



Roger Eugene Johnson

June 28, 1939 - November 21, 2025

Roger Eugene Johnson, age 86, of Dassel, formerly of Cokato, died Friday, November 21, 2025, at the Lakeside Generations in Dassel. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at noon on Wednesday, November 26, 2025, at the St. John's Catholic Church with Father Jeffrey Horejsi officiating. The interment will be held following the service at the St. John's Catholic Cemetery in Darwin.

There will be a visitation on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Johnson Funeral Home in Dassel. There will be a one-hour visitation prior to the service on Wednesday, November 26, 2025, at the St. John's Catholic Church in Darwin.

Roger Eugene Johnson, 86, of Cokato, was born June 28, 1939, to Gordon and Audrey (Jones) Johnson in DeSmet, South Dakota. Later, the family moved to Huron, SD. He attended Huron schools. He was united in marriage to Dorothy (Rohde) of Dassel, MN, and together they had 8 children: Daryl, Dwayne, Douglas, Brenda, Ronald, Diane, Cheryl, and Denise. The family resided in Stockholm township for many years until Roger needed additional assistance and became a resident of Lakeside Nursing Home in Dassel. Roger passed away on November 21, 2025 at Dassel Lakeside Nursing Home at the age of 86. Blessed be his memory.

As a child, Roger played baseball for his school in Huron. His first job at age 12 was delivering the daily Huron paper with his sister Wyona. He then took a job setting bowling pins and was paid by the number of lanes he could set up. His first trucking job was hauling eggs for Schwartz Trucking in Willmar from Willmar to Chicago. From that point on, Roger knew he was called to be a Trucker.

Roger was a lifelong trucker working for a few local companies before becoming an owner/operator driver. He loved life on the road, and as many know, he knew all the roads throughout the United States without using a map. He even memorized the exit numbers one would need to use and which rest stops were cleaner or had better food than the others. He loved helping people plan their route of travel. He took great pride in his trucks

and vehicles and always kept them clean. He especially enjoyed taking each of his 8 children across the country on rides, and many of his grandchildren also had a chance to go trucking with Grandpa.

As a lifelong driver, Roger found it particularly challenging when his health got in the way of his driver's license. Determined to regain his driving privileges, he underwent all the additional memory and physical ability tests the doctor had prescribed. Roger did so with a passing grade after working very hard to recover from severe illness. Roger was able to reinstate his license just a few months ago, and he was still waiting for the actual license to arrive in the mail. As many know, he loved driving daily, even if he didn't have anything in particular that he needed to do, he would find something to do, like taking a daily trip to the Dollar Store, Kwik Trip, and The Marketplace in Cokato.

Roger enjoyed living in the country and took pride in keeping his lawn neatly trimmed. He could be found riding a lawnmower several days per week during the summer. He found it important to have several riding lawn mowers so that if one were to break down, another one or two would be ready to take over. He insisted the front lawn be push-mowed so it looked even neater, and, of course, it was important that the rows were straight and the direction of mowing changed each time. He particularly loved his John Deere lawn tractors.

Roger loved family and friends. It was said many times that he would give his last cent or that he would give you the shirt off his back if it helped you in some way. Roger was a giving person, even when some did not deserve it. He did not judge people for their actions, and his love was not conditional. He freely loved his children as much as a father could. Roger and Dorothy had 28 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren. Their house was always filled with children, especially at holiday gatherings. Roger was well known to many for his famous meatballs. His recipe was never written, and he showed many how to make proper meatballs. To please all, he would make two batches, one with onions and one without—in two separate pans so there would be no cross-contamination. He served his meatballs with homemade mashed potatoes and gravy, often making his mother's homemade gravy recipe with milk and flour in the meatball drippings.

Roger had several health challenges and exceeded many doctors' expectations for survival. Just as some would say "a cat has 9 lives," we would say "our dad has 99 lives." His grit and determination fueled him. His family knew to never count him out. When he entered hospice last fall, he continued to defy the odds and kept thriving to the point where the Hospice team and nursing home wondered if he still needed their expert care. Eventually, Roger would be called home to our loving Lord.

Roger is survived by his 8 children: Daryl Johnson of Fort Dodge, Iowa; Dwayne Johnson of Cokato; Douglas Johnson of Cokato; Brenda (Rick) Schmidt of South Haven; Ronald Johnson of Litchfield; Diane Schmidt of Delano; Cheryl (Rusten) Huls of Hutchinson; and Denise (Dustin) Schindele of Buffalo. Sisters Yvonne (Mavis) Wiebel of Texas, Cheyenne Siedschlag of South Dakota, and Lucinda (Cindy) Layton of South Dakota; brothers-in-law Jerry Rohde of Litchfield and Dennis Berglund of Dassel; sisters-in-law Shirley Nelson of Watkins, Audrey (Paul) Grant of Rapid City, SD.

Roger is preceded in death by his wife Dorothy; his parents Gordon and Audrey Johnson; grandson Macaulay Johnson; sister Wyona; brothers DeVere and Deone; brothers-in-law Frank Siedschlag, Jim Rohde, Eugene Rohde, and James Nelson. Sisters-in-law Helen Rohde, Carol Berglund, and many other relatives. Blessed be his memory.

Cemetery Details

St. John's Catholic Cemetery

Darwin, MN 55324

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 25. 5:00 PM (CT)

Johnson Funeral Home
PO Box 1 611 N 2nd Street
Dassel, MN 55325
(320) 275-3381
jfhdassel@spectrum.net

Mass Of Christian Burial

NOV 26. 12:00 PM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church
106 N 4th St
Darwin, MN 55324

Tribute Wall

SO

“ Stephanie Abdullahi Amira & Olivia purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Roger Eugene Johnson.



Stephanie Abdullahi Amira & Olivia - November 24, 2025 at 11:16 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Roger Eugene Johnson.



November 24, 2025 at 06:25 PM

SL

“ Sara L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Roger Eugene Johnson.

Sara L. - November 24, 2025 at 06:25 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Roger Eugene Johnson.



November 24, 2025 at 05:55 PM

MC

“ Mavis, Cheyenne, Cindy purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of Roger Eugene Johnson.



Mavis, Cheyenne, Cindy - November 24, 2025 at 03:43 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Roger Eugene Johnson.



November 24, 2025 at 03:38 PM



“ Kristine VanDam planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Roger Eugene Johnson.

Kristine VanDam - November 24, 2025 at 03:38 PM



“ With love, your Children’s APPs & Neos purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Roger Eugene Johnson.



With love, your Children’s APPs & Neos - November 23, 2025 at 06:38 PM



“ With love, your Children’s APPs & Neos planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Roger Eugene Johnson.

With love, your Children’s APPs & Neos - November 23, 2025 at 06:38 PM



“ You were the best grandpa anyone could ever ask for! You definitely knew how to love us all. You deserve the best grandpa award. We will love you and miss you until we meet again rest in peace grandpa. Love Stephanie and the kiddos.



Stephanie Johnson - November 22, 2025 at 11:23 AM



“ He was such a sweet man....my condolences to the family

Gayle Roesler - November 22, 2025 at 10:22 AM