

More About John Johnson

W. John Johnson, Jr., 1931-2020

Worney John Johnson, Jr., 89, of Ames died on Tuesday, April 28, 2020, at Israel House Hospice in Ames.

Born April 13, 1931 in Marshall County, Iowa, he was the son of Worney and Mary (Hodson) Johnson Sr. He attended and graduated from Van Cleve High School and later earned degrees in Agriculture Education (BS) and Rural Sociology (MS) from Iowa State University.

John served his country honorably in the U.S. military as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division. On December 22, 1957, he married Elaine Eldridge in Ruthven, Iowa. He spent 33 years with Iowa State University Extension in several capacities: county 4-H and youth leader in Oakland; a member of the state 4-H staff in Ames; Palo County Extension Director; area director for a 10-county area in Spencer; and assistant dean and director of University Extension in Ames.

John enjoyed involvement in community activities including president of the Spencer Rotary Club, president of Northwest Iowa Regional Red Cross, president of the United Way, and president of the Ames Golden K Kiwanis. He was a member of the United Methodist Church of Oakland, Emmetsburg, Spencer and Ames, serving as chair of the Administrative Council, lay leader, member of the Finance Commission, chair of the Board of Trustees, and chair of several district church commissions and the United Methodist Conference Task Force on World Hunger.

He kept honeybees for more than 30 years and served as President and Vice President of the Iowa Honey Producers Association and 20 years on the Iowa Honey Producers State Board. He served as a volunteer advisor to beekeepers in the Ukraine as they developed a new bee law for their nation. John was a longtime fisherman with over 40 trips into the Canadian wilderness.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife of 62 years, Elaine; sons, Greg (Rita Majewski) Johnson and Kent (Carrie Gustaveson) Johnson, grandchildren, Jessica and Jennifer, half brothers and sisters, Jim Johnson, Becky Birch, Wendy Leonard and Craig Kerr.

In death John rejoins his parents, grandson, Kevin Johnson and sister, JoAnn Barnes.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Israel Family Hospice House, 400 S. Dakota, Ames, IA 50014, or Collegiate United Methodist Church, 2622 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50014.

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