

## Vern L. Johnson

April 20, 1941 - June 8, 2026

A private family Funeral Service for Vern will be Saturday, June 13, 2026.

A private Graveside Service will follow in the Dorchester Cemetery, Dorchester, Nebraska.

Public Visitation will be Friday, June 12, 2026 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with family present at Farmer & Son Funeral Home in Geneva.

A Celebration of Life Reception will be Monday, June 22, 2026 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Geneva VFW Banquet Room.

Memorials are suggested to the Geneva Boys Pond of the Geneva Volunteer Fire Department.

Vern L. Johnson was born on April 20, 1941, in Omaha, Nebraska, to Roy Ervin and Alice Marie (Chase) Johnson. On the day Vern was born, his parents had traveled from Dorchester to Omaha to deliver cattle to the stockyards. Alice accompanied Roy on what was expected to be a quick trip, but while in Omaha she went into labor. Vern became the first of their children to be born in a hospital, while the seven children before him had all been born at home. He was one of ten children in the Johnson family. Vern passed away on June 8th, 2026 at Heritage Crossings in Geneva.

Vern grew up in Dorchester and graduated from Dorchester High School in 1960. A gifted athlete, he excelled in football, basketball, and track, earning numerous all-conference honors and All-State recognition in football. Around 1956, while still a teenager, Vern was asked to help organize what became the SFS Baseball League. At just 16 years old, he began coaching alongside Mike Nerud and later coached on his own. Over the next 35 years, he coached baseball teams in Dorchester, Friend, Fairmont, and Geneva, impacting generations of young athletes. In 2013, he was honored as one of the founders of the league. When he wasn't coaching, he volunteered as an umpire, officiating Legion games, district tournaments, and numerous SFS League championship games.

After moving to Geneva in 1975, Vern's commitment to youth sports and community service continued to grow. He founded the Geneva Track Club after taking his daughter to Junior Olympic track meets. What began as a small program grew into a thriving summer track club with as many as 75 participants from Geneva and surrounding communities. Many of his athletes qualified for Junior Olympic competition at the national level, with 17 athletes qualifying in 35 events.

Vern later served as a volunteer coach for Geneva High School track and field, helping lead the Wildcats to Class C State Team Championships in 1983 and 1984. He also worked as a Big Eight track official at the University of Nebraska Field House, and was named "Official of the Year." He served as Nebraska and Western Iowa Vice President of the Athletic Congress, the governing body for AAU Track and Field, and officiated at major state and regional meets.

His dedication to youth extended beyond baseball and track. Vern was one of the founders and charter president of the Blue Valley Midget Football League

and helped establish youth football programs in Fairmont and throughout the area. He refereed high school football and basketball, coached women's softball, taught Hunter Safety courses, served as a Boy Scout leader, and mentored countless young people through sports and outdoor activities.

Vern's commitment to community service was equally impressive. He volunteered as a firefighter and rescue squad member in Dorchester, Fairmont, and Geneva for more than 25 years. He served on the Geneva City Park and Recreation Committee, was an officer in the Geneva Fire Department, served on the Geneva School Board & Athletic Field Development Committee, helped establish Jaycees chapters in Friend and Fairmont, and was a Geneva Gun Club officer. In recognition of his extensive service, Vern received the Woodsmen Award in 1981 for his conscientious and dedicated contributions to the Geneva community.

Vern also built a successful career as a natural gas serviceman, working for the same company for 43 years, remaining dedicated through several company name changes. Following retirement, he enjoyed operating a small cow-calf operation, a labor of love that he continued until declining health made it impossible. Vern was an avid hunter, fisherman, and trapper who found great joy in the outdoors. He especially enjoyed passing those traditions on to his sons and other young people, teaching them not only outdoor skills but also patience, responsibility, and appreciation for nature.

On September 30, 1961, Vern married Sharon Tesar and were blessed with three children: Dan (Sandra) Johnson of Wilber, Nebraska; Vicky (Brian) Davis of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; and Dave (Robin) Johnson of Gordon, Nebraska.

Vern was preceded in death by his parents; sisters Doris (Rex) Bailey,

Frances (Gary) Jones, Betty (Rich) Bottger, Connie Ervin, and Peggy Johnson; and brothers Donald Johnson and Charley (Belva) Johnson.

He is survived by his wife, Sharon Johnson of Geneva; his children, Dan (Sandra) Johnson, Vicky (Brian) Davis, and Dave (Robin) Johnson; grandchildren Dylan Davis, Tessa Davis, Colten (Abby) Johnson, Valerie Johnson, Tyler Johnson, and Haley Johnson; sisters Billie (Don) Maas and Mona (Don) Shuman; as well as many nieces, nephews, relatives, friends, former athletes, and community members whose lives were touched by his guidance and generosity.

