



George Royal Johnson

December 9, 1930 - June 7, 2015

George Royal Johnson, 84, of Kalamazoo, MI, died June 7, 2015. He was born on December 9, 1930, to Royal and Weltha (Carey) Johnson in Lansing, MI. George graduated from high school, enlisted in the Navy for 1 year, discharged, and then joined the United States Air Force in Alaska as an air rescue and survival specialist during the Korean War. He took special pride in serving his country with over 6 generations of his family serving from Civil War to current time.

He had a tendency to think he could fix anything with cod-liver oil. He went to work for Consumers Power as building maintenance then master mechanic from 1957 until he retired in 1992. He spent 47 years farming in Kalamo Township; sheep, horses, cows, chickens, pigs and crops. What did he raise on the farm? Kids! He taught them many valuable lessons about life. His nephews were often "volunteered" to help. He had a huge garden for his 3 kids to work in with plenty of tomatoes, sweet corn, huge hubbard squash and zucchini. George was all about equality for women-all boys and girls worked on the farm working as a group on all tasks, from fixing the tractor to canning.

George is survived by his wife of 58 ½ years, Pearl; daughters, Ellen (Dale) Wasson of Portage, Paula (Steve) Galbraith of Durango, CO; son, Greg (Michele) Johnson of Rock Fall, IL; 10 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren; and his sister Mary Wright of Lansing.

Visitation will be held Thursday, June 11, 2015 from 6 to 8 PM with Story Telling at 7:30 PM at Pray Funeral Home. Interment will take place Friday, June 12, 10AM at Ft. Custer National Cemetery in Augusta, MI. Funeral services will be held at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte, MI on June 12 at 1:00 PM with Rev. Charles Jenson officiating. Memorials are suggested to Eaton County 4-H programs or www.fisherhouse.org. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte. Family and friends are encouraged to share remembrances and condolences online in George's Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com Arrangements by Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Cemetery Details

Fort Custer National Cemetery

15501 Dickman Road
Augusta, MI 49012

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JUN 12. 10:00 AM (ET)

Fort Custer National Cemetery
15501 Dickman Road
Augusta, MI 49012

Tribute Wall



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of George Royal Johnson



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - June 11, 2015 at 12:14 AM

LB

“ I will miss Uncle George. I hadn't seen him in a few years but I will miss him. He always greeted everyone with a big smile. Yes, he did put kids to work but even taking down many layers of wallpaper in the living room of his farm was fun. Uncle George grew the best sweet corn. I read once that the name George meant farmer so it fit him perfectly. He was great at giving advice. He understood what people were going through in bad times. He was a very wise man. Rest in peace.

Linda Borden

Linda Borden - June 13, 2015 at 11:25 AM

SA

“ *Ellen, Pearl, Paula, Greg and Families,*

Well, where to begin . . . there's at least a bunch of years of history (don't worry Ellen, I won't let the cat out of the bag about how many) and more if you count my folks and yours. Lots of fun summers, lots of laughs, some straight talk about what to do when the going gets tough, and some helpful reflection when I lost my Dad. He was a great friend to my folks. Some of my favorite memories were of "Fluffy" hiding behind his coffee cup in that rocking chair trying to keep us kids from giving him a poke in the ribs to make him jump, turning the hot water off to hear him holler in the shower, letting him talk me into the giant hay rolls and getting trapped behind one when the pallet broke in our pole barn (the visual sure made him laugh) and one of my most endearing memories was how he just reached in the car and took Thomas (baby carrier and all) and trucked him into the house like one of his own. While this is a time of sadness and loss for all of you, know that we are here for you and pray God grant you strength, love and peace in the days ahead. The exchange of memories and love will always keep him near.

Our sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathy,

Susan Lobert Arra

Susan Arra - June 11, 2015 at 09:39 PM

RH

“ *Best neighbor anyone could ask for! Really enjoyed all of his stories and insight.*

You'll be missed my friend!

Rich Hettinga - June 11, 2015 at 01:37 PM



“ 79 files added to the album Life Tributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - June 11, 2015 at 12:02 AM

DW

“ I am forwarding my heartfelt condolences to Aunt Pearl, Greg, Ellen and Paula and their families.

Uncle George was relentlessness in his mental torment of me :) when I worked for him on the farm. Digging pole holes, working on a barn, hay baling, getting up before dawn to feed calfs in the snow. I became a highly qualified cow manure pitcher. He always cheated by using a tractor. These are things you never forget.

However, it was the best times I had as a teenager. Learned about handling electricity, operating farm equipment, having fun, etc.

It was his good advice I took, when I received my draft notice to join the Navy (which I did for 21 years).

He was someone I could talk to and get a straight answer (after his usual ribbing).

More of a dad than an uncle.....

Donald Wright - June 10, 2015 at 10:56 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of George Royal Johnson .



June 10, 2015 at 03:26 PM



“ *Quiet Expressions* was purchased for the family of George Royal Johnson .



June 10, 2015 at 02:57 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray* was purchased for the family of George Royal Johnson .



June 10, 2015 at 02:01 PM

MI

“ 12 files added to the album family



Michele - June 09, 2015 at 08:20 PM