



Paul Junior Johnson

February 23, 1936 - July 19, 2025

Paul J. Johnson was born on February 23, 1936 and left this world on July 19, 2025 in his home at Independence Village, Grand Ledge, MI.

Paul was born in Eaton Rapids, Michigan to Paul R. and Bessie L. (Whitaker) Johnson. He was preceded in death by his parents; his cousin, Charlie Johnson; and his wife of 40 years, Carol (Vaag) Johnson in 2017. He is survived by his children, Eileen (Jerry) Fhaner, Janette (Dan) Miller, Doug (Tom Alton) Johnson, Jim Kirk, and John (Randi) Johnson; grandchildren, Nicole Miller, Heather Miller, Willie Huhn, Ryan (Dani) Miller, Allison (Jordon) Williams and Kylie (Skiland) Judd; and nine great-grandchildren.

Paul spent most of his years in the Charlotte area, with a few years in Wolverine, Michigan as his dad moved them there to find work. His parents lives, and his childhood was tough; at 15 his first paying job was hauling ashes of coal out of the basements for school teachers for 50 cents an hour. He also worked at the box factory where he made 60 cents an hour. While helping raise his family, he worked at Beech Manufacturing, Dale Steel and in 1967 began work at Fisher Body where he worked until retirement in 1997. For 8 years, while working at Fisher Body, he picked up and hauled milk to Detroit and Ovid.

He and Carol loved to travel in their RV, and when he retired they spent their

time between Michigan, Minnesota and Arizona. In his heart, Paul was a farmer and the time in Minnesota was spent working the fields in the Spring and harvesting in the Fall. They made many friends over the years and Paul continued to do so when he moved to Independence Village after Carol passed. His family and friends will miss his easy smile, his friendly demeanor, his whistling, and his sense of humor.

Friends are encouraged to support Paul's family by attending services or sharing memories on his Tribute Page at www.prayfuneral.com <<http://www.prayfuneral.com>>. Visitation and services will be held on Thursday, July 31 at 11:00 a.m. for visitation and 12:00 p.m. for the funeral service at Pray Funeral Home in Charlotte. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests The American Diabetes Foundation or Hospice of Michigan for memorial gifts. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Cemetery Details

Center Eaton Cemetery

2093 Narrow Lake Road
Charlotte, MI 48813

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 31. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Funeral

JUL 31. 12:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home
401 W Seminary St
Charlotte, MI 48813

Burial

JUL 31 (ET)

Center Eaton Cemetery
2093 Narrow Lake Road
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Paul Junior Johnson



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - July 26, 2025 at 04:44 PM

PM

“ I have worked here at Independence Village for 3 years and Paul always looked out for me. He didn't want me to know he was, but he was. Every morning, he opened the door for me, and he would always make a point to let me know when I was running a few minutes late. He also liked to help me with changing the mail sign to let the residents know the mailman had been here. I helped him button his shirt, or the cuff on his shirt. I will miss his company every day in the front lobby. I will miss the sound of his voice; I will miss helping him; making copies for him, and just his daily presence. I have also enjoyed getting to know Eileen and Janette, I will miss seeing them too. My Prayers go out to you and your family. Sometimes people come into your life for a moment and stay in your heart forever! <3

Pamela Mackie - August 04, 2025 at 08:21 AM

WK

“ I’m the mailman for IV, and Paul was a constant presence in the mailroom. He always saw me coming. He would inevitably be waiting for me, even though he rarely got mail. When I would tell him “Nothing for you today.” He’d always tell me “Great. You’re doing a good job.” No bills made him pretty happy. He won’t be there anymore. I’ll notice that every day.

William Kelley - July 29, 2025 at 05:56 PM

EF

Thank you so much for your comments, Mr Kelley. It seems everyone at the village liked dad.

