



## William R, Johnson, Sr.

July 8, 1940 - June 12, 2025

William R. Johnson, Sr., 84 year old resident of Randall, MN, passed away on Thursday, June 12, 2025 at his residence. A Memorial Service will be held at 10 AM on Friday, June 20, 2025 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Randall, MN, with Pastor Joe Crosswhite officiating. Afterwards, everyone will gather downstairs at the church for a potluck meal. Caring for William and his family is LeMieur Funeral Home in Little Falls, MN.

William Richard Johnson was born on July 8, 1940 in Little Falls, MN, to the late John E. and Mildred (Olson) Johnson. William graduated High School and learned to be a mechanic at trade school. He married Patricia Ann Schmidt on July 22, 1961 at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Randall. Together, they started Johnson's Garage and Towing in Randall, with Patricia working the office and William, Sr. handling all the other duties. William, Sr. was a tinkerer and inventor, making a lot of his own tools, such as a bench tool that would hold a transmission and rotate it to work on. He also made his own mobile log splitter, a snowblower that fit on his skid steer, built engines and sheds on the family farm. William Sr. and Patricia enjoyed traveling and several times took the train out west to Yakima, WA to visit his brothers. One of William, Sr.'s passions was music, which he acquired from his father, John, who played banjo with Lawrence Welk. William, Sr. played guitar as well as fixed them, and he and his bands played numerous local and regional venues. William Sr. was inducted into the Minnesota Country Music Hall of Fame this year in

2025.

William Sr. is survived by his wife, Patricia Ann; sons, William R. Jr. (Cassandra) of Wyoming, and Patrick William (Tamara) Johnson of Wisconsin; grandchildren, Trevor Patrick Johnson and Hailey Nicole (Andrew) Wasmond; great-grandson, Crew Jackson Wasmond; brothers, Jerry (Margo) and Phillip (Patricia) Johnson, both of Yakima, WA; sister-in-law, Dorothy Johnson of Yakima; many nieces and nephews; and very good friend, Terry Schwanke.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Mildred Johnson; brothers, John, Jr. (Sybil) and Larry Johnson; and sister, Arlis (Wayne) Wilson.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUN **20**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Peter Lutheran Church  
413 Parkview Dr  
Randall, MN 56475

# Tribute Wall

HE

“ My condolences go out to the family of Bill Johnson. I just heard of his passing and I'm so sorry to hear it!

*I knew him only for a few years, playing music with him at Albany Pioneer Days. He will be missed! He was very welcoming to me to join in. He was a good musician and a good singer.*

*I pray that God may bring his wife and family comfort during this time of sorrow.*

*Thinking of you all!  
Holly Ewert (Bemidji, MN)*

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**Holly Ewert** - June 26, 2025 at 06:54 PM

DW

“ Pat, we are so sorry for your loss.  
People at the Little Falls Care Center, really enjoyed the music that he brought to them.  
Will miss you Bill. R I P



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**Dolores Wielinski** - June 19, 2025 at 01:26 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of William R, Johnson, Sr..



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June 16, 2025 at 04:14 PM

DH

“ Bill was affectionately known as a character, with always a funny story to tell. Going to miss talking with you. Rest easy dear friend.

Doni & Ann Hanson - June 16, 2025 at 08:43 AM

EM

“ Bill was very active in the Darling Church Memorial, Inc. serving on the Board of Directors and Vice President. He was instrumental in getting large stones cut, polished and engraved with a picture of the old Darling Church installed on the site on which the Darling church was located before an arsonist burned to the ground in 2017. Bill was a hard-working common-sense sort of man and will be missed by all who knew him.

Earl and Gayle Mathison - June 15, 2025 at 08:43 PM

DF

“ Denny And Karen Frank lit a candle in memory of William R, Johnson, Sr.



Denny and Karen Frank - June 14, 2025 at 09:06 AM

TB

“ The Darling Cemetery & DCMI board purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of William R, Johnson, Sr..



The Darling Cemetery & DCMI board - June 13, 2025 at 03:08 PM