



## Gayle C. Johnson

March 2, 1935 - January 25, 2022

Gayle Clayton Johnson was born the only child to Clayton W Johnson and Edythe R (Swanson) Johnson on March 2nd 1935 at Ong NE. He passed away on January 25, 2022 in Scottsdale, AZ at the age of 86 years, 10 months, and 23 days.

Gayle graduated high school from Ong, NE. He was always very proud to have been an Ong Red Devil and told many stories of his and his basketball team's successes. He attended Kearney State College where he achieved his Master's degree in Education. He was a very good athlete and competed for Kearney State in both basketball and track all four years.

On June 26, 1955 Gayle married Barbara Johnson at the Methodist church in Davenport NE, and to them four children were born. He and Barbara loved to travel in their motorhome and ride motorcycles. They joined a club called Bus N Bikers. It was open only to members who drove the type of motorhome that they drove and also rode motorcycles. They enjoyed this so much that their license plate said "BusNBiker", and, etched in their headstone is a silhouette of their motorhome. They spent 25 winters in Arizona and visited all the western and southern states.

Gayle's first job was at Giltner Public School. He taught business, and served as basketball and track coach. Upon completing his Master's degree he went

on to become Superintendent at Trumbull NE. He was in the school system for six years before returning home to Ong in 1963 to farm with his father. He and his father (Flap) also sold Pioneer seed. Although he left it as a profession, he continued to instill the value of education to all his family members. He retired from farming in 1998, but never stopped learning and challenging himself. He had learned to fly at an earlier age, and inspired his son, daughter, and wife to learn as well. He was always interested in keeping up with the newest farming techniques and insisted on marketing his own corn well after he retired. He developed very good computer skills at an age where many would have given up. He loved his new cars and the technology that went along with them. He certainly knew how to use a smart phone, and with very little help was able to Face Time; doing so with his family the day before he died.

Gayle's love for athletics never stopped. He enjoyed watching his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren compete in whatever sport they played. He was an avid Husker fan and attended many football and volleyball games. He always got a hot dog, and usually came home with mustard somewhere on his shirt.

Following Barbara's death in June 2005, Gayle met Jean Underwood who would become his companion for the next 16 years. They enjoyed their time in AZ where he became very close to Jean's family. Gayle and Jean's youngest grandson, Soren, developed a special relationship, and especially loved eating a good "dilly bar" together. Gayle leaves behind Jean; her daughters Jennifer, Stephen, & child Soren Stromberg and Laura Tanner & Steve Simon and children Ashleigh, Avery, Rees Simon.

Gayle was preceded in death by his father Clayton Johnson, his mother Edythe Johnson, and his wife Barbara Johnson.

He is survived by his four children; Kim Lichti and husband Dennis of Shickley,

Steve Johnson and wife Holly of Ong, Nancy Lichti and husband Mike of Shickley, and Joni McGill and husband Ryan of Omaha; sister-in-law Janice Spurling of Shickley; eight grandchildren Jenna Theis and husband Jeff, Mitchell Lichti and wife Amanda, Amber Lichti, Tiffany Barnett and husband Justin, Erica Ferrell and husband Dan, Miki Loos and husband Tom, Jillian Hammer and husband Shaun, and Maddie Taylor and husband Roby; and 17 Great-great grandchildren, Finn and Annabelle Blohm, Porter, Ainsley and Riggins Ferrell, Halle and Lexi Theis, Carter, Grace and Adelyn Lichti, Carson and Colten Loos, Hoyt and Dylan Hammer, and Ellynn, Jack, and Harper Taylor; nephews, niece, cousins and many friends.

A Funeral Service for Gayle was held on Monday, January 31, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. at the United Methodist Church in Shickley, Nebraska. Pastor Cesar Duran presided over the Funeral Service. Stanley Johnson accompanied Brianna Steinacher in the singing of "How Great Thou Art" and "The Old Rugged Cross." The recorded selections "Just A Closer Walk With Thee" and "He Lives" were played the processional and recessional selections.

Pallbearers for the service included Mitch Lichti, Tom Loos, Jeff Theis, Justin Barnett, Shaun Hammer, Roby Taylor, Dan Ferrell, and Carson Loos. Honorary Pallbearers included A.J. Underwood, Soren Stromberg, Ty Underwood, Rees Simon, and Casey Underwood.

A Graveside Service was held in the Ong Cemetery following the Funeral Service.

Farmer & Son Funeral Home was in care of the arrangements and online condolences can be left at [www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com).

Memorials are suggested to the Fillmore County Hospital Foundation.

# Cemetery Details

## Ong Cemetery

Ong, NE 68452

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 30. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Farmer & Son Funeral Home  
242 N 10th Street  
Geneva, NE 68361  
(402) 759-3617  
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

JAN 31. 10:30 AM (CT)

United Methodist Church  
611 Swartzendruber Dr  
Shickley, NE 68436  
(402) 627-2045

# Tribute Wall



“ 93 files added to the album Flower Pictures



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - January 31, 2022 at 02:24 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gayle C. Johnson.



January 30, 2022 at 02:08 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gayle C. Johnson.



January 29, 2022 at 07:44 PM

SB

“ Scott & Dana Schmid and Boys purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Gayle C. Johnson.



Scott & Dana Schmid and Boys - January 29, 2022 at 04:35 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gayle C. Johnson.



January 29, 2022 at 02:14 PM

KB

“ Karen Bedlan lit a candle in memory of Gayle C. Johnson



Karen Bedlan - January 28, 2022 at 02:29 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Gayle C. Johnson.



January 28, 2022 at 12:29 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gayle C. Johnson.*



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January 28, 2022 at 11:57 AM



“ *So very sorry for the loss of your dad. Every time I think of Gayle, I remember a smile on his face. We wish we could attend the funeral service to show our support.*



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**Judy Smith** - January 28, 2022 at 10:29 AM



“ *Bob Bedlan lit a candle in memory of Gayle C. Johnson*



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**Bob Bedlan** - January 27, 2022 at 11:35 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Gayle C. Johnson.*



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January 27, 2022 at 08:44 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gayle C. Johnson.*



January 27, 2022 at 08:31 PM



“ *Bob Bedlan lit a candle in memory of Gayle C. Johnson*



**Bob Bedlan** - January 27, 2022 at 04:38 PM



“ *For Maddie and family purchased the Delightful Dieffenbachia for the family of Gayle C. Johnson.*



**For Maddie and family** - January 27, 2022 at 04:36 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gayle C. Johnson.*



January 27, 2022 at 04:28 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Gayle C. Johnson.*



January 27, 2022 at 03:08 PM



“ *Tim and I have great memories of interacting with Gayle when we purchased our pickup from him. He was very supportive and encouraging as he spoke with us. He always made me smile. I'm sure he will be greatly missed. Prayers for your family—Tim and Becky Hochstetler*

**Becky Hochstetler** - January 27, 2022 at 02:22 PM



“ *Doug & Patty Johnson lit a candle in memory of Gayle C. Johnson*



**Doug & Patty Johnson** - January 27, 2022 at 01:53 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Gayle C. Johnson.*



January 27, 2022 at 01:49 PM

PI

“ Pioneer purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gayle C. Johnson.



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**Pioneer** - January 27, 2022 at 01:20 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Gayle C. Johnson.



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January 27, 2022 at 12:36 PM

JB

“ Jim Bedlan lit a candle in memory of Gayle C. Johnson



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**Jim Bedlan** - January 27, 2022 at 12:30 PM