Eileen fhaner - July 30, 2025 at 06:54 PM

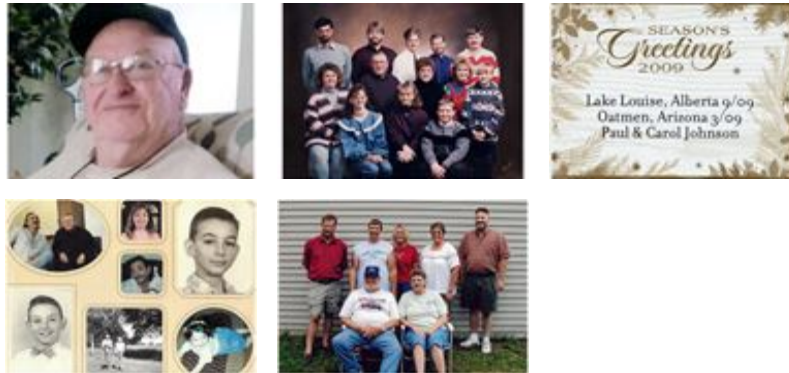
LI

“ Paul was the first resident I met when I started to work at Independence Village. He would always beat me to the door to open it for me in the morning, and always greeted me with a smile. He was such a special person and will be forever missed here at IV. Thank you for sharing him with us, and my thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Lindsay - July 28, 2025 at 06:42 PM



“ 45 files added to the album Life Tributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - July 26, 2025 at 04:40 PM



“ Oh Paul, my dear friend. I miss seeing you keeping a watch over the IVGL community from your spot. You were out of the community for a few weeks and I told you when you got back how much I missed you “keeping me in line”. You told me you were “back home” and would resume your duties. I know without a doubt you will watch over our community and keep us safe. I will forever cherish my time with you and my husband said he will keep me in line for you. Rest easy my friend.....tall Paul from down the hall❤️

Jennifer Lear - July 26, 2025 at 08:33 AM



“ Paul was such a character. I will never forget him. He was a little gruff, but you knew underneath it he was a teddy bear who liked to laugh. His corner in the front lobby at IVGL will never be the same. I'll miss you, cuz!

Crissta Ames-Walle - July 25, 2025 at 04:32 PM

EF

“ Blessed that our father was a good parent. So many happy childhood memories. The past 8 years he lived at Independence Village in Grand Ledge. While there, he also touched many lives. So many have told me how much they liked dad, his whistling, his humor, his supervision, his 'hi ya, hi ya'. Now that he is at peace, I can be at peace and begin to remember the good times. Camping, Road trips, helping with projects, his impatience which brought out his colorful language. He was fun loving and always busy. Rest in peace Dad.



Eileen fhaner - July 24, 2025 at 05:06 AM

CB

“ Chuck Brandon lit a candle in memory of Paul Junior Johnson



Chuck Brandon - July 23, 2025 at 10:23 AM

LR

“ I remember Paul when his folks lived on Fairview Rd near Charlotte and Charlie worked for my folks on our farm just down the road from them. Prayers for the family

Larry Ranshaw - July 22, 2025 at 03:03 PM

LC

“ I always loved running into Paul and Carol. Both were so kind. My condolences to the family.

Laura Cooper - July 22, 2025 at 02:23 PM

WP

I always enjoyed knowing Paul and talking with him. He was the first one I met when I came to the village 4 years ago. He as a great resident ambassador. From his place in the lobby, he greeted visitors and residents with a friendly smile and wave. Whenever we met, whether in the halls , lobby or dinning room and we saw Paul, there would be many, "Hi Paul's" said. We will miss Paul. He was a friend to us all. He was an example to us all on how we should be at this point in our lives.

Being an old "farm boy". I enjoyed our talks of his adventures driving those big tractors in Minnesota. Sure different from driving a Ford Ferguson back here Michigan. I guess power steering on the "big ones" made the difference! I will miss Paul, along with many others saying the same at the village. He was a good Egg. I am looking forward to seeing him on the other side.

*Warren Pettis
Apt, 245, Independence Village, Grand Ledge.*

Warren Pettis - July 23, 2025 at 11:17 AM