



Donald Johnson

November 27, 1925 - March 29, 2023

NORWAY- Donald “Yonty” Helmer Johnson age 97 of Norway, died Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at Marshfield Medical Center – Dickinson in Iron Mountain, MI.

He was born on November 27, 1925 in Norway, the son of the late Helmer and Elsie (Roy) Johnson.

Don graduated from Norway High School in 1944 and served his country in the US Navy during World War II in the South Pacific.

He married Shirlee Ross on November 30, 1946 in the parsonage of St. Paul’s Methodist Church in Norway.

Don was a lifelong resident of Norway. He owned and operated Johnson Brothers Fuel Company. After he sold the business, he worked for ProKleen at Champion Paper Mill in Quinnesec, where he worked into his 80’s.

He was an avid Green Bay Packer fan. A life member and Past Master of the Norway Lodge #382, Free and Accepted Masons of Michigan, a member of the Norvulet VFW Post #4581 and the Hall-Dewinter Post #145 American Legion in Norway.

Don had two passions in his life. His biggest was playing drums, whether it was in the Norway City Band his whole life, beginning playing alongside his dad and later his son, daughter and grandson, or starting in junior high school playing in a dance orchestra. He later played in three dance bands, “The Deep Water Four”, “Al Brown and the Rhythm Aires” and “Art Noel and the Versatones”.

His other passion was “Camp 41” which has been in the family for 82 years. He loved to be in the woods and he loved the comradery of life at camp.

Don is survived by his wife of 76 years Shirlee; son David (Carol) Johnson; daughter

Wendy (Doyle) Yoder; son-in-law Dale Thomas; grandchildren Julie (Scott) Williams, Dan (Angela) Johnson, Harley Miller, Jake (Scott Baccus) Miller, Abe (Ruthie) Yoder, Amanda Yoder and Jordon (Keeley) Thomas; 10 great grandchildren; sister Marilyn Girard; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his daughter Candy Thomas; brother Curt Johnson; brother-in-law Ferdinand Girard and sister-in-law Marion Johnson.

Family will greet friends on Monday, April 10 from 10-11 a.m. at Grace United Methodist Church in Norway, family request everyone wears their Packer attire for Don.

A Masonic Service will be held on Monday at 11 a.m. at Grace United Methodist followed by a memorial service with Pastor Irene White officiating.

Interment will follow at the Norway Township Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Norway Township Cemetery

Norway Township, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 10. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Grace Methodist Church
130 O'Dill Road
Norway, MI 49870

Memorial Service

APR 10. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Grace Methodist Church
130 O'Dill Road
Norway, MI 49870

Tribute Wall

SB

“ Dear Wendy and family, planned to come to the visitation today but getting over a bad cold. Want to tell you how I miss your Dad in the neighborhood. We've lived here almost 35 years now and loved when your Dad would zip out that alley and would wave or honk if I was out in the yard; or to see him heading, I assume, up to see your Mom. Norway is just not the same place when these old guys are gone. Please know he is greatly missed. God's comfort and peace now as you tend to things....with sympathy, Michael and Sally Bal

sally bal - April 10, 2023 at 03:04 PM

WY

Thank you Sally. You said it just perfect. He was always on the move! I miss him so much.

Wendy Yoder - June 05, 2023 at 12:41 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Johnson.



April 07, 2023 at 10:57 PM

SM

“ Sue and Bill Molin purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Donald Johnson.



Sue and Bill Molin - April 07, 2023 at 08:47 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Johnson.



April 06, 2023 at 11:45 AM

BV

“ *City band will never be the same*

Bill van - April 01, 2023 at 10:37 PM

RL

“ *Blessed be his memory, in Christ Jesus the Lord.*



Rev. Michael J. Langlais - March 30, 2023 at 08:27 PM