# Previous Events

## Family Present for Visitation

JUN **12**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

## Visitation

JUN **12**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

## Celebration of Life

JUN **22**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Geneva VFW  
109 S 10th Street  
Geneva, NE 68361

*Celebration of Life Reception from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m .at Geneva VFW. People are encouraged to come and go as they please.*

# Tribute Wall

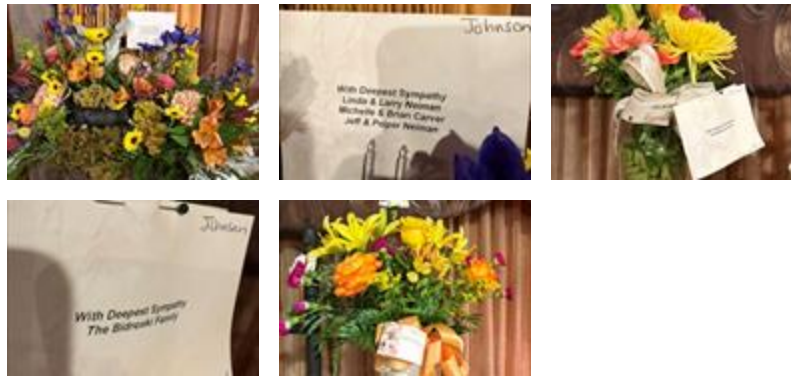
AH

“ I worked as a transportation driver for Heritage Crossing. I remember taking Vern to Lincoln for an appointment and purposely going down highway 6 so he could reminisce. He talked about his customers (one of them being my dad Gators in Exeter) and driving by Dorchester and listening to him talk about the good old days. What a wonderful man!

Angie (Neemann) Hansen - June 17 at 02:51 AM



“ 44 files added to the album Flower Pictures



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - June 13 at 02:02 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Vern L. Johnson.



June 13 at 06:07 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Vern L. Johnson.

June 13 at 06:07 AM



“ We're so sorry about hearing of Vern's passing but know that he is with the Lord. Many prayers of comfort and healing sent your way with our love.  
Del & Rogene Tesar

Rogene Tesar - June 12 at 11:14 AM



“ Deborah Salmon lit a candle in memory of Vern Johnson



Deborah Salmon - June 11 at 08:05 PM



“ Nancy & Don Peters lit a candle in memory of Vern Johnson



Nancy & Don Peters - June 11 at 12:35 PM

CW

“ Vern used to come into our family restaurant in Friend, Jochim’s Cafe, when he was working for the gas company. I always enjoyed our visits.  
My prayers to the family.  
Cheryl Jochim Williams

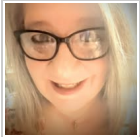


Cher Jochim Williams - June 11 at 11:33 AM

RC

Vern was my baseball coach for several years. Was a great coach who taught more baseball to his players.

Ron Corbett - June 11 at 10:56 PM



“ Janine Uldrich lit a candle in memory of Vern Johnson



Janine Uldrich - June 11 at 10:13 AM

LW

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you!! What an amazing legacy!! We always enjoyed seeing Vern and our conversations with him.



Lyle and Cathy Weber - June 11 at 09:15 AM

AT

“ Vern and I served on the School Board together for 4 years. We had a lot of good times. He had such a great sense of humor that lightened up some difficult decisions. We remained friends after his term. He always said that he was the smart one because he got off the board after 4 years. I was the dumb one because I didn't! My condolences to his family.

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**Alice Tatro** - June 11 at 09:13 AM

DR

“ Doug Fischer & Holly Rippe lit a candle in memory of Vern Johnson



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**Doug Fischer & Holly Rippe** - June 11 at 08:56 AM

DM

“ What a loving, personal friend to us. He will be greatly missed. Our sympathy to Sharon & family at this difficult time. Love from the Moravecs!

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**Dorothy Moravec** - June 10 at 10:39 PM

MZ

“ So sorry to read of Vern's passing. I am so glad I was able to catch up with you both in Broken Bow a few years ago! I hadn't seen him in many years but he remembered me :) Vern was definitely one of the good ones! Sending big hugs! Shelley Moul Zimmerli

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**Michelle Moul Zimmerli** - June 10 at 05:24 PM



“ Heartfelt Memories was purchased for the family of Vern L. Johnson.



June 10 at 02:58 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Vern L. Johnson.

June 10 at 02:58 PM



“ Family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Vern L. Johnson.



Family - June 10 at 01:20 PM



“ Sharon I am so sorry.

Phyllis Robuck - June 10 at 12:03 PM



“ Barbara Trapp lit a candle in memory of Vern Johnson



Barbara Trapp - June 10 at 08:29 AM

JG

“ Jason George lit a candle in memory of Vern L. Johnson



Jason george - June 10 at 07:24 AM

CM

“ Love you guys! Always so happy to see Vern when we came home to visit! Prayers to your family!

Coleen McMahon - June 10 at 12:11 AM

VA

“ Vicki Allgood lit a candle in memory of Vern Johnson



Vicki Allgood - June 09 at 11:17 PM

KW

“ The McCarthy family sends our thoughts and prayers.

Kathleen Wilbeck - June 09 at 10:16 PM

KT

“ Kent & Rose Theobald lit a candle in memory of Vern Johnson



Kent & Rose Theobald - June 09 at 09:04 PM

DB

“ Duaine Bullock purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Vern L. Johnson.



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**Duaine Bullock** - June 09 at 07:34 PM

PM

“ Pat & Keith Mathiesen lit a candle in memory of Vern Johnson



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**Pat & Keith Mathiesen** - June 09 at 07:05 PM

AR

“ So sorry to hear about Vern!



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**Ava Roush** - June 09 at 06:35 PM

LH

“ Linda Heinisch lit a candle in memory of Vern Johnson



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**Linda Heinisch** - June 09 at 05:50 PM

RC

“ *Richard and Patsy Clark purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Vern L. Johnson.*



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**Richard and Patsy Clark** - June 09 at 04:50 PM

RS

“ *Randy & Rhonda Schlick lit a candle in memory of Vern Johnson*



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**Randy & Rhonda Schlick** - June 09 at 04:35 PM

VJ

“ *Virginia Johnson lit a candle in memory of Vern Johnson*



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**Virginia Johnson** - June 09 at 02:42 PM