



Susan F. Johnson

October 19, 1933 - April 22, 2022

Susan F. Johnson, 88, of Okoboji, passed away on Friday, April 22, 2022, at the Accura Healthcare Center in Milford.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 a.m. Friday, May 20, 2022, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Spirit Lake. A Rosary will be recited at 9:15 a.m. by the Catholic Daughter's on Friday prior to the service at the church. Burial will be held in the St. Margaret's Cemetery in Spirit Lake.

Susan Clara (Fettes) Johnson was born on October 19, 1933, the first of 10 children to Helen and Gregory Fettes of Sibley, Iowa. She was named after her two grandmothers, Susan Fettes and Clara Dingel. Susan died on Friday, April 22, 2022, at the Accura HealthCare of Milford in Milford, Iowa, where she had lived since early 2019. The family is grateful to the staff of Accura HealthCare of Milford and Lakes Regional Healthcare and Hospice of Spirit Lake, Iowa, for the care they provided, especially in her final days.

Being the oldest, young Susan (Sue) spent many hours babysitting at home. She often set up chairs to create a 'classroom' where she would teach her younger brothers and sisters using books that her Dad bought cheaply at farm sales. After graduating in 1952 from Sibley High School, Susan attended Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, Iowa, where she received her two-year teaching certificate. She then taught at Royal Community Schools in Royal, Carroll Public Schools in Carroll, and schools in Ames, Iowa. While teaching in Ames, she received her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa.

Sue met her future husband, Dr. James R. Johnson, in Ames, Iowa, and they were married in 1966 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in St. Peter, Minnesota. Following those years, she and Jim moved to various states where they were both involved in teaching. Over a span of 21 years, Sue taught in Eau Claire, Wisconsin; Lexington, Virginia; St Francis Indian School, South Dakota; and in Valentine, Nebraska. Sue followed in the next 23 years in Volusia County, Florida, where Sue taught mainly at Spruce Creek Elementary School. She continued to be a substitute teacher in the area at various elementary and middle schools until her retirement.

Sue received her master's degree in English from Nova University, although she had previously taken all of her graduate English classes at Mankato State College in Mankato, Minnesota. During her career, she also had been an English adjunct teacher at the following colleges: Sinte Gleska-Rosebud Reservation, South Dakota Community College, and Daytona Beach Community College. Sue felt honored to assess Teachers' National Board portfolios for four years, because it provided an additional challenge where she could utilize her teaching abilities.

She participated in many organizations over the years: League of Women Voters, Daytona Beach Choral Society, Florida Reading Association Board, and the International Reading Association. She was the representative for Volusia County at the Florida Reading Association for three years. When she moved to Spirit Lake, Iowa, Sue became a member of the choral group Many Voices and was actively involved with the Spirit Lake Senior Center. She was known to bring her love of cooking and baking, providing treats on many occasions.

The Catholic Church and her strong faith were present in Sue's daily life. In Port Orange, Florida, she belonged to Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church, where she sang in the Ladies Funeral Choir and was a member of the regular choir, as well. She also attended South Minister Presbyterian Church with her husband, Jim, and was also a member of the choir there. When she moved to Spirit Lake, Iowa, she joined the parish of St. Mary's, where she was an active

member of the choir and Catholic Daughters of America.

Sue and Jim had only one son, Christopher Russell Johnson (1972-2015).

However, they also opened their home to Chris' friends, who stayed with them at various times: John, Shawn, Rob, Mark and Jason. Jim's nephew Eric also lived with them while he attended and graduated from Spruce Creek High School in Florida.

Sue is preceded in death by her husband Jim, her son Chris, her parents Helen and Gregory, her sister Carol, her nephews Willy Fettes, Dean Wallrich, Bill Wallace, Jr., Peter Lakers, her niece Rachel Baland, and her great-nephew Joey Lakers.

She leaves behind her siblings Donald (Ginny) Fettes, Mankato, Minnesota; Rachel (Bill) Wallace, Odebolt, Iowa; Ruth (Joseph) Lakers, Des Moines, Iowa; Rita (Jim) Pyle, Milford, Iowa; Bill (Lynda) Fettes, Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Dee Pyle, Okoboji, Iowa; Alan (Deb) Fettes, Spirit Lake, Iowa; Loretta (Joseph George) Callahan, Vancouver, Washington; and brother-in-law Tim Baland, Battle Lake, Minnesota.

She will be missed by her many nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews and great-great-nieces and nephews who for many years enjoyed her birthday and anniversary cards and notes, as well as an occasional \$2.00 bill. Her many friends will also remember the good times they shared together. In lieu of flowers, a donation may be given to the Catholic Daughters of St. Mary Parish in Spirit Lake (1005 Hill Avenue, Spirit Lake, IA 51360) or to a charity of your choice in Sue's honor.

May her love of teaching, music, cooking, letter writing, and faith continued to be shared in the many lives of her family and friends. May she Rest in Peace.

Cemetery Details

St. Margaret's Cemetery

Spirit Lake, IA 51360

Previous Events

Service

MAY **20**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church

1005 Hill Ave.

Spirit Lake, IA 51360

<http://www.stmarysspiritlake.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *Robinson Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Susan F. Johnson*



Robinson Funeral Home - May 19, 2022 at 09:52 AM

PY

“ *Phyllis & Gary Yocum lit a candle in memory of Susan F. Johnson*



phyllis & Gary Yocum - May 16, 2022 at 07:40 PM

SB

“ *My name is Susan Baumstark. I was extremely fortunate to have taughts with Susan at Spruce Creek Elementary for many years. She was a very dedicated teacher demonstrating a true love of all of her students and staff members. She had a great sense of humor and enjoyed her family life. I know our Heavenly Father has greeted you into eternal peace filled with children laughing, people dancing, beautiful music, and nothing but wonderful memories and opportunities to enjoy your new chapter in your life. I will miss you.*

Susan Baumstark - May 16, 2022 at 01:26 PM

PY

our deepest sympathy to sue's family! We were friends and neighbors in Deep Forest subdivision in port orange florida.

phyllis & Gary Yocum - May 16, 2022 at 07:36 PM

LP

“ *May there be comfort in knowing that someone so special will never be forgotten. May she rest in peace. Lisa Peters & son John Peters*

Lisa Peters - May 11, 2022 at 02:10 AM

ML

“ *We are so sorry for the passing of Sue a dear friend since 1980. Sue and I became friends at Spruce Creek Elementary in Port Orange, Florida. Not only was she an excellent teacher but loved by all that met her. She was part of our family in a way that my granddaughters considered her more of a special Aunt. She attended our pedicure parties on the back porch which included tea and dessert. Sue will be missed by all but I will especially miss our conversations and praying together which connected us in a very special way. May she rest and peace and be praying for us now at her heavenly home.*

*Love, Maggie and Ron Lee
and the J.C Koren Family*

Maggie and Ron Lee - April 30, 2022 at 11:09 PM

ME

“ *Mary Emgarten lit a candle in memory of Susan F. Johnson*



Mary Emgarten - April 30, 2022 at 08:51 AM



“ *Sending heartfelt sympathy to the Fettes families. May she rest in peace. Karen Van Westen, Sibley*

Karen Van Westen - April 29, 2022 at 10:11 AM



“ *Sue was a lovely lady. She was a valued member of St. Mary's Catholic Daughters. Sue shared her memories with us especially her time in South Dakota. She faithfully attended our meetings and was always ready to share her talents. We have missed her over the last few years. We send our sympathies to her family. - Sharon Johnson, Regent of our Catholic Daughters.*

Sharon Johnson - April 28, 2022 at 01:16 PM



“ *Prayers of peace & comfort to the family Susan was a special lady. I served with her on the Elderbridge advisory council and than touched base again at the Milford Accura. She had a wonderful joy & smile.*

Respite Angels - April 26, 2022 at 01:20 PM



“ *Peace be with Susan's family and friends. I will remember her for her smiles and our visits at church.*

Laura Hanna - April 25, 2022 at 08:42 PM