December 31, 2021 at 11:24 AM



*Our sympathy to the friends and family of Paul. He made the lakes area a better place to live. May he rest in peace. Bob and Kate Shaw*

**Kathleen Shaw** - December 31, 2021 at 03:57 PM



“ *Paul was a very nice man to work with at Berkley and he had a major influence on the success of the company. God bless him and his family.*

**Ron Crowley** - December 31, 2021 at 11:07 AM



“ *Dianne Roberts lit a candle in memory of Paul Charles Johnson*



**Dianne Roberts** - December 31, 2021 at 10:37 AM

NR

“ *Nancy Rees lit a candle in memory of Paul Charles Johnson*



Nancy Rees - December 31, 2021 at 10:16 AM

JB

“ *Pete & Julie Bergquist*



Julie Bergquist - December 31, 2021 at 09:31 AM

JB

*We extend our sympathies to you and your family.*

Julie Bergquist - December 31, 2021 at 09:32 AM



*My sympathy to his family espically to the kids that grew up as neighbors to my kids on 20th st. So sorry! Hugs! Mary Ellen Inbody!❤️*



Mary Ellen Inbody - June 14, 2022 at 09:59 PM

RB

“ *My heartfelt sympathies to Paul's family. He was a wonderful man to work for and always acknowledge the work that women did. Prayers to all*



Rosemary Booth - December 31, 2021 at 09:27 AM

FJ

“ *Fran Jungjohan lit a candle in memory of Paul Charles Johnson*



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**Fran Jungjohan** - December 31, 2021 at 08:33 AM

JP

“ *Judy Peddycoart lit a candle in memory of Paul Charles Johnson*



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**Judy Peddycoart** - December 30, 2021 at 08:32 PM

VE

“ *So sorry to hear about Paul. Such a great guy and always willing to listen, help and advise when needed.*



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**Voanne Edwards** - December 30, 2021 at 07:35 PM

ET

“ *Ed & Linda Thelen lit a candle in memory of Paul Charles Johnson*



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**Ed & Linda Thelen** - December 30, 2021 at 07:03 PM

PM

“ *A terrific man always willing to extend himself for others.*

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**Pat McIntyre** - December 30, 2021 at 06:49 PM

KL

“ *I am so sorry to hear of Paul's passing. What a compassionate and erudite gentleman he was. My sympathy. Karen Larson*

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**Karen Larson** - December 30, 2021 at 04:54 PM

PB

“ *Paul Bakke lit a candle in memory of Paul Charles Johnson*



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**Paul Bakke** - December 30, 2021 at 03:13 PM

DB

“ *Deb Bockman lit a candle in memory of Paul Charles Johnson*



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**Deb Bockman** - December 30, 2021 at 02:56 PM



“ Paul, like the Dad he was, was always willing to share a story with me or to involve my mind in deeper thinking-- generally in the early morning when I would be at a sleep over with Kristi-- and he was reading the paper or watching TV in the living room. He was very inquisitive and he would impress in our conversations about learning more about our numerous topics -- and that was before the Internet. I remember a calendar Joan had on the wall of Paul Newman-- and she would say how much Paul reminded her of her Paul. I know how much he loved his family and he enjoyed life. He will be missed but not forgotten. Thank you for trying to answer all of my questions, Paul-- and I promise Kristi and I will stay out of trouble. ;o)



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**Tara Currier-Hofer** - December 30, 2021 at 02:50 PM

MM

“ Mari Mulhern lit a candle in memory of Paul Charles Johnson



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**Mari Mulhern** - December 30, 2021 at 02:39 PM

RB

*Great neighbor and friend. Always willing to help. Had many good times with Paul and Kathy. Will be missed.  
Rod & Bev Bovee*

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**rodney bovee** - December 31, 2021 at 11:37 AM