



F. Martin "Mart" Johnson

MAR 8, 1935 - FEB 27, 2017



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6



F. Martin "Mart" Johnson

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F Martin Johnson, 81, passed away peacefully at the home he loved on Monday, February 27th. Born March 8, 1935 in Grand Haven, Michigan, Mart and his wife, Dottie, have resided in Grand Haven for 51 years.

Mart was born in the local Hatton Hospital and graduated from Grand Haven High School as valedictorian before attending Stanford University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering. He joined the US Navy and was discharged as a Lieutenant. Following graduation from the Harvard Business School, Mart was a Staff Economist for American International Oil Company in New York City before returning to Grand Haven to work for Grand Haven Stamped Products.

Mart's career with JSJ Corporation spanned more than forty years as a Director, President and CEO. Mart deeply cared about his family, his church and his community. Many family dinners and trips hold special memories. Mart served First Presbyterian Church over the years as a Trustee, Elder, Deacon, and choir member. He served on the Board of Directors of Pacesetter Financial Corporation and numerous nonprofit organizations including the first boards of North Ottawa Community Hospital and Grand Haven Community Center. He was a Commodore of the Spring Lake Yacht Club, Trustee of the Grand Rapids Symphony, Chairman of the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce, Trustee of Princeton Seminary for nearly 20 years, and Trustee and Chairman of Alma College for 30 years. Mart was also Co-Chair of the Economic Alliance and Trustee and President of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation in addition to being a member of Grand Haven Rotary for fifty years.

Mart was preceded in death by his parents, Paul A. Johnson and Matilda Nelson Johnson, and five siblings and their spouses: Paul and Char Johnson, Margaret Baribeau, Doris Johnson, Esther and Phil Frandsen, and Don and Sarah Johnson.

Mart is survived by his loving wife, Dottie, and children Dee and David Stokes (St. Louis, MO) and Melinda and Ben Rechner (Ada, MI), as well as six grandchildren: Connor, Chase, and Avery



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Stokes and Sam, Lauren and Will Rechner. He is also survived by his brother-in-law, Ken and Mary Guest Ahlburg (Austin, TX); seventeen nieces and nephews; and many great- and great-great-nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be Saturday, March 4th from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. at The VanZantwick Chapel in Grand Haven. A Celebration of Life service will be held Sunday, March 5th at 4:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven with the Dr. Rev. Laird J. Stuart and Rev. Jill VanderWall officiating. Following the service a reception will be held at the Spring Lake Country Club.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation Greatest Needs Fund, One South Harbor, Grand Haven, MI 49417 (www.ghacf.org). Share memories with the family at their online guest book at www.sytsemafh.com.

The family is being served by Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The VanZantwick Chapel.




Events

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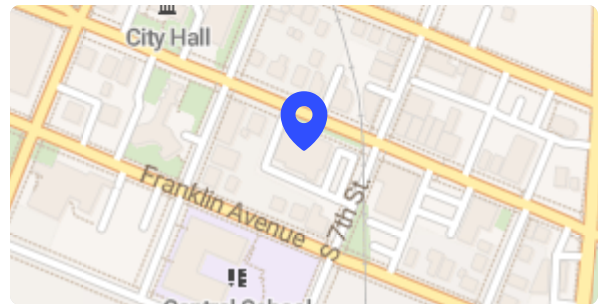
Visitation

 **Saturday**, March 4, 2017

 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET


 **Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The VanZantwick Chapel**

620 Washington, Grand Haven MI 49417



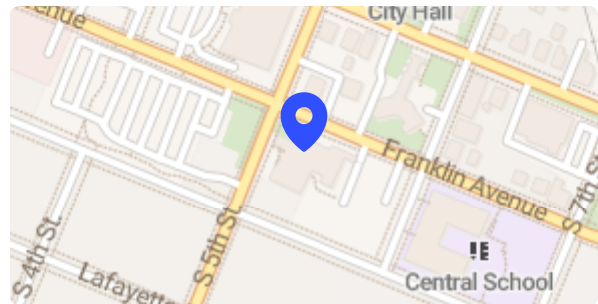
Service

 **Sunday**, March 5, 2017

 4:00 PM ET

 **First Presbyterian Church - Grand Haven, MI**

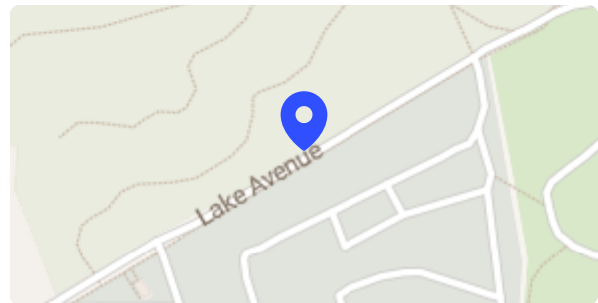
508 Franklin Ave., Grand Haven MI



Cemetery Details

 **Lake Forest Cemetery**

1304 Lake Ave., Grand Haven MI 49417





Tribute Wall

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Mike Heywood posted:

Our family was saddened to hear of Martin's passing. Gracia and I want to extend our deepest sympathies to Dottie and the Johnson family. God bless you as you go through this difficult period. Mike and Gracia Heywood and family

March 12 at 2:46 PM



Todd & Judy Brower posted:

Our sympathies go out to Dottie and the Johnson family. Mart was a truly kind and generous person. We are so thankful to have been acquainted with him. What a loss for your family, and the whole community. Todd & Judy Brower

March 5 at 7:27 AM



Priority Health Medicaid Team sent a Basket Full of Wishes to the Johnson family.



March 3 at 6:30 PM



Anonymous sent a Sapphire Skies Bouquet to the Johnson family.



March 3 at 10:42 AM



Anonymous sent a Bountiful Rose Basket to the Johnson family.



March 3 at 7:14 AM



James M Richmond posted:

Oh, Dottie, What a remarkable man, married to such a remarkable woman, and who lived such a remarkable, productive life. Jim Richmond

March 3 at 6:58 AM



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Regards, Tracey Burke, Dr. Penny Wilton And Hvi sent a Beautiful Heart Bouquet to the Johnson family.

March 3 at 6:46 AM



Anonymous sent a Gracious Lavender Basket to the Johnson family.

March 3 at 6:34 AM



Anonymous sent a Dreams From the Heart Bouquet to the Johnson family.

March 3 at 5:29 AM



Roger Morgenstern posted:

Dottie and family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Mart was one of the good ones who did Much for his community. My folks always enjoyed the time they spent with both of you. Roger and Michelle Morgenstern

March 2 at 6:12 PM



Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Johnson family.

March 2 at 3:23 PM



Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Johnson family.

March 2 at 3:23 PM





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Bob Medema posted:

As a 38 year employee of GHSP beginning in 1968, I enjoyed knowing Mart . On his visitations to GHSP in the years after he went to JSJ he would often stop by to say hello. I thought very highly of Mart as a fair and honest man. Bob Medema

March 2 at 1:45 PM



Carol Richards (Mart's Niece) posted:

The year that Mart was born had the lowest birth rate compared to other years in that period. Mart always cited that as one of the reasons that he was so successful, but we know that no matter when he was born he would have shined like a star. He touched so many many people's lives through his compassion. The tears that we shed can be thought of as a loud applause for the gift of knowing such a thoughtful and humble man. We will all miss him dearly. Carol, Jeff, Dana and Bryce Richards

March 2 at 11:13 AM



Sarah Jane Essebagggers posted:

Dear Dottie and family, my sympathy on your loss. He will live on in your hearts and our m memories Fondly DatabAse Essebagggers

March 2 at 10:11 AM



Anonymous sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the Johnson family.



March 2 at 9:22 AM



Connie Lafrance lit a candle in honor of F. Martin.

To Bruce and Sandy and Family; You have our sympathy on your loss. May your memories fill the void during the tough times. He did so much for so many and now God has called him home to rest. May he rest in Peace. Hugs and prayers to all of you; Steve Jones & Connie LaFrance.



March 1 at 6:29 PM



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RL

Ricki Levine posted:

Dear Dottie, Wishing you and your family my deepest condolences. I am so sorry for your loss. Ricki Levine

March 1 at 4:02 PM



Anonymous sent a Love's Journey to the Johnson family.



March 1 at 12:43 PM

CB

Carroll And Dorothy Bennink posted:

Dear Dottie and family, we have so many wonderful memories of times spent together, at your home, in church and of course choir and the great trips abroad. Mart was a very special man, kind, generous and a true gentleman. He will be missed so much, I will never forget his warm, wonderful smile. Carroll and I have been blessed with your friendship. God Bless all of you. Dottie and Carroll Bennink

March 1 at 7:35 AM

JJ

James R Jenkins posted:

Mart was a personable, wise and compassionate member of the Board of Trustees of Alma College, where I had the pleasure of serving and learning from him, during the decade or more of our tenures there! A kind and devoted husband of Dottie, who I came to admire, as well, through our service on the Michigan Council For The Arts! They were always the consummate "Power Couple" of education and philanthropy in Michigan as well as throughout the Midwest! Mart will be missed and always be remembered for all of the good he did and his positive contributions to mankind! James R. and Anita H. Jenkins, P.O. Box 1687, Midland, MI, 48641

March 1 at 7:07 AM

ES

Esther Spoelma posted:

Dottie and Family Sending our sympathy in your loss. Love and Prayers always. Esther Spoelma and Family.

March 1 at 5:34 AM



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PT

Peter J. Theune posted:

Dear Dottie and family, Judy and I send our sympathy to each of you. Mart's footprint and his leadership and his good heart will be dearly missed throughout the community and beyond. His kindness and consideration was always his quiet witness to a life well lived. We will be with you in spirit when you gather on Sunday to celebrate his life. May the words and the music lift your souls and grant your heart peace and comfort. Dottie, it was our pleasure to catch a bit of time with you a few weeks ago here in Florida. Since that time we have been particularly mindful of you and Mart and your extended family. It will be our pleasure to greet you personally when next we meet. Sincerely, Judy and Peter Theune

March 1 at 5:12 AM

JH

Julie Hall posted:

Dottie : I'm so sorry to learn of your loss. My heart felt condolences to you and your family. Julie Hall

March 1 at 4:49 AM

BD

Bruce Degarmo posted:

To the Family of Mart Johnson I met Mart shortly he came to Grand Haven and started working at Grand Stamped Products (GHSP) He was young and ambitious but very friendly to all of us who worked at the Company at that time. He drove a Jaguar and of course us younger guys thought that was cool. When I retired in 2001 he came to my retirement party and we talked about the (old days) and he congratulated me and thanked me for my service. I will always remember him as being friendly and fair with his dealings with all the employees. He was a great man and I will always remember him as such. He will be missed by many. R.I.P. Mart. Condolences to the family. Bruce DeGarmo Employee of GHSP 1960-2001

March 1 at 3:57 AM

KJ

Ken And Mary Ellen Jackson posted:

What a loss, not just for Dottie and family, but for all of us! I've sung in the choir with Mart, Dottie, Don, and Sara for about 35 years and have wonderful memories. If you knew Mart, he was a kind and generous man. So sorry Johnson family.

March 1 at 3:32 AM



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JH

Jon Hall posted:

Dottie & family , We were so sorry to read about Martin's passing . Our prayers and sympathy toYour family are on the way from Florida. Jon & Linda Hall

March 1 at 2:56 AM

RC

Rev James M Cook posted:

dear Dottie and family. I am so sorry to hear of Martins passing. I will always remember the fun and good times we had in the choir. also the support when I went into the ministry. Know that you are all in my prayers. May you know God's healing presence to be with you, and may he give you that inner peace, which only he can give. I remain yours in Christ, Rev Jim Cook, Turriff, Scotland

February 28 at 11:27 PM

JC

Julie Christy posted:

Our heartfelt sympathies go out to you all, Dottie, Dee, Melinda and the entire family. Both Mart and Dottie have been so warm and welcoming to our family. We regret we will not be able to attend the funeral as we will be welcoming our 2nd grandchild on Thursday in Chicago. As one ship sets sail a new one is seen on the horizon. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Lots of love, Dane and Julie Christy

February 28 at 6:01 PM

CG

Christine Graeter posted:

The memory that stands out to me is that Mart always believed in me.... always encouraged me. As a member of the "JSJ Family" I always felt that he "had my back".I am so grateful for this support and hope to continue the legacy.Sending love and prayers to all of the Johnsons and all who loved Mart.Blessings,Christi (Jacobson Graeter)

February 28 at 2:25 PM

GS

Gordeen Sherwood posted:

Such a very sad time. Mart will certainly be missed by a multitude of family and friends. His fight is over...his battle won. Our sympathies, love and hugs to Dottie, Dee, Mindy and the rest of the family.Peter and Gordeen Sherwood

February 28 at 7:39 AM



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AO

Alexis Obrien posted:

Mart was a true "gentle man," business, community, and church leader, dedicated husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend. Dottie and Mart have been the epitome of gracious entertaining, welcoming so many to their home, He will be missed but always be remembered. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time. Love, Lexie and Paul

February 28 at 3:35 AM

TM

Tim And Kay Morrow March 3 at 11:41 AM

Our thoughts and prayers to Dottie and family. Rest In Peace Mart. You will be missed.

GS

Gordeen Sherwood February 28 at 7:41 AM

Perfectly said Lexie.

LG

Linda Green posted:

To a beautiful family , husband and father, my heart is with you today and always, Love Linda Green

February 27 at 3:10 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring F. Martin by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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