



Jeanette Johnson

July 20, 1924 - March 17, 2016

Jeanette Johnson, a 91-year-old resident of Swanville, MN, entered eternal glory Thursday evening, March 17, 2016, at St. Gabriel's Hospital in Little Falls, MN. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Tuesday, March 22, 2016, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Swanville, MN with Rev. Kevin Zellers officiating. Burial will take place in St. Peter's Lutheran Cemetery in Swanville, MN. A visitation will be held from 4-8 P.M. on Monday and from 1-2 P.M. on Tuesday at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Swanville, MN. Arrangements are with Shelley-Gibson Funeral Chapel in Swanville.

Jeanette was born on July 20, 1924, to Fredrick and Gertrude (Olson) Nelson. She was born on the family farm in the back bedroom. She loved going back to "the farm. She often remarked, "It's like going home". Jeanette attended country school #110 through eighth grade. She went on to high school, graduating from Swanville High School with the class of 1942. Following high school, she attended Minnesota School of Business, graduating with a one-year degree. After working in the cities for one year, she returned to Swanville. There was a handsome farm hand working for her dad, whom she had her eye on!! He had enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1941 and had been corresponding with Jeanette while he was overseas. Much to her delight, he proposed marriage! On September 26, 1944, Jeanette was united in marriage to PFC Byron E. Johnson at the East Swanville Congregational Church, just across the field from "the farm". They left for California the

following day. For three months Byron went to the base in the morning and returned every afternoon until one day he did not return. He wasn't allowed to call her and inform her of his departure. She waited for 3 days and then, as they had planned, she left southern California and moved to Oakland to live with her new in-laws. While she was there, she worked in a "dime-store" to help with the expenses. Jeanette was extremely lonesome for her beloved Minnesota and her family. In May of 1945, her father-in-law accompanied her back home, where she stayed until the war was over. After Byron was discharged from the USMC, the "newlyweds" moved to Minneapolis in order for Byron to attend school. During this time they were blessed with their first born, James (Jimmy) Willard. In 1948, they moved back to Swanville. They purchased their first home across the street from the Lutheran Church parsonage. In 1949, Carol Diane came along and in 1955, Robert (Bobby) Dale was born, thus completing their family. Jeanette was the homemaker, disciplinarian and part of the neighborhood watchdog group, keeping an eye on the many neighborhood kids that loved to congregate in their front yard. The year of 1967 began a new adventure for Byron and Jeanette as they built a new home just outside of Swanville. Jeanette was delighted until Byron informed her that he had purchased the East Swanville Congregational Church (the church they were married in) and was going to use the brick from that church for the exterior of their new home. She thought he had lost his mind and it would never work!! Needless to say, it turned out beautifully and Jeanette lived in "her mansion" until her death. In 1969, along with Doris Lyon, she became part owner of the Swan Ceramic and Gift Shop. A few years later, she became the sole owner. During these 25 years, she taught hundreds of students the fine art of ceramic painting. No one could paint eyes like Jeanette!! She always said that she never woke up and regretted going to work. Every day was a pleasure. In 1994, Jeanette retired and stayed home to care for Byron. He passed away in December of 1996. Throughout her life, Jeanette showed great strength and a love of life. Her faith was unwavering and she instilled that faith and her love of Christ in all who knew her,

especially her family. She was a member of St . Peter's Lutheran Church for most of her life and was active in Ladies Aid, Altar Guild and as a Sunday and Vacation Bible School teacher. She loved to sing (she had a beautiful soprano voice) and was a member of St. Peter's Choir for many years. Jeanette and Byron often "serenaded" their kids in the car as they sang along with the radio. The kids were not impressed until they were much older!! She sang for many weddings and funerals throughout her life. For over 60 years, Jeanette was an active member of the Swanville Women's Civic Club and the American Legion Auxiliary.

Left to cherish her memory are sons, Jim (Judy) Johnson of Prior Lake, MN; Bob, (Lyn) Johnson of Albuquerque, NM; daughter, Carol Johnson of Swanville, MN; granddaughters, Jennifer (Josh) Tormoen of Richfield, MN; and Erica Johnson of Prior Lake, MN; great-grandchildren, Lindsey Melchior, and Jake and Zack Tormoen; nephews, Tom, Eric, Neil, Ned, and Jeffrey Johnson; nieces, Becky (Greg) Galligan, Corrinne (Ron) Morón, and Jeannine Gothard; brother-in-law, Lee Johnson; and many more family members and numerous friends. We will all miss her very much.

Welcoming Jeanette into Heaven are her parents, Fredrick and Gertrude Nelson; husband, Byron E. Johnson; sister and brother-in-law, Betty and Irving Johnson; brother-in-law, Willard B. Johnson; and sister-in-law, Dorothy Jane Johnson.

Pallbearers will be Jeanette's great-nephews, Dylan Galligan, Billy Johnson, Brian Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Tony Johnson, Scot Johnson, Jesse Johnson, and Rick Lenore.

Cemetery Details

St. Peter's Lutheran Cemetery

Swanville, MN 56382

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 21. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

St. Peter's Lutheran Church - Swanville
502 Berkey Avenue
Swanville, MN

Visitation

MAR 22. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Peter's Lutheran Church - Swanville
502 Berkey Avenue
Swanville, MN

Service

MAR 22. 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Peter's Lutheran Church - Swanville
502 Berkey Avenue
Swanville, MN

Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Jeanette Johnson*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - March 20, 2016 at 12:00 PM



“ *Jeanette Johnson*

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *I worked for Janette Johnson from 1996-1998. I now live in San Angelo, Tx. I am a breast cancer survivor. I contacted the illness when working in her law office and returned to my home town of Odessa to recover. Janette wrote me a wonderful letter of recommendation. She was a good person.*

Eva Hester - June 26, 2017 at 11:09 PM



“ *I want to send my sympathy to Jeanette's family, Jimmy, Carole and Bobby I have many good memories of Jeanette, she always sorta special to me and Mary Ann. My prayers are with with you at this time of loss. Love Marvin Goplen*

marvin goplen - March 26, 2016 at 09:11 AM

CG

“ Carol,
Sorry to hear of your mom's passing. Like so many others, I also have many pieces of ceramics from the shop, but many other memories also. She was very special. We will all remember her many civic contributions and especially her laugh and help.

I remember her being one of our Brownie leaders in grade school. I still have my Brownie pin and head band.

Thinking of you and your family.

Carol Giese

Carol Giese - March 26, 2016 at 01:46 AM

TW

“ Carol,
Sorry to hear of Jeanett's passing. She gets to celebrate Easter in heaven this year! I have fond memories of the Ceramic Shop, if I think hard enough I think I can smell it:) Every fall I put out the pumpkins I made from there when I was a kid. I don't it's possible for me to think of St. Peter's and not think of Jeanette (and you), every Sunday we sat near both of you. Between the two of you and my mom, I always felt like I was sitting with the choir, regardless if the choir was scheduled to sing or not.

Teresa Wagner - March 23, 2016 at 03:37 PM

HG

“ We are sorry to hear of Jeanette's passing. I know God will be welcoming her. She was such a good person. Love to the family.

Helen Gessell - March 23, 2016 at 01:48 PM

NO

“ Jeanette was a wonderful lady and will be missed dearly. My sympathies to the family-



Nate Olson - March 23, 2016 at 11:47 AM

MN

“ Carol,
So sorry to hear of your mom's passing. She was a wonderful lady.



Shelly Peterson

Michele Nyarecha - March 22, 2016 at 12:11 PM

CM

“ I send my deepest sympathy to the family. I have been away a long time but i remember Jeanette from the ceramic shop and the times I spent with her and Doris Lyon. She will be greatly missed.

Carol Danek Morris

Carol Morris - March 21, 2016 at 09:06 PM

JD

“ Jeanette was a wonderful lady and a dear friend of my moms. I remember getting to make my first ceramic piece (of which I still have) and how kind and helpful she was! I also remember her coming to our house for Auxillary meetings and working with her and my mom in the Auxillary booth at the carnival - fun memories!
Jo Jo Oven Dahling

JoJo Oven Dahling - March 21, 2016 at 02:12 PM

JD

“ *Jo Jo Oven Dahling lit a candle in memory of Jeanette Johnson*



Jo Jo Oven Dahling - March 21, 2016 at 02:05 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Jeanette Johnson.*



March 21, 2016 at 08:32 AM

DL

“ *Debby Lambrecht lit a candle in memory of Jeanette Johnson*



Debby Lambrecht - March 20, 2016 at 10:52 PM

DL

Ever since I moved to Swanville 25 years ago, Jeanette was like a second Mom to me. She was the most giving person I knew and taught me so much. Carol, you and your family are in my prayers.

Debby Lambrecht - March 20, 2016 at 10:56 PM

MT

“ *Mary Ann And Loren Thompson lit a candle in memory of Jeanette Johnson*



Mary Ann and Loren Thompson - March 20, 2016 at 06:32 PM

MT

Carol, and family, so sorry to hear of the loss of your mother. I always enjoyed visiting with her and enjoyed doing some ceramic pieces when she own her shop. I learned a lot about her and we had fun working together as members of the Women Civic group. She and Betty taught me many things about the history of the Swanville community. You and your family are in our prayers. God bless you. Loren and Mary Ann Thompson

Mary Ann and Loren Thompson - March 20, 2016 at 06:39 PM



“ *47 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - March 20, 2016 at 11:54 AM

BK

“ *Bob & Fran Koetter lit a candle in memory of Jeanette Johnson*



Bob & Fran Koetter - March 20, 2016 at 11:41 AM

JL

“ *John Loven lit a candle in memory of Jeanette Johnson*



John Loven - March 20, 2016 at 09:16 AM