



Kim Jay Johnson

March 29, 1951 - February 10, 2017

KINGSFORD- Kim Jay Johnson age 65 of Kingsford passed away at his residence on February 10th, 2017.

Kim was born on March 29, 1951 in Iron Mountain, the oldest son of the late Clifford and Bonnie (Anderson) Johnson.

He graduated from Kingsford High School in 1969, briefly attended Ferris State University, and ultimately joined the Navy to serve his country. He was a Vietnam Veteran and served in the Navy for many years.

Kim married Mary Lou Palmer of Stephenson, on March 30th, 1973. Kim and Mary Lou became a Navy family, moving to various Naval bases including a brief transfer to Scotland. Mary Lou was diagnosed with Stage 4 ovarian cancer while in Scotland, and at that time they had two young children, ages 6 and 2. The family returned to the U.S., Kim advocated for the best care that was available for Mary Lou, and by 1985 she was in remission.

After his discharge from the Navy, Kim worked for a few years as a mail handler at the Kingsford Post Office. In 1997, Mary Lou's cancer had returned, and after a brave fight, she preceded him in death on October 28, 2001.

In recent years Kim's world was very small, but he will be best remembered

for his ability to be quite the conversationalist, with a sincere interest in others. He was known for his quick wit, sense of humor, and his ability to have intelligent debates. He was an avid reader, and maintained a love of cars, music, and current events.

Kim is survived by his son Jason (Rachelle) Johnson of Kingsford; daughter Lindsey (Joe) Murphy of Clare, MI; three grandchildren, Bailey and Peyton Johnson and John Murphy; brother and best friend, Lex Johnson of Kingsford; sister Gay (Melvin) Hedberg of Elk River, MN; along with many nieces and nephews.

Kim was preceded in death by his parents Clifford and Bonnie Johnson and his wife Mary Lou Johnson. His youngest brother, Jess Johnson, passed away a short time after Kim's passing.

The family would like to thank the Oscar G. Johnson VA Hospital for their care over the years, and Steve Ortman of the Ortman Funeral Home in Norway.

The family will have a private service at a later date.

Tribute Wall



“ *Dear Lex,
It shocks and saddens me to learn of the loss of both Kim & Jesse.
They both were good people. Helpful & kind to everyone. They both
will be sorely missed. My thoughts & prayers go out to you & your
family. My deepest sympathy & condolences.
Barbara Friedman Osieczonek*

Barbara Osieczonek - March 07, 2017 at 02:09 PM

WM

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time, we are sorry to
hear of your losses.*

*Wayne and I were in youth group with Kim and Gay, many
wonderful memories of those times.*

May God be your comfort and peace in the days to come.

*Love & prayers,
Wayne & Linda Makela*

Wayne & Linda Makela - February 22, 2017 at 09:25 AM

LM

*Thank you for sharing that memory! You are both sweet and kind,
Linda and Wayne. I hope you both are doing well. Thank you for
thinking of us. Lindsey (Johnson) Murphy*

Lindsey Murphy - February 22, 2017 at 10:02 PM

BL

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. While I did not know Kim, Joe and I spent many hours with Jess over the years. May the brothers rest in peace and the Lord give you strength at this difficult time.

BJ & Joe LaFave - February 21, 2017 at 05:01 PM

LM

Thank you for your kind words.

Lindsey Murphy - February 21, 2017 at 06:15 PM

LW

“ My heartfelt condolences to Kim's family. One of my favorite memories from high school is a trip he and I took to "check out some colleges" in the lower peninsula between our Junior and Senior years. We took my mom's car (with her permission) and had a great time. We did actually stop to see Ferris State and spent a few days in Ann Arbor where we visited Linda Varda Kosovec and Susie Menghini Backlund. We thought we were pretty big stuff! RIP Kim Johnson.

Larry Waisanen - February 21, 2017 at 04:21 PM

LM

Thank you for sharing that memory! He was certainly up for adventures.

Lindsey Murphy - February 21, 2017 at 06:16 PM

TR

“ Our sincere condolences to the Johnson family

Timothy Rice - February 21, 2017 at 12:10 PM

LM

Thank you.

Lindsey Murphy - February 21, 2017 at 06:17 PM

EB

I did not know Kim....but "Jesse Marvin" was close to my heart.He helped me with many projects and mowed my lawn.He stayed in my house taking care of my dog, more than once (when i had to take care of my wife on trips out of town).He loved my dog Uti and Uti loved him.Jesse called me "Dad". No one will know how much he cared for my wife and me.I will miss him dearly.My sincere condolences to the rest of the Johnson Family.When Jesse smiledI smiled.

James Blignaut

Edward James Blignaut - February 22, 2017 at 06:42 AM

EB

MY condolences to the family of KimJohnson.

Edward James Blignaut - February 22, 2017 at 06:47 AM

LM

Thank you for sharing that memory of our Uncle Jesse. He did have a great smile and he really did serve others well. He will be missed.

Lindsey Murphy - February 22, 2017 at 10:05 PM