



John W. Johnson

JUL 21, 1937 - FEB 27, 2026



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John W. “Jack” Johnson, age 88, passed away Friday, February 27, 2026. He was born on July 21, 1937 in Muskegon, MI to John Edward and Fern (Beden) Johnson. Jack proudly served our country in the United States Marine Corps, the United States Army, and later in the Army Reserves, faithfully serving one weekend each month in Gaylord, Michigan.

He dedicated many years of his career to Stewart Engineering, where he worked as a welder, fabricator, and engineer. Skilled and dependable, Jack truly was a jack of all trades, capable of building, fixing, and creating just about anything he set his mind to.

Jack was a skilled knife maker who took his nephews under his wing, teaching them the trade and sharing his passion for craftsmanship. He was an avid gun enthusiast and collector, well known for his sharp-shooting skills in competitions. Jack cherished the “old school” traditions of hunting, especially the way they brought family and friends together.

He loved tinkering and collecting tractors, often frequenting yard sales in search of hidden treasures he could restore and bring back to life. Music was another great joy in his life, his favorite song was “Take the Ribbon from Your Hair,” and he once played seven nights a week at the Old Cottage Inn alongside friends. On Sunday afternoons, you could often find him dancing with family, soaking in the simple pleasures of being together.

Above all, Jack treasured time with his family, whether camping on vacations or heading out on hunting trips. Their annual family camping adventure, which took them around the country with friends, was a highlight they looked forward to year after year.

On February 21, 1958 he married the former Jolly Rice in Muskegon and they celebrated 63 years together before she preceded him in death on November 8, 2021.



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SURVIVORS include three children, John Edward (Tammy) Johnson, Felicia (Bill Porter) Johnson, and Jeffery Alan (Jill) Johnson; five grandchildren; RJ (Jessica) Pierson, Tanner (Maggie) Johnson, Hannah Johnson, Brock (Alyssa) Johnson and Hollie Johnson; two great grandchildren, Parker, Mason and one more on the way; brother, Marvin Johnson, sister, Evelyn Josaitis; and special family friends, Lee and Shirley Thurston, Ben Pekel, and April Rice.

John was also preceded in death by his parents; sister, Deloris Wheeler; special friends, John “Zeb” Rice; Mark, Paul and Tim “Turk” Rice; Bruce Thornberg and Ronnie Macomber.

FUNERAL SERVICES will be 11AM Friday, March 6, 2026 at The Lee Chapel of Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services, 6291 S. Harvey St. Norton Shores, MI 49444 (231) 798-1100. VISITATION with the family will be 6-8PM Thursday, March 5 at The Lee Chapel, and also one hour prior to the service, from 10-11AM.

Burial will take place at Thompsonville Cemetery in Benzie County. Memorial Contributions to the family will be appreciated.

Share memories with the family online at <https://www.sytsemafh.com>



Events

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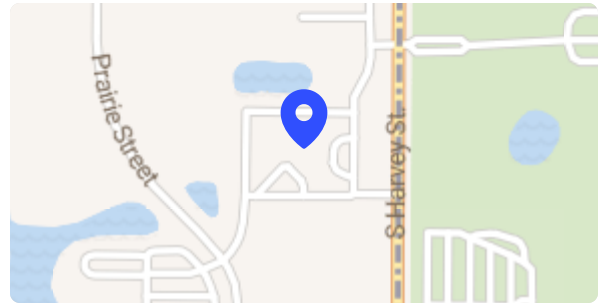
Visitation

Thursday, March 5, 2026

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM ET

Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The Lee Chapel

6291 Harvey St., Norton Shores MI 49444



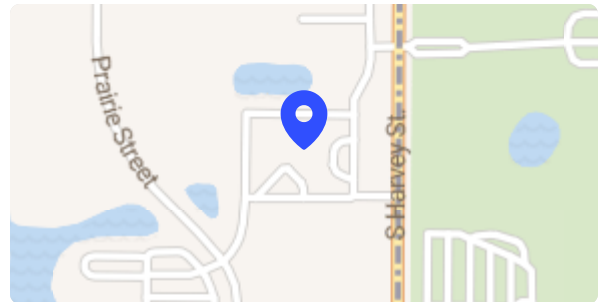
Visitation

Friday, March 6, 2026

10:00 AM - 11:00 PM ET

Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The Lee Chapel

6291 Harvey St., Norton Shores MI 49444



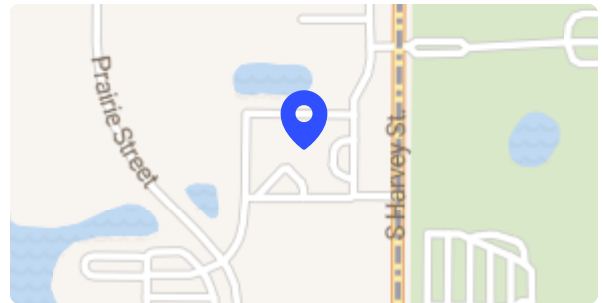
Funeral Service

Friday, March 6, 2026

11:00 AM ET

Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services - The Lee Chapel

6291 Harvey St., Norton Shores MI 49444





Tribute Wall

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Toni Gurn posted:

I worked with Jack for 10 years at Porter Steel and Welding. Always admired him. Then a few years ago, met up with him on a social level when my good friend, Gloria Bentley asked me what I thought of this wonderful man she had met up with. It was Jack Johnson! Of course I had only good things to tell her, and they became really good friends for quite a while. So, so sorry to learn of his passing. Toni Rae Gurn

March 17 at 9:28 AM



Deborah Macomber lit a candle in honor of John.

When I joined the Macomber family years ago, I have the fondest memories of so much fun with the Johnson's. They were our mistress and master's of ceremony at our wedding. Amusement parks and fun at the cabin, good food and always a hug and great conversation. Uncle Jack would swing me around for a quick dance, or play us a tune on his guitar. Thinking of the family and the sadness this brings so many, you will be missed, may you rest in peace always.



March 5 at 7:20 PM



Bennie Macomber Jr lit a candle in honor of John.



March 5 at 7:08 PM



Bennie Macomber Jr posted:

Uncle Jack and Aunt Jolly were amazing people, I miss them so much. They were like a second set of parents growing up. I have such fond memories of time spent with them. Uncle Jack was always so fast to teach something new, play a song for us or just sit and catch up. He was an amazing man. My heart goes out to John, Felicia and Jeff and their families. You will be missed by so many, I hope you can now dance and enjoy your music with Aunt Jolly.

March 5 at 7:08 PM



Anonymous sent a Sweet Tranquility Basket to the Johnson family.



March 5 at 10:21 AM



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Jared posted:

I've known Jack for the better part of my life. Some of my earliest memories of him go all the way back to when I was still riding around in a car seat, and he was still part of my life all the way up until I had my first child just a year ago. Over the years, he taught me a lot — not just about how to weld, fabricate, or fix chainsaws, but about life in general. Jack was the kind of person who was always willing to share what he knew and help someone figure things out. I'm grateful for the time I got to spend learning from him and for the memories that came with it. He will definitely be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

March 5 at 9:13 AM



Karen Kieft posted:

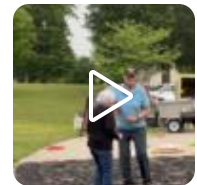
A kinder man has never lived 💔💔 Jack was my cousin, I was his flower girl when he and Jolly married. They were both so very special to our family. My 3 boys thought of them as their Uncle & Aunt. Our hearts are broken. We all love and miss you Uncle Jack and Aunt Jolly. ♥️👤♥️👤 Barry and Karen Kieft

March 4 at 11:38 PM



Juan Mancilla shared a video to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Our sympathy and prayers for the family. We met Jack just prior to his engagement to my aunt Gloria Bentley a few years ago. They were so cute together. They loved to go dancing, enjoyed vacations and evenings dining out. He truly was a joy and will be missed by our family. Juan & Olivia Mancilla



March 4 at 11:26 AM



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Jackie Powell posted:

Dear John, Felicia, Jeff, and family, I am so deeply sorry for your loss. Your dad was truly a great man, and he meant so much to our family. I will always remember his love for music and the joy he shared whenever he and my dad, Chuck, were together playing their songs. Those moments were such a special part of our childhood. It feels like just yesterday that our families were always gathered together — your dad, mine, Bob, and Artie playing music, completely in their element, while we kids ran around and played without a care in the world. We didn't realize then how lucky we were to grow up surrounded by that kind of friendship, laughter, and music. Your dad helped create some of my most cherished memories. His warmth, his talent, and the bond he shared with my dad will never be forgotten. I hope you find comfort in knowing how many lives he touched and how deeply he was loved. Thinking of all of you during this difficult time and sending my heartfelt condolences. With love and sympathy, Jackie Powell (Shinelderker)

March 3 at 11:43 AM



Beth Rice lit a candle in honor of John.

You will be missed! Love Andy & Beth

March 3 at 10:18 AM



Robert Pierson posted:

RJ and family Sorry for your loss Jack will be missed RIP your friend as always Bob Pierson AZ City AZ

March 3 at 6:28 AM



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

March 2 at 5:57 PM





Juan Mancilla shared a video to the **Tribute Wall** album.

March 4 at 11:26 AM





Memories only last if you share them

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